

Program Director

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

Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program with a specialization in Health Policy is to train public health, health services, law, medical, public policy and other students and professionals seeking careers in health policy 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 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 (the MD/MPH and PA/MPH programs) who wish to enhance their clinical training with a thorough understanding of health policy. The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy is also available (please see section "B" on page 9 of this document), 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;
- strong data management skills including creating Stata datasets, reading various types of raw data, creating variables, and processing data;
- 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 (16 credits), Program-Specific Courses (20 credits) and Elective Courses (9 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, 285, 287, 291, 292, 293, 294, 215.16, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, and 314.
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 285, 287, 291, 292, 293, 294, 215.16, 305, 306, 307, 310, 311, 312, and 313.
3. Locate, assess, and appropriately use statistical and other data and the ability to conduct basic manipulations of data. Related courses: PUBH 242, 283, and 287.
4. Comparatively analyze legislation and administrative regulations, and analyze and interpret judicial opinions and agency rulings. Related courses: PUBH 291, 292, 293, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, and 313.
5. Assess the methodology and quality of research results, and synthesize findings for policy analyses. Related courses: PUBH 242, 283, 287, and 305.
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, 285, 287, 292, 293, 305, 307, 309, 310, 311, 312, and 313.

Program-Specific Elements

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

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER WASHINGTON DC		School of Public Health and Health Services Master of Public Health Health Policy Program 2010-2011	
SPHHS Required Core Courses			
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 in a Sustainable World	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	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
Total	SPHHS Core Course Credits	16	
Required Program-Specific Courses			
Course		Credits	Semester Offered
PubH 281	Fundamentals for Health Policy (prerequisite: none)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 283	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy (prerequisite: PubH 202)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 285	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis (prerequisite: PubH 281)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 287	Advanced Health Policy Analysis (prerequisite: PubH 283 and PubH 285)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 291	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy (prerequisite: PubH 281)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH 292 OR PubH 293	Health Services and Law (prerequisite: none) Public Health and Law (prerequisite: none)	3 3	Fall, Spring, Summer Spring
PubH 294 OR PubH 242	Health Economics and Financing (prerequisite: PubH 209 Basics of Economics or instructor’s permission) 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 (prerequisite: PubH 205 and 281)	2 (credit/no-credit)	Not semester-specific
PubH 215.16	Culminating Experience, the Health Policy Seminar (prerequisite: PubH 287)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
Total	Program-Specific Course Credits	20	
Required Elective Courses			
PubH 209s & PubH 300s	A personalized combination of elective courses of nine credits total. Two of these nine elective credits may be taken through other GW departments.	9	Please check the applicable semester course schedule – all elective course offerings are semester-specific.
Course Distribution Summary			
Required SPHHS Core Courses		16 Credits	201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 207 & 208
Required Program-Specific Core Courses, Including Practicum and Culminating Experience		20 Credits	281, 283, 285, 287, 291, 292 or 293, 294 or 242 (w/ the added PubH 209), 214.16 & 215.16
Required Elective Courses		9 Credits	Selection from list of 209s and 300s
Total		45 Credits	MPH Degree in Health Policy

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 sets forth examples of potential practicum sites:

SAMPLE PRACTICUM TOPICS AND SITES HEALTH POLICY	
TOPIC	SITE
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
Vaccine Policy	Sanofi Pasteur
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 287 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 CITI social-behavioral training module prior to graduation. It is expected that most students will satisfy this

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/), 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 281, 283, 285, 287, 291, 292 or 293, 294 or 242 (w/ the added PubH 209), 214.16 & 215.16)
 - Required Elective Courses (a personalized 9-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 full time students (taking 9 credits or more in a given semester) 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 201 through 207 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 SPHHS core course as a prerequisite. **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
 - PubH 203 – Epidemiology
 - PubH 205 – Policy Approaches to Public Health
 - In order to help assure that all students complete these 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 281 is the course prerequisite for PubH 285. Students must take 281 before 285. For students seeking to graduate in two years, PubH 281 must be taken in one of the first two semesters of study.
- PubH 283 and PubH 285 are the course prerequisites for PubH 287. Students must take 283 and 285 before 287. PubH 285 also serves as the course prerequisite for a number of Elective Course offerings.
- PubH 287 is the course prerequisite for PubH 215.16, the Health Policy Seminar. **Students must take 287 before 215.16.**
- PubH 215.16, the Health Policy Seminar, can only be taken in the student's final MPH semester.
- In addition to the prerequisite flow described above, PubH 283, 291, 292 or 293, 294 or 242 (w/ the added PubH 209), and 214.16 (the Practicum) are all required courses.
- Please check the applicable Course Schedule for a given semester to determine all of the course prerequisite 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 a selection of required SPHHS core courses. In addition to the required SPHHS core courses, full-time MPH Health Policy students should take PubH 281, Fundamentals for Health Policy (2 credits), in one of their first two semesters, as it is the prerequisite for both PubH 285 and 291, which then opens the door to much of the rest of the curriculum.
- Because PubH 202 Biostatistics serves as the prerequisite for PubH 283 (which is a prerequisite for PubH 287), students are encouraged to take 202 as early on as possible.
- Part-time students (taking less than nine credits in a given 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. That said, part-time MPH Health Policy students should take PubH 281, Fundamentals for Health Policy (2 credits) in one of their first three semesters, as it is the prerequisite for both PubH 285 and 291, 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). 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.

4. Specifics about the Required Elective Courses:

- MPH in Health Policy students are required to complete nine total elective credits. Of these nine, seven credits must be earned from departmental health policy-specific courses. The remaining two elective credits may be earned through other SPHHS or GW departments, upon advisor approval. Of course, all nine elective credits may be earned from departmental health policy-specific courses if so desired by the student.

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 CITI 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 applicable and pre-approved 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. Transfer Credits must have been earned 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 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 in Health Policy requires:

- PubH 202, *Biostatistical Applications for Public Health* (3 credits) (prerequisite: none)
- PubH 281, *Fundamentals for Health Policy* (2 credits) (prerequisite: none)
- PubH 283, *Statistical Analysis in Health Policy* (2 credits) (prerequisite: PubH 202)
- PubH 285, *Introduction to Health Policy Analysis* (2 credits) (prerequisite: PubH 281)
- PubH 287, *Advanced Health Policy Analysis* (2 credits) (prerequisites PubH 283 and 285)
- Elective Courses in Health Policy (7 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 (those 12 Graduate Certificate credits must include the five required courses outlined above (11 credits) and one elective credit).

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.
- **Successful completion of the required on-line CITI human subject research training modules.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **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. The course(s) must be relevant to the graduate certificate. Credits must have been earned in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.

Sample Schedules for the MPH in Health Policy

Table 1 (two-year completion schedule for full-time students) and Table 2 (three-year completion schedule for part-time students) present sample schedules of the courses that students in the MPH in Health Policy program are required to take during their tenure at SPHHS. Forty-five credits are required, including SPHHS core courses (16 credits), Program-Specific courses (20 credits), and Elective courses (9 credits).

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

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 st year 9 credits	3	PubH 202	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
	2	PubH 204	Environmental & Occupational Health in a Sustainable World
	2	PubH 205	Policy Approaches to Public Health
	2	PubH 281	Fundamentals for Health Policy
Spring 1 st year 9 credits	2	PubH 201	Biological Concepts for Public Health
	3	PubH 203	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology
	2	PubH 207	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health
	2	PubH 283	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy
Summer 1 st year 6 credits	2	PubH 285	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
	2	PubH 214.16	Practicum
	2	PubH 208	Management Approaches to Public Health
Fall 2 nd year 11 credits	2	PubH 287	Advanced Health Policy Analysis
	2	PubH 291	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy
	3	PubH 292	Health Services and Law
	2	PubH 209/300	Elective
	2	PubH 209/300	Elective
Spring 2 nd year 10 credits	3	PubH 294	Health Economics and Financing
	2	PubH 209/300	Elective
	2	PubH 209/300	Elective
	1	PubH 209/300	Elective
	2	PubH 215.16	Health Policy Seminar (culminating exp.)

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

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 st year 5 credits	3	PubH 203	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology
	2	PubH 205	Policy Approaches to Public Health
Spring 1 st year	2	PubH 201	Biological Concepts for Public Health

6 credits	2 2	PubH 207 PubH 281	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health Fundamentals for Health Policy
Summer 1 st year 5 credits	3 2	PubH 202 PubH 285	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
Fall 2 nd year 6 credits	2 2 2	PubH 204 PubH 283 PubH 209/300	Environmental & Occupational Health in a Sustainable World Statistical Analysis in Health Policy Elective
Spring 2 nd year 5 credits	2 3	PubH 208 PubH 292	Management Approaches to Public Health Health Services and Law
Summer 2 nd year 5 credits	2 2 1	PubH 214.16 PubH 287 PubH 209/300	Practicum Advanced Health Policy Analysis Elective
Fall 3 rd year 7 credits	3 2 2	PubH 294 PubH 291 PubH 209/300	Health Economics and Financing Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy Elective
Spring 3 rd year 6 credits	2 2 2	PubH 209/300 PubH 209/300 PubH 215.16	Elective Elective Health Policy Seminar (culminating exp.)

SPHHS REQUIRED CORE COURSES: 2010-2011		
COURSE (DESCRIPTION)	COURSE NO. (CREDITS)	PREREQUISITE(S)
Biological Concepts for Public Health 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 perspective. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks	PubH 201 (2)	None
Biostatistical Applications for Public Health 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 202 (3)	None
Principles and Practice of Epidemiology 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 203 (3)	None
Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World 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. Fall, Spring, Summer I	PubH 204 (2)	None
Policy Approaches to Public Health 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 205 (2)	None
Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health 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. Fall, Spring, Summer I	PubH 207 (2)	None
Management Approaches to Public Health An advanced multidisciplinary course examining global public health and health delivery issues through the use of a case study approach. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks	PubH 208 (2)	PubH 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 207

MASTERS-LEVEL HEALTH POLICY PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSE OFFERINGS: 2010-2011		
COURSE (DESCRIPTION)	COURSE NO. (CREDITS)	PREREQUISITE(S)
Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care Provides an overview of public health and health care in the United States as an introduction to the study and analysis of health policy. 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.	PubH 281 (2)	None

MASTERS-LEVEL HEALTH POLICY PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSE OFFERINGS: 2010-2011

COURSE (DESCRIPTION)	COURSE NO. (CREDITS)	PREREQUISITE(S)
<p>Statistical Analysis for Health Policy Covers the applications of quantitative and statistical methods of data analysis for health policy and health services research. Students conduct data analyses using Stata® and apply these skills for health policy and health services research purposes. This course builds upon the principles of statistics taught in PubH 202 and reinforces these principles with practical hands-on experience in programming and analysis for health policy.</p>	PubH 283 (2)	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
<p>Introduction to Health Policy Analysis 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.</p>	PubH 285 (2)	Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care
<p>Advanced Health Policy Analysis Provides instruction in critical elements of policy analysis: 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.</p>	PubH 287 (2)	Statistical Analysis for Health Policy AND Intro to Health Policy Analysis
<p>Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy Provides students with an understanding of the federal health policymaking process, including an overview of the legislative, administrative, and judicial processes that impact federal health policymaking. Reviews the federal budget process and outlines the authorization and appropriation processes. Finally, the course uses an advocacy campaign framework to demonstrate common techniques and strategies used to advance legislative and regulatory policies including coalition building, the use of policy studies and media relations, among others.</p>	PubH 291 (2)	Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care
<p>Health Services and Law Addresses the relationship of law and the legal system in the U.S. to the individual health care delivery system. Examines how various types of law affect the organization, delivery, and financing of health care, as well as the regulation of health care quality and patient rights.</p>	PubH 292 (3)	None
<p>Public Health and Law 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 inform public health policymaking in the U.S.</p>	PubH 293 (3)	None
<p>Health Economics and Finance 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.</p>	PubH 294 (3)	Basics of Economics OR Instructor's Permission
<p>Health Policy Seminar Culminating experience for students pursuing either an MPH or MS degree in Health Policy; must be taken during a student's final semester of Masters degree coursework. Includes seminar discussions and analysis of major health policy topics.</p>	PubH 215.16 (2)	Advanced Health Policy Analysis AND Advisor's Permission

MASTERS-LEVEL HEALTH POLICY COURSE OFFERINGS – ELECTIVES: 2010-2011

COURSE (DESCRIPTION)	COURSE NO. (CREDITS)	PREREQUISITE(S)
<p>Basics of Economics An introduction to modern microeconomics--the study of how consumers, firms, industries, and the public sector make decisions and allocate their resources in the economy. The principles of supply and demand and elasticity in both the private and public sectors will be analyzed.</p>	PubH 301 (1)	None
<p>Mental Health/Substance Abuse Policy Provides an overview of the U.S. mental health and substance abuse delivery system, its components, and the policy challenges created by the organization of this system. Considers the behavioral health care system from the perspective of several main "actors" in the system: patients, providers (primarily doctors and hospitals), health plans, and payers (public and private).</p>	PubH 302 (2)	Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care

MASTERS-LEVEL HEALTH POLICY COURSE OFFERINGS – ELECTIVES: 2010-2011

COURSE (DESCRIPTION)	COURSE NO. (CREDITS)	PREREQUISITE(S)
<p>State Health Policy Provides practical understanding of state health policy and programs by placing the student in the position of developing a briefing on health and health care for a new governor. This is a hands-on class designed to replicate the experience of a newly appointed official “learning the ropes” in a particular state.</p>	PubH 303 (2)	Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care
<p>Vaccine Policy Examines vaccine development, production, distribution, and delivery in the U.S. from the perspective of the influenza vaccine shortage. Highlights the interactions among the business, legal, political, public health, medical, federal/state/local government, and consumer communities that combine to influence immunization policy.</p>	PubH 304 (2)	Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care
<p>Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy 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.</p>	PubH 305 (1)	Maternal and Child Health Policy Analysis
<p>Civil Rights Issues in Health Care 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.</p>	PubH 306 (2)	Health Services and Law
<p>Federal Budget Process for Health Policy 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 on budget resolutions, appropriations bills, and budget reconciliation legislation, as well as Congressional procedures and committees through which they are considered.</p>	PubH 307 (1)	Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care
<p>Health Care Corporate Compliance 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.</p>	PubH 308 (2)	Health Services and Law OR Health Law for Managers
<p>Law, Medicine, and Ethics Designed to address those issues in law, ethics, and policy that focus on the scope and limits of individual autonomy within the health system. The specific foci are: reproductive health; human sexual relations; the refusal of potentially lifesaving medical treatment; assisted suicide; and research involving human subjects.</p>	PubH 309 (2)	Health Services and Law
<p>Medicare/Medicaid Law and Policy Describes current legal and public policy issues in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, including the legal, operational, financial, and organizational rules for the two programs.</p>	PubH 310 (2)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
<p>Minority Health Practice and Policy 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.</p>	PubH 311 (2)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
<p>Pharmaceutical Policy Examines legal and regulatory frameworks related to the demand for and supply/quality of pharmaceutical products. Highlights policies specific to drug development, pricing, reimbursement, utilization, dissemination of information, and post-marketing surveillance.</p>	PubH 312 (2)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
<p>Primary Health Care Policy Explores the politics and policy of the provision of primary health care in the U.S. Covers the rise of the field of primary care and how it is supported and financed, and the role of insurers and government in regulation and oversight in the areas of access, cost, and quality.</p>	PubH 313 (2)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
<p>HIV Policy 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.</p>	PubH 314 (2)	None

MASTERS-LEVEL HEALTH POLICY COURSE OFFERINGS – ELECTIVES: 2010-2011

COURSE (DESCRIPTION)	COURSE NO. (CREDITS)	PREREQUISITE(S)
Maternal and Child Health Policy Analysis (jointly offered with the Department of Prevention and Community Health) 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.	PubH 373 (2)	None
Basics of Legislation and Regulation Provides a basic overview of the federal legislative and regulatory process. Through current examples, it explores how Congress and federal agencies shape substantive health policy. It covers the legislative process in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives and also surveys various federal administrative actions, including the notice-and-comment rulemaking process. The course will also explore how the Data Quality Act has helped to shape this nation's regulatory policy.	PubH 209 (1)	None
Biodefense and Biosecurity Provides an overview of the terms, technologies, and fields of biodefense and biosecurity. Discusses government initiatives to combat the threat of biological weapons, including securing former offensive research sites around the world, strengthening international treaties and agreements, ensuring pathogen security, and supporting research and development initiatives to better understand, deter, and treat biological agents used as weapons.	PubH 209 (1)	None
Bridging Health Policy and Health Information Technology Information is the bedrock of health care, health care delivery, health care administration and health care purchasing. Yet knowledge of systems that collect, contain, analyze, and report information is not a required, much less regular, part of most curricula in public health. The course combines perspectives in three areas: information technology itself, emerging legal and ethical responsibilities that those technologies create, and the larger implications of what is really a transformation of health care, the delivery of health care and health care administration.	PubH 209 (2)	None
Chair's Seminar in Health Policy High-level immersion into select health policy topics with leading figures in health policy. Students will study the concept of a health policy analysis, as well as the elements of an analysis. The art and science of policy analysis will be taught within the context of a significant problem in health policy, which will vary with each semester.	PubH 209 (2)	Rising MPH/MS Candidate, or Doctoral Candidate
Cancer Policy Structured to offer an overview of U.S. health policy in the treatment, management, and prevention of cancer. Introduces basic principles of cancer epidemiology, biology, and risk science, along with principles of prevention, treatment and control. Examines major issues in health policy in the context of cancer: health care access, coverage and payment, health care quality, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities, biomedical research policy, policies related to the detection, regulation, and communication of risk, and legislative and regulatory reform.	PubH 209 (1)	None
Comparative Health Systems and Health Policy Compares policies related to the organization and financing of personal health services in industrialized nations. Also provides instruction on the public policymaking process, including allocation of responsibility among levels of government and between the public and private sectors, and the methods of comparative policy analysis, including the use of theoretical frameworks and the development of practical skills such as matrices, graphs and charts, and synthesis.	PubH 209 (1)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
Demography and Public Health Policy Provides an overview of some of the basic calculations and methods used in demography, including measurements for fertility, mortality, and nuptuality, and introduces life tables and population projections. The demographic methods will be utilized on a case study that will focus on the impact of immigration on health services in the D.C. metropolitan region.	PubH 209 (1)	None
Health Care Quality This course has been designed to assist future health services managers, public health professionals, and health policy analysts understand the complex interactions of quality in the context of health care purchasing strategies, using public programs to operationalize the concepts. The goal of the class is to understand how quality in health care and health care delivery is defined, identified, measured and improved through consumer, provider, payment, coverage, regulatory, incentive and standardization strategies in an environment of transformation of health care, health care purchasing, and health care delivery.	PubH 209 (1)	None

MASTERS-LEVEL HEALTH POLICY COURSE OFFERINGS – ELECTIVES: 2010-2011

COURSE (DESCRIPTION)	COURSE NO. (CREDITS)	PREREQUISITE(S)
<p>Health Workforce Policy Introduces students to the structure and dynamics of the health care workforce. It will focus on physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. The historical background, current circumstances, and future projections for each group will be analyzed and the principle policy issues involved in their training and employment will be discussed. The course will focus on the health care workforce in the U.S. but global workforce issues and trends in worker migration will be explored as well.</p>	PubH 209 (1)	None
<p>Homeland Security and Public Health Policy Analyzes the intersection of homeland security and public health policy, with particular emphasis on public health emergency preparedness and response. Topics covered include the relationship between public health and criminal investigation/forensic epidemiology, intelligence gathering/analysis, and national security policymaking. The course covers a variety of threat themes, including bio, chemical, and nuclear/radiological terrorism and the associated preparedness and response policy issues.</p>	PubH 209 (2)	None
<p>Military and Veterans Health Policy Provides an overview of military and veterans health systems missions, organization, and delivery methods. Topics include the history and development of military and veterans medicine, the impact of fiscal policy on the military health care mission, beneficiary rights, forced health protection, and military managed care networks and contracting.</p>	PubH 209 (2)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
<p>National Health Reform Provides introduction to national health care reform by drawing from political, policy, and business perspectives. Examines the rise and fall of the Clinton Health Security Plan as a case study.</p>	PubH 209 (1)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
<p>Policymaking at the Food and Drug Administration Outlines conceptually how law, science, process, and public pressure contribute to outcomes at FDA and then examines the operation of these factors in practice through in-depth case studies on such topics as drug and medical device safety, drug advertising and promotion, food safety, and tobacco regulation.</p>	PubH 209 (2)	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
<p>Private Health Insurance and Health Policy Examines the role of private health insurance in the U.S. health care system, including the historical evolution of access to health care and private health insurance. Also examines the current role of private health insurance as the major health coverage mechanism of the non-elderly; the major types of private health insurance including non-group coverage (individual health insurance) and group coverage (employer sponsored coverage); the current regulation of private health insurance under State and Federal law, with particular attention on consumer rights to access affordable and adequate health insurance. Covers attempts to reform the system and concludes with a discussion on how to incorporate these considerations into analysis of health coverage proposals that implicate the private health insurance markets.</p>	PubH 209 (2)	Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care
<p>Reproductive Health Policy Presents an overview of reproductive health policy at the federal and state levels. Emphasizes the importance of balancing the interests of competing stakeholders and the fundamental underlying role of significant disparities and the ways in which policymaking can either alleviate or exacerbate those pre-existing issues.</p>	PubH 209 (1)	None
<p>Seminar in Health Economics Provides students with an opportunity to develop and sharpen their skills in economic analysis and to examine major current policy issues related to the economics of health care.</p>	PubH 209 (2)	Health Economics and Financing
<p>The Policy Narrative: Literature and the Making of Health Policy The health policy narrative is a personal essay that delivers a message about the health system as a whole. Commentaries on the state of medical care and public health have been delivered in this format by patients, doctors, and people on the street using published essays, journalistic commentaries, and public testimony. The policy essay is, in fact, part of a larger genre of personal writings in the literature of health and medicine. This course will examine the policy narrative from both the reader's and writer's perspective. It will draw on the Narrative Matters section of the policy journal <i>Health Affairs</i>, as well as other narrative writings.</p>	PubH 209 (1)	None