

### **Director of Master & Certificate Programs**

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## **A. Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a specialization in Health Policy is to train health, law, and other students and professionals seeking careers in health policy analysis and practice in the substance of health policy and the skills and methods of health policy analysis.

### **Overview**

The Department of Health Policy is the home for health policy studies and research at the GW School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS). The Department focuses on virtually all facets of U.S. health policy related to both public health and health services, and emphasizes preparing students to understand and analyze health policy matters in a broad, cross-cutting, and real-world context. Among schools of public health the GW SPHHS Department of Health Policy is unique, having been created to take maximum advantage of its location in Washington, DC, the nation's health policy-making epicenter. The MPH in Health Policy is for students with some health or policy analysis experience who wish to develop in-depth policy analysis skills for use in various practice settings, including both federal and state levels of government, private-sector health policy consulting, and not-for-profit advocacy. Additionally, this program is available to GW law students (the JD/MPH and LLM/MPH programs), lawyers seeking to develop expertise in all facets of health policy and practice, and to GW medical students (MD/MPH program) who wish to enhance their clinical training with a thorough understanding of health policy. The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy is also available, standing alone or as a supplement to a primary (e.g., MPH, JD, MD) degree.

### **Goals**

Graduates of this program will be expected to have:

- ◆ A core understanding of the wide-ranging issues that dominate the modern health policy debate at all levels of government;
- ◆ Basic skills in health policy analysis, and the ability to conduct original policy analysis and research;
- ◆ Familiarity with the policy making processes that control the development and implementation of health policy;
- ◆ The ability to synthesize complex information for policymakers; and
- ◆ The ability to apply the skills of health policy analysis in a workplace setting.

## **Course Requirements**

All MPH students admitted to the Health Policy program enroll in SPHHS Core Courses (17 credits), Program-Specific Courses (18 credits) and Elective Courses (10 credits). The 45-credit total requirement includes a Practicum in which students apply their didactic education by working for credit for an organization that engages in health policy analysis. Students may wish to give greater emphasis to either public health or health services policy as they develop their course of study with their advisor.


## **Program-Specific Competencies**

Broadly defined, the goal of health policy is to promote and protect the health of individuals and of populations bound by common circumstances. The Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy is designed to teach both the substance of health policy (how public health and health services policy is developed and implemented in the U.S.) and the skills of policy analysis (including research, qualitative and quantitative, and written and oral communications skills). Upon completion of the MPH in Health Policy, students will demonstrate functional competence to:

1. Describe and critically assess the political, legal, philosophical, economic, financial, and/or social framework of U.S. health policy and demonstrate proficiency in applying that understanding to analysis of current health policy issues. Related Courses: PubH 242, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 287, 288, 289, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, and 303.
2. Locate, assess, appropriately use, and synthesize policy-relevant qualitative information relevant to key issues in U.S. health policy, including a full range of evidence related to the legislative, regulatory, and judicial processes, peer-reviewed literature, and “gray” literature produced by policy analysis entities and organizations. Related Courses: PubH 281, 282, 283, 285, 287, 288, 289, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299.
3. Locate, assess, and appropriately use statistical and other data and the ability to conduct basic manipulations of data. Related Courses: PubH 242, 282.
4. Comparatively analyze legislation and administrative regulations, and analyze and interpret judicial opinions and agency rulings. Related Courses: PubH 283, 287, 288, 289, 291, 292, 294, 295, 296, 297.
5. Assess the methodology and quality of research results, and synthesize findings for policy analyses. Related Courses: PubH 242, 282, 287, 299.
6. Apply the core elements of a policy analysis to key issues in U.S. health services and public health policy through both short and long written papers, and in oral presentations of policy analyses. Related Courses: PubH 281, 282, 284, 287, 289, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298.

**Program-Specific Elements**

1. **The Curriculum “At-A-Glance”:** This chart describes the course curriculum for the MPH in Health Policy:

		<b>School of Public Health and Health Services</b>  <b>Master of Public Health Health Policy Program 2009-10</b>	
<b>Required SPHHS Core Courses</b>			
Course		Credits	Semester Offered
PubH 201	Biological Concepts for Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 202	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 203	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 204	Environmental and Occupational Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 205	Policy Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 207	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 208	Management Approaches to Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Total</b>	<b>SPHHS Core Course Credits</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>Required Program-Specific Courses</b>			
Course		Credits	Semester Offered
PubH 303	Fundamentals for Policy: Health Care and Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 281	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 282	Applications of Health Policy Analysis	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 283 <b>OR</b> PubH 284	Health Services and Law  Public Health and Law	3  3	Fall, Spring, Summer  Spring
PubH 285 <b>OR</b> PubH 242	Health Economics and Financing  Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis + PubH 209 Topics by the same name for 1 credit	3  2 +1	Fall, Spring  Spring
PubH 214.16	Practicum	2	Not semester-specific
PubH 215.16	Culminating Experience, the Health Policy Seminar	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Total</b>	<b>Program-Specific Course Credits</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>Required Elective Courses</b>			
PubH 209's	A personalized combination of elective courses of 10 credits total. 3 of these 10 elective credits may be taken through other GW departments	<b>10</b>	Please check the applicable semester course schedule – all elective course offerings are semester-specific

### Course Distribution Summary

Required SPHHS Core Courses	17 Credits	201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 207 & 208
Required Program-Specific Core Courses	18 Credits	303, 281, 282, 283 –or- 284, 285 –or- 242, 214 & 215
Required Elective Courses	10 Credits	Selection from list of 290’s & 209’s
<b>Total</b>	<b>45 Credits</b>	<b>MPH Degree in Health Policy</b>

2. **The Practicum (PubH 214.16):** The practicum is a three-way partnership among students, SPHHS, and sponsoring agencies/organizations in which the practicum takes place under the supervision of a site preceptor. The practicum is a planned, supervised, and evaluated practice experience in health policy that aims to provide you with an opportunity to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned through courses, to gain professional experience in a professional public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects that are of particular interest to you. The practicum serves as an important first step in a public health career, providing an introduction to the practical skills and experience necessary for a productive and fulfilling profession. If you have had prior work experience, you will find that the practicum provides the opportunity to hone your skills or to gain new experience in a different area of specialization.

The practicum is a 2-credit requirement during which the student works at least 120 hours in the field under the supervision of the *site preceptor* who has agreed to directly supervise the work of the student. Decisions on the practicum site, nature of the work, specific learning objectives, and activities of the practicum are arrived at following discussions and agreements among the student, the Health Policy practicum director, and the site preceptor, whose respective responsibilities are outlined in the Student Practicum Handbook. Your practicum can be performed in a concentrated fashion in one semester, or can be carried out over multiple semesters. Most full-time students undertake and complete the practicum requirement during their second full year of study, following the successful completion of the practicum course prerequisites.

The following chart summarizes potential practicum sites:

<b>SAMPLE PRACTICUM TOPICS AND SITES HEALTH POLICY</b>	
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SITE</b>
Injury Prevention	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Insurance Coverage for Kids	Children’s Defense Fund
Community Health Centers	National Association of Community Health Centers
Pharmaceutical Policy	Schering-Plough Corporation, Global Access Initiative
Responding to National Mass Casualties	US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning
Newborn Screening Programs	March of Dimes
Federal Health Initiatives	Congressional Offices on Capitol Hill
Mental Health of Kids in the Criminal System	Department of Juvenile Services
Medically Underserved in DC	District of Columbia Primary Care Association
Public Insurance Programs	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

3. **The Culminating Experience: Health Policy Seminar (PubH 215.16):** This 2-credit course must be taken in the student's final semester of MPH study, and not earlier. **PUBH 282 is a non-negotiable pre-requisite to this Health Policy Seminar.** Designed to bring together all of the competencies learned throughout the Health Policy curriculum, this seminar serves as the culminating experience for the MPH student. In addition to weekly lectures and/or guest speakers, this seminar requires the submission of a lengthy health policy analysis that will serve as a polished writing sample for the new graduate. This requirement is separate and distinct from the Practicum.
4. **Certifications:** All MPH students, regardless of concentration, must successfully complete the on-line human-subjects research training module prior to graduation. It is expected that most students will satisfy this requirement in their first semester of study. For the specifics on which on-line certification course to take and how to find it, please refer to the SPHHS Student Handbook.
5. **Professional Enhancement Hours:** *All undergraduate, certificate, masters, and doctoral degree students* in the School of Public Health and Health Services are *required* to attend eight hours of Professional Enhancement activities during their program. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. They enhance practical knowledge and awareness of public health issues – either in general or in a student's specific area of study.

Students can fulfill this requirement by attending workshops, seminars, or other relevant professional meetings, which are often held at SPHHS and in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Examples of conference sponsors include the National Academy for State Health Policy, the Pan American Health Organization, the American Public Health Association, the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Area Health Education Center, the American College of Sports Medicine, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, and the National Athletic Trainer's Association. Opportunities for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the SPHHS Listserv and through your department or advisor.

Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form ([www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/studentres/forms/](http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/studentres/forms/)), which includes a prior approval signature from the student's advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance. Remember to submit your documentation *before* you apply to graduate!

### Advising Tips

**NOTE: Always see your advisor for course scheduling and sequencing strategies, but remember that proper course selection, fulfilling requirements, and on-time graduation are the individual student's responsibilities.**

1. **Overview of types of courses:** The MPH in Health Policy curriculum consists of three types of courses:
  - Required SPHHS Core Courses (PubH 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 207, and 208)\*\*
  - Required Program-Specific Courses (PubH 303, 281, 282, 283 –or- 284, 285 –or- 242, 214 & 215)
  - Required Elective Courses (a personalized 10-credit mix)

\*\*PubH 206 is **not** a required course for the MPH in Health Policy degree.
2. **Specifics about the Required SPHHS Core Courses:** The MPH core courses are designed to provide students with a broad public health context as well as a critical foundation for subsequent coursework. Early completion of these core courses ensures that students will have the base of knowledge to successfully complete the program specific courses. As such, entering students are expected to enroll in MPH core courses in accordance with the following guidelines:
  - MPH students are expected to complete the Required SPHHS Core Courses in their first year of graduate study (fall/spring/summer). This does not include PubH 208 (Management Approaches to Public Health), which should be taken in the second half of the program of study, and which requires every other core course as a pre-requisite. **In other words, PubH 201 through 207 collectively serve as the pre-requisite for PubH 208.**

- Further, MPH students are expected to complete the following MPH courses in the first two semesters of study:
  - PubH 201 – Biological Concepts for Public Health
  - PubH 202 – Biostatistics or PubH 203 – Epidemiology
  - PubH 205 – Policy Approaches to Public Health
- In order to help assure that all students complete the SPHHS Core Courses in the first year of study, SPHHS will offer all SPHHS core courses during all three semesters (fall/spring/summer).

### 3. Specifics about the Required Program-Specific Courses:

- PubH 303 is the course prerequisite for PubH 281. Students must take 303 before 281. For students seeking to graduate in 2 years, 303 must be taken in one of the first two semesters of study.
- PubH 281 is the course pre-requisite for PubH 282; Students must take 281 before 282. PubH 281 also serves as the course pre-requisite for a number of Elective Course offerings.
- PubH 282 is the course pre-requisite for PubH 215.16, the Health Policy Seminar. **Students must take 282 before 215.16.**
- Please check the applicable Course Schedule for a given semester to determine all of the course pre-requisite requirements.
- Since the SPHHS core courses (excepting PubH 208) consist of only 14 credits, it is both feasible and desirable for full-time students (who are taking at least 9 credits per semester) to take introductory program-specific courses in their first year. In addition to the required SPHHS core courses, full-time MPH Health Policy students should take PubH 303, Fundamentals for Policy: Health Care and Public Health (2 credits), in one of their first two semesters, as it is the prerequisite for PubH 281, which then opens the door to much of the rest of the curriculum.
- Part-time students (who generally take 6 or 7 credits per semester) will typically concentrate on taking SPHHS core courses in their first year, and then take program-specific courses in their second and third years. Part-time MPH Health Policy students should take PubH 303, Fundamentals for Policy: Health Care and Public Health (2 credits) in one of their first three semesters, as it is the prerequisite for PubH 281, which then opens the door to much of the rest of the curriculum.
- The Department offers at least one session of all Program-Specific course requirements during all three semesters (fall/spring/summer), except for Health Economics which is not taught in the summer. This will allow students who wish to complete their MPH degree within two years to do so, and will allow every student to make steady progress toward completing the MPH degree.

We recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances that make it difficult for a student to complete the SPHHS core courses in the first year as outlined above. If applicable, students should discuss this situation with his or her academic advisor. If the advisor and student agree that an exception is needed, the student should complete a Graduate Petition Form explaining the circumstances, obtain the academic advisor's signature, and submit the Petition to the SPHHS Office of Student Records, 222 Ross Hall. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs must approve such a petition before a student is permitted to defer any core courses to the second year.

### Graduation Requirements:

- **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
- **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the SPHHS Core Courses, the Program-Specific Courses, and the Electives are required.
- **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
- **Successful completion of the required on-line human subject research training modules.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within four years.
- **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH. Up to 18 credits may be transferred to the MPH from the SPHHS Graduate Certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.

## B. The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy

For those seeking a solid foundation in the substance of health policy and the skills of health policy analysis but who do not wish to undertake the full MPH, the Department offers an 18-credit Graduate Certificate. Designed to provide both basic and advanced-level skills in policy research and analysis, the Graduate Certificate also includes substantial elective course offerings to fit the student's desires. If enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy Program, the student will meet often with his/her advisor to craft a personalized course of study through the Elective Course offerings. Specifically, the Graduate Certificate requires:

- PubH 303, *Fundamentals of Policy: Health Care and Public Health* (2 credits)
- PubH 281, *Introduction to Health Policy Analysis* (3 credits)
- PubH 282, *Applications of Health Policy Analysis* (3 credits)
- Elective Courses in Health Policy (10 credits)

The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy is available standing alone, as a supplement to an MPH degree from a different department (Epidemiology, Global Health, Environmental & Occupational Health, etc.), or as a supplement to another degree (e.g., the J.D.). When pursued as a supplement to an MPH degree from another department, 6 cross-over credits from the MPH degree are available to count towards the 18-credit Graduate Certificate. In other words, for students seeking both an MPH from another department and a Graduate Certificate in Health Policy at the same time, a total of 57 credits are required to complete both programs of study.

### **Graduation Requirements**

- **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 18 graduate credits are required.
- **The Program Director/Advisor must pre-approve all course selections and course sequencing by developing a “program of study” prior to the student’s initial registration.** Graduate Certificate students meet with their advisor each semester before registration. All changes in this program of study must be pre-approved by the Program Director/Advisor.
- **Grade Point Requirement.** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average or better is required.
- **Time Limit Requirement.** The certificate must be completed within 2 years.
- **Transfer Credit Policy.** The Program Director/Advisor may approve up to 4 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree to be transferred to the graduate certificate. (Exceptions: GW master’s students and alumni may transfer up to 6 credits of the master’s degree to the Graduate Certificate.) The course(s) must be relevant to the graduate certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.

**Sample Schedules for the MPH in Health Policy**

Table 1 (full-time students) and Table 2 (part-time students) present sample schedules of the courses that MPH in Health Policy students are required to take during their tenure at the SPHHS. Forty-five credits are required, including SPHHS core courses (17 credits), Program-Specific courses (17 credits), and Electives (11 credits).

**Table 1: Sample Schedule for 2-Year Completion (fall start)**

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name	Time
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 9 credits	2	PubH 201	Biological Concepts for Public Health	Thurs 4:10 – 6:00 pm
	3	PubH 203	Principles & Practice of Epidemiology	Tues 6:10 – 9:00 pm or Fri 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	2	PubH 205	Policy Approaches to Public Health	Weds 4:10 – 6:00 pm
	2	PubH 303	Fundamentals for Policy	Weds 6:10 – 8:00 pm
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 10 credits	3	PubH 202	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	Weds 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	2	PubH 204	Environmental & Occupational Health	Tues 6:10 – 8:00 pm
	2	PubH 207	Social & Behavioral Approaches to PH	Tues 4:10 – 6:00 pm
	3	PubH 281	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis	Mon 6:10 – 9:00 pm
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 7 credits	3	PubH 208	Management Approaches to Public Health	Tues/Thurs 3:45 – 6:00 pm (10-week session)
	2	PubH 209.11	Health Care Quality**	Mon 5:10 – 7:40 pm (10-week session)
	2	PubH 214.16	Practicum	
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 10 credits*	3	PubH 282	Applications of Health Policy Analysis	Tues 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	3	PubH 285	Health Economics and Financing*	Weds 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	2	PubH 293	Managed Care**	Mon 6:10 – 8:00 pm
	2	PubH 209.15	Mental Health/Substance Abuse Policy**	Weds 6:10 – 8:00 pm
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 9 credits	3	PubH 283	Health Services & the Law	Tues 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	2	PubH 297.10	Primary Health Care Policy**	Thurs 6:10 – 8:00 pm
	1	PubH 209.12	Basics of Legislation & Regulation**	Mon 6:10 – 8:00 pm (7-weeks only)
	1	PubH 209.21	Effective Policy Analysis Writing**	Weds 6:10 – 8:00 pm (7-weeks only)
	2	PubH 215.16	Health Policy Seminar (culminating exp.)	Tues 6:10 – 8:00 pm

\*Students with little or no economics background (i.e., did not take any economics courses in undergraduate study) may need to take “Basics of Economics” as a prerequisite to this course, or gain entry through the instructor’s permission.

\*\*10 “Elective” credits are required for the MPH in Health Policy. Courses 209.11, 293, 209.15, 297.10, 209.12 and 209.21 that are listed in this sample Completion Plan are examples of some of these elective courses. Students are, of course, free to choose their own electives, and 3 of the 10 elective credits may be earned from electives offered by other SPHHS departments.

**Table 2: Sample Schedule for 3-Year Completion (fall start)**

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name	Time
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 5 credits	2 3	PubH 205 PubH 203	Policy Approaches to Public Health Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	Weds 4:10 – 6:00 pm Tues 6:10 – 9:00 pm or Fri 3:10 – 6:00 pm
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 7 credits	3 2 2	PubH 202 PubH 204 PubH 207	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health Environmental & Occupational Health Social & Behavioral Approaches to PH	Weds 6:10 – 9:00 pm Tues 6:10 – 8:00 pm Tues 4:10 – 6:00 pm
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 4 credits	2 2	PubH 201 PubH 303	Biological Concepts for Public Health Fundamentals for Policy	Summer I – Tues/Thurs 3:45 – 6:00 pm TBD
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 6 credits	3 3	PubH 208 PubH 281	Management Approaches to Public Health Introduction to Health Policy Analysis	Thurs 6:10 – 9:00 pm Mon 6:10 – 9:00 pm
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 6 credits	3 3	PubH 283 PubH 285	Health Services and Law Health Economics and Financing*	Tues 3:10 – 6:00 pm Thurs 3:10 – 6:00 pm
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 4 credits	2 2	PubH 214.16 PubH 209.11	Practicum Health Care Quality**	Mon 5:10 – 7:40 pm (10-week session)
Fall 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 7 credits	3 2 2	PubH 282 PubH 293 PubH 209.15	Applications of Health Policy Analysis Managed Care** Mental Health/Substance Abuse Policy**	Tues 6:10 – 9:00 pm Mon 6:10 – 8:00 pm Weds 6:10 – 8:00 pm
Spring 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 6 credits	2 2 2	PubH 215.16 PubH 297.10 PubH 291.10	Health Policy Seminar (culminating exp.) Primary Health Care Policy** Health Care Corporate Compliance**	Tues 6:10 – 8:00 pm Thurs 6:10 – 8:00 pm Weds 6:10 – 8:00 pm

\*Students with little or no economics background (i.e., did not take any economics courses in undergraduate study) may need to take “Basics of Economics” as a prerequisite to this course, or gain entry through the instructor’s permission.

\*\*10 “Elective” credits are required for the MPH in Health Policy. Courses 209.11, 293, 209.15, 297.10, and 291.10 that are listed in this sample Completion Plan are examples of some of these elective courses. Students are, of course, free to choose their own electives, and 3 of the 10 elective credits may be earned from electives offered by other SPHHS departments.

School of Public Health and Health Services

Master of Public Health and Graduate Certificate Program Option

Health Policy

2009-2010

Note: All curriculum revisions will be updated immediately on the website <http://www.gwumc.edu>

Graduation Requirements  
MPH

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements.** Successful completion of the Core Courses and the Program-Specific Courses are required.
3. **Grade Point Requirement.** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
4. **Time Limit Requirement.** The degree must be completed within four years.
5. **Transfer Credit Policy.** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH. Up to 18 credits may be transferred to the MPH from the SPHHS Graduate Certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.

Graduation Requirements  
Graduate Certificate

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 18 graduate credits are required.
2. **Graduate Credit Requirement for students enrolled concurrently in a SPHHS Degree Program.** 12 credits are required.
3. The Program Director/Advisor must pre-approve all course selections and course sequencing by developing a "program of study" prior to the student's initial registration. Graduate Certificate students meet with their advisor each semester before registration. All changes in this program of study must be pre-approved by the Program Director/Advisor.
4. **Course Requirements.** Since most graduate certificate students are currently enrolled in an MPH program or have previously earned a graduate degree, most course credits will be selected from the program-specific course list. Under no circumstances may a certificate student enroll in fewer than 9 credits of program-specific courses.
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 two years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy.** The Program Director/Advisor may approve up to 4 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree to be transferred to the graduate certificate. (Exceptions: SPHHS master's students and alumni may transfer up to 6 credits from master's degree to the Graduate Certificate.) The course(s) must be relevant to the graduate certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.

Health Policy Course Descriptions  
(for both MPH and Graduate Certificate)

SPHHS Required Core Courses  
(17 Credits)

PubH	201	Biological Concepts for Public Health	2	Provides an overview of current knowledge about biological mechanisms of major diseases causing death and disability in the US and globally; understanding and interpreting the reciprocal relationships of genetic, environmental, and behavioral determinants of health and disease in an ecologic context; analyzing, discussing, and communicating biologic principles of disease from a public health
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				perspective. Fall, Spring , Summer 1
PubH	202	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Application of biostatistical principles to critical analysis of retrospective studies, prospective studies, and controlled clinical trials, as well as studies in the health services literature. Selection, basic calculations, and interpretation of statistical methods for detection of significant associations and differences. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks
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
PubH	204	Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World	2	Examines the connection between population health and exposures to chemical, physical, and biological agents in the environment. Through the use of problem-solving frameworks, students will become familiar with data sources, methodologies and policy approaches being used to address the public health impacts of environmental and occupational health hazards, including the consequences of climate change, natural resource degradation, and industrial chemicals. The course will integrate key concepts of environmental health with principles of sustainability to illustrate how public policies and practices on the local, national and global level affect population health. Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH	205	Policy Approaches to Public Health	2	Introductory multidisciplinary course focusing on the interplay of all aspects of global public health on health policy problems. Students will learn how health policy is made, how health care and public health services are delivered, and how to define and analyze key health policy problems drawing on the perspectives and skills of the public health disciplines. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks
PubH	207	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Emphasizes social and behavioral science theories, models, and concepts that can be applied to public health problems and interventions. Describes the role of social and community factors, including race/ethnicity and culture, in both the onset and solution of public health problems and describe the inter-relationship between the social/behavioral science. Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH	208	Management Approaches to Public Health	3	An advanced multidisciplinary course examining global public health and health delivery issues through the use of a case study approach. Prerequisites: PubH 201.202.203.204.205, 207. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks
<b>Program-Specific Courses (18 Credits)</b>				
PubH	303	Fundamentals for Policy: Health Care and Public Health	2	Provides an overview of public health and health care in the United States as an introduction to the study and analysis of health policy. It covers the governmental framework, institutions, financing streams, workforce, constituencies, and interest groups engaged in the health sector to ensure that students begin their analytic policy training with grounding in the political, economic and social realities of public health and health care. Fall, Spring, Summer 1
PubH	281	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis	3	Core elements of health policy analysis: problem definition, background, the political, economic, and social landscape; development of policy options and recommendations. Written, graphic, and oral presentation skills associated with policy analysis. Prerequisite: PubH 303. Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH	282	Applications of Health Policy Analysis	3	Provides instruction in critical elements of health policy applications: problem definition; political, social, and economic assessment of a problem; program evaluation and data analysis; development of policy options; and the written and oral presentation of findings and recommendations. Hands-on application of basic quantitative tools in health policy. Prerequisite: PubH 281. Fall, Spring, Summer.
PubH	283	Health Services and Law	3	This course addresses the relationship of law and the legal system in the United States to the individual health care delivery system. It examines how various sources of law embody health policy and affect the organization, delivery, and financing of health care, as well as

				the regulation of health care quality and patient rights. Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH	284	Public Health and Law	3	Examines how law can both promote and impede the public's health. Introduces students to the legal concepts that underlie the public health system and that inform public health policymaking in the United States. Topics to be covered include the role of law in public health care and policy (e.g., governmental powers vs. civil liberties, regulation of public health, tobacco regulation), managed care and public health, the role of public health officials in shaping law and policy, and public health law reform. Spring
PubH	285	Health Economics and Financing	3	Covers economic principles as they apply to health services financing and public health policy: provider payment policy and cost containment, supply of health providers and services, individual demand for health care services, and cost-benefit analyses and economic incentives to promote public health goals. Prerequisite: Basic Economics or instructor's permission. Fall, Spring
PubH	242	Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis	2 + 1	Quantitative and qualitative approaches to decision making, including risk- benefit analysis, decision analysis, and cost-effective analysis. Applications to technology assessment; development of clinical guidelines. PubH 202.203, Spring Note: MPH and MS Health Policy and Doctoral Students concurrently take PubH 209 Special Topics by the same name for 1 credit.
PubH	214.16	Practicum	2	This course provides the opportunity for MPH students to apply the knowledge and skills acquired through their programs of study. A planned, supervised and evaluated practice experience that is relevant to the student's program is an essential component of a public health professional degree program. These opportunities can take place in a variety of agencies or organizations. Each program customizes Practicum requirements to meet students' needs. (Credit/No Credit) Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH	215.16	Health Policy Seminar: Culminating Experience	2	The course is the culminating experience for students in the MPH and MS Health Policy degree programs, and must be taken during the student's final semester of his or her master's degree work. The course includes seminar discussions and analysis of major health policy topics. Prerequisite: PubH 281 & 282. Fall, Spring, Summer – Final semester.
<b>Health Policy Electives (10 credits)</b>				
PubH	287	Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy	2	In-depth exploration of maternal and child health policy in the U.S., with a particular emphasis on the role of personal and public health services for women, children, youth and their families in the context of health and human services system change. The course will also build knowledge in the process of public policy development at the national, state and local level in the area of maternal and child health and will build on the methods of policy analysis, including problem identification, the development of policy overview and synthesis documents, and the preparation of policy options papers, Prerequisite: PubH 281 or PubH 373, Spring
PubH	288	Civil Rights Issues in Health Care	2	Examines the intersection of health care and civil rights law in the United States: the history and legacy of health care discrimination in the U.S.; the various forms of health care discrimination; legislative and regulatory interventions to combat discrimination and create/enforce/restore health care civil rights; and the unique place that abortion rights holds in U.S. law and society. Prerequisite: PubH 283, Spring
PubH	289	Federal Budget Process for Health Policy	1	Focuses on how the Congressional budget process shapes the funding and design of federal health care programs, ranging from entitlement programs like Medicare to appropriated programs like community health centers. Discussions will cover budget resolutions, appropriations bills, and budget reconciliation legislation, as well as Congressional procedures and committees through which they are considered. Prerequisite: PubH 303, Summer
PubH	291	Health Care Corporate Compliance	2	Addresses the federal laws and regulations that affect U.S. health care industry participants, particularly those relating to the prevention of fraud and abuse, and the role of corporate compliance programs. Prerequisite: PubH 283 or HSML 215, Spring
PubH	292	Law, Medicine, and Ethics	2	Addresses those issues in law, ethics, and policy that focus on the scope and limits of individual autonomy within the health system. Prerequisite: PubH 281, Spring

PubH	293	Managed Care	2	Examines the managed care industry, including health maintenance organizations (HMOs), preferred provider organizations (PPOs), and the utilization management (UM) in fee-for-service plans. Prerequisite: PubH 281, Fall
PubH	294	Medicare/Medicaid Law and Policy	2	Examines selected topics in the design and operation of Medicare and Medicaid, the public insurance problems in the United States. Introduces students to legal issues from the perspectives of program beneficiaries, health care providers, and program administrators. Prerequisite: PubH 281, Spring
PubH	295	Minority Health Practice and Policy	2	Introduces students to the concept of health disparities and the implications of disparities for health care practice and policy. Students will learn how disparities are defined and measured, as well as emerging approaches in practice and policy to reducing disparities. Prerequisite: 281 Fall
PubH	296	Pharmaceutical Policy	2	Examines legal and regulatory frameworks related to the demand for and supply and quality of pharmaceutical products. It will highlight policies specific to drug development, pricing, reimbursement, drug utilization, dissemination of information, and post-marketing surveillance. Prerequisite: PubH 281, Fall
PubH	297	Primary Health Care Policy	2	Explores politics and policy of the provision of primary health care in America. The class covers the rise of the field of primary care and how it is supported and financed, as well as the role of insurers and government in regulation and oversight in the areas of access, cost, and quality. Prerequisite: PubH 281, Spring
PubH	298	Strategies for Health Policy Change	2	Provides a theoretical and practical understanding of legislative advocacy in the area of Federal health policy. It aims to provide students with an understanding of the theory behind legislative advocacy and lobbying, the various types of advocates, the tools that they use, and examples of successful and unsuccessful lobbying. The course regularly uses guest lecturers to allow students to question and interact with those who are professionally involved in the legislative advocacy process. Prerequisite: PubH 281, Spring
PubH	299	Scientific Evidence in Health Law and Policy	2	Addresses the use of scientific evidence in decision-making for regulatory and public health policy purposes, and looks at how the legal system approaches environmental and toxic exposure claims. The class focuses on the 1993 Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc. decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, and its importance for both the legal and public health communities. Prerequisite: PubH 283, Spring
PubH	302	HIV Policy	2	Examines various aspects of the policy response to HIV. The focus will be on how U.S. 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 U.S. policy. The course will also study specific, timely policy questions facing policy makers at the time the course is offered. Summer
PubH	373	Maternal and Child Health Policy Analysis	2	Jointly offered with the Department of Prevention and Community Health, this class provides instruction in maternal and child health policy in the U.S., with a particular emphasis on policies related to the organization, financing, delivery, and quality oversight of personal health services for mothers and children. Public policy development at the national, state, and local levels. Prerequisite: PubH 370. Fall.
PubH	209	“Topics” Courses	1-2	The Department of Health Policy offers many interesting 1 or 2 credit topics courses that focus on a discrete and specific area of health policy in a “drill down” fashion. Please see your advisor and/or course schedules to determine which topics course are offered in which semesters. Descriptions of these classes are not listed here (although available in the Department of Health Policy’s Master Course List), however a sample of course titles include: Basics of Economics; Basics of Legislation and Regulation; Basics of Statistics for Health Policy; Biodefense and Biosecurity; Bridging Health Policy and Health Information Technology; Cancer Policy; Comparative Health Systems and Health Policy; Demography and Public Health Policy; Health Care Quality; Health Workforce Policy; Infectious Disease Policy; Homeland Security and Public Health Policy; Mental Health/Substance Abuse Policy; National Health Reform; Private Health Insurance and Health Policy; Seminar in Health Economics; State Health Policy; The Policy Narrative: Literature and the Making of Health Policy; Vaccine Policy; Welfare Reform and Health Policy.