THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
WASHINGTON DC

School of Public Health and Health Services

Graduate Certificate
HIV/AIDS Studies
2009-2010
Program-at-a-Glance

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Mission

This graduate certificate provides students with HIV/AIDS knowledge to enable them to work effectively in HIV/AIDS public health organizations, community-based organizations, AIDS service organizations, and HIV/AIDS research.

Admissions Requirements

The Graduate Certificate Program is tailored to meet the needs of the professional public health provider. Those with a master's degree or higher who wish to gain knowledge and skills in a particular area of public health and MPH students in one department who wish grounding in the subject of another department are also eligible. Applicants without a master's degree may be eligible, provided that they hold a bachelor's degree and dependent upon their professional experience in public health

Admissions requirements and application procedures for the Graduate Certificate programs are identical to those of the Master's degree programs. Please see this website:
http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/admissions/gradadmis.cfm

Requirements for Receiving the Graduate Certificate

1. Eighteen graduate credits are required. Students in the stand-alone certificate must take at least 12 of the program-specific credits. Students enrolled in a MPH program at GWU must take at least nine of the program-specific credits.

2. The program director/advisor must pre-approve all course selections and sequencing by developing a "program of study" with the student prior to initial registration. Graduate Certificate students must meet with their advisor each semester before registration, and all changes to the program of study must be approved.

3. Graduate Credit Requirement for students enrolled concurrently in a SPHHS Degree Program: 12 credits are required.

4. The program director/advisor may approve up to four graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree as transfer credit into the graduate certificate program. Course(s) must be relevant to the graduate certificate; credit must have been earned from an accredited institution within the past three years with a grade of B or better.

5. Grade Point Requirement. A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average or better is required.

6. Time Limit Requirement. The certificate must be completed within 2 years.

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Program-Specific Courses*		**Credits**	**Semester Offered**	**Grade**
PubH 203	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Summer, Fall, Spring	
HSci 287	Biology of HIV/AIDS	3	Fall	
PubH 302	HIV Policy in the U.S.	2	Summer	
PubH 250	Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS Prereq: PubH 202 (recommended), 203	2	Fall	
PubH 253	Issues in HIV Care and Treatment	1	Fall	
PubH 388	HIV Prevention: An Interdisciplinary Approach	1	Fall	
PubH 255	Organizational Responses to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic Prereq: PubH 250 or PubH 388	2	Spring	
Suggested Electives		**Credits**	**Semester Offered**	**Grade**
PubH 270	HIV / AIDS Surveillance Prereq: PubH 203	1	Summer	
PubH 273	Ethnographic Methods as Applied in Public Health Prereq: PubH 203	1	Fall	
PubH 259	Epidemiologic Surveillance in Public Health Prereq: PubH 203	2	Spring	
PubH 245	Infectious Disease Epidemiology Prereq: PubH 203	2	Spring	
PubH 262	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems Prereq: PubH 202	1	Summer, Fall, Spring	
PubH 272	Epidemiology of Infectious Agents Associated with Human Cancer Prereq: PubH 203	1	Summer	
PubH 209	Others to be announced	1-2	Summer, Fall, Spring	
Electives	Advisor's Approval Required	Varies	Advisor's Approval	

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November 19, 2009

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Course Descriptions
2009-2010

PubH	203	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	General principles, methods, and applications of epidemiology. Outbreak investigations, measures of disease frequency, standardization of disease rates, study design, measures of association, hypothesis testing, bias, effect modification, causal inference, disease screening, and surveillance. Case studies apply these concepts to a variety of infectious, acute, and chronic health conditions affecting the population. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks
HSci	287	Biology of HIV/AIDS	3	Examination of the basic science, pathogenesis, natural history and laboratory identification of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
PubH	302	HIV Policy in the U.S.	2	This course will examine various aspects of the policy response to HIV. Its focus will be on how US policy is shaped in terms of both domestic and global responses to the pandemic, i.e., who are the players and what are the processes for making US policy. It will also study in depth specific, timely policy questions facing US policy makers at the time the course is offered. How HIV relates to other infectious diseases (e.g., tuberculosis, malaria, and hepatitis) will be examined to provide a context for HIV policy. Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor
PubH	250	Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS	2	Methodological issues central to HIV/AIDS research. Biases peculiar to HIV/AIDS epidemiologic studies (both observational and experimental designs). The natural history of HIV, diagnosis, surveillance, vulnerable subpopulations, behavioral facets, and evaluation of epidemiologic studies with an emphasis on methodological considerations. Prerequisite, PubH 203, Recommended 202, Fall
PubH	253	Issues in HIV Care and Treatment	1	This course will provide an overview and in depth consideration of some of the major issues in treatment of HIV disease, including the assessment of efficacy and effectiveness, drug resistance, monitoring of drug toxicity, special populations, the interrelationship between treatment and prevention, and quality of care. The course has been designed with an interdisciplinary audience in mind. In discussions and assignments, students will be able to emphasize their own area of interest and/or expertise (e.g. epidemiology, policy, etc).
PubH	388	HIV Prevention: An Interdisciplinary Approach	1	Provides an interdisciplinary overview of HIV prevention research from the behavioral, biological and biomedical perspective. .Students are encouraged to approach the assignments and discussions from their own particular expertise and career interests/goals.
PubH	255	Organizational Responses to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic	1	Focus on the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS on the local, national and global levels; guest speakers describing their public health organizations' responses to the epidemic; basic principles of leadership, management, and organizational strategy and structure in the context of HIV/AIDS organizations; and interactive dialogues to explore the strengths and challenges of various organizational approaches to the epidemic. Prerequisite: PubH 250, PubH 388 , or permission of Instructor. Spring
PubH	270	HIV / AIDS Surveillance	1	Provides students an overview of surveillance methods used both domestically and internationally to monitor the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Surveillance systems including sentinel, population based, behavioral, and incidence surveillance will be presented and discussed. The strengths and weaknesses of these various systems in addition to how the data from these systems impact and inform HIV/AIDS related policies and programs. Pre-req: PubH 203. Summer

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Suggested Electives

PubH	273	Ethnographic Methods as Applied in Public Health	1	Focus on the use of ethnographic field methods in conjunction with epidemiological research. The course provides an introduction to the specific methods used to examine health phenomena and determinants of disease. The course is designed so that students learn specific applied skills that can be modified with socio-cultural modifications to evaluate urban sites and other settings. This course will provide basic skills in the application of ethnographic methods, including recursive observations, participant observations, and a variety of approaches to interviewing such as in-depth, structured and non-structured as well as conversational interviewing. Utilizing a team approach, the course will emphasize use of ethnographic research methods in community-based health settings, and evaluate issues in cultural competency and how to garner stakeholder support to conduct epidemiologic studies. Prerequisite: PubH 203. Fall.
PubH	259	Epidemiologic Surveillance in Public Health	2	Focus on foundations of public health surveillance systems for communicable as well as chronic diseases. Outbreak investigation methods will be included, as well as surveillance data sources, data management, data analysis, ethical issues, surveillance system evaluation, and use of information for prevention. Surveillance systems for reportable diseases, nosocomial infections, bioterrorism events, cancer, environmental disease, vaccine-related adverse events, bovine spongiform encephalophy, and military personnel will be discussed. Prerequisites PubH 202.203, Spring.
PubH	245	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	2	The role and conduct of laboratory and field investigations in the epidemiology of infectious diseases. Prerequisite, PubH 203, Spring
PubH	262	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	1	Geographic information systems (GIS) for mapping and display of health data. The course makes use of ArcGIS 8.3. The use of spatial statistics for the detection of clusters and patterns in the spread of diseases. Working with geodatabases, shape files, layers, query information from attribute tables, geocode addresses and customizing GIS applications. Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH	272	Epidemiology of Infectious Agents Associated with Human Cancer	1	Describes the role of infectious agents in the etiology of human cancer. Emphasis on differences between specific oncogenic viruses. Other oncogenic agents, bacterial and parasitic, will also be discussed. Discuss laboratory approaches to the documentation of their pathogenicity, how behavior affects mode of transmission, and which types of data provide strongest support for documenting oncogenic potential for humans. Prerequisite: PubH203, Summer
PubH	209	Others to be announced	1-2	See your advisor.