

Program Director

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Mission

The DrPH degree is the terminal degree in the professional discipline of public health. Consistent with this advanced professional orientation, the DrPH Program will prepare future public health leaders to apply critical thinking and rigorous research methods to the complex practical problems facing practitioners and policy-makers in public health practice. The DrPH Program is designed to both follow and promote the principles of academic public health practice. As noted in a recent ASPH publication, public health practice is the strategic, organized, and interdisciplinary application of knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to perform essential public health services and other activities to improve the populations' health. Academic public health practice is the applied, interdisciplinary pursuit of scholarship in the field of public health. Recent events sharply illustrate the need for public health professionals who can provide the leadership to expand and strengthen the US and global public health systems. The DrPH program is designed to prepare professionals with skills to provide this leadership.

From the combination of course work and the implementation of the knowledge in the context of a thesis project in outstanding international placements, the DrPH degree in global Health will enable professionals to develop innovative approaches to and ability to negotiate the complex interrelationship between health and political, economic, and human development.

Goals

The DrPH graduate will be prepared to assume an advanced level of leadership in global health, in the context of health research as well as implementation programs in an international setting.

Admissions Requirements

The Doctor of Public Health Program is designed for mid-career professionals seeking to become public health leaders. Applicants who have completed an MPH degree from a Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited program are strongly preferred for admission to the DrPH Program. Alternatively, applicants with a master's degree in another field may indicate their relevant training, research experience, or educational background comparable to the MPH. Doctoral applicants admitted without an MPH will be required to take additional course work at the graduate level that does not apply toward the minimum 60 credits required. For the DrPH. Qualified applicants with degrees from institutions in foreign countries are also eligible for admission. All applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within five years of the date of application. Because admission to this program is highly selective, successful applicants have competitive academic credentials and substantial prior public health professional work experience related to the specialty field to which they are applying.

Competencies

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, global health, health behavior, and health policy. The field of public health provides unique insights into the complex interrelationships between health, politics, and human development. It enables professionals to address public health issues by marshalling research and analytic skills to develop innovative approaches to understand health and to promote and advocate for improved health outcomes. Upon completion of the DrPH, students in all program areas will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed here:

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/Core%20Competencies.pdf

Program-Specific Competencies

On completion of the DrPH Program in Global Health, students will possess the following functional competencies and subject area knowledge:

- Apply the theories and principles of epidemiology, economic and social development, and policy analysis to the identification, classification and elaboration of global health threats and opportunities at the community, national and international levels. Relevant Courses: PubH 401, PubH 403, PubH 406, PubH 410, PubH 414, PubH 415, PubH 416, PubH 417, PubH 418, PubH 419, PubH 420
- Critically assess the functions, capacities, management and governance of governmental, international and non-state organizations in the translation of evidence and the application of scientific research to inform public health policy making and strategy development. Relevant Courses: PubH 401, PubH 406, PubH 410, PubH 414, PubH 416, PubH 417, PubH 418
- Critically analyze complex global health trends, differentiating determinants that can be effectively addressed through technical, behavioral, social and economic interventions and prioritizing approaches based on economic affordability and political feasibility. Relevant Courses: PubH 403, PubH 406, PubH 415, PubH 416, PubH 417, PubH 418, PubH 419, PubH 420
- Successfully apply public health theory and experiential evidence in the development and management of project, program and institutional strategies capable of reducing risks, addressing underlying vulnerabilities, and mitigating the impacts of the global burden of disease. Relevant Courses: PubH 401, PubH 413, PubH 414, PubH 416, PubH 417, PubH 418
- Effectively synthesize health research findings with economic and social arguments to formulate communication strategies in global health action in various professional, institutional, political and cultural settings. Relevant Courses: PubH 401, PubH 410, PubH 414, PubH 416, PubH 417, PubH 418
- Evaluate the benefits, costs and effectiveness of global health project, program and policy approaches and interventions through the appropriate choice and application of qualitative and quantitative survey and analysis methods. Relevant Courses: PubH 406, PubH 415, PubH 416, PubH 417, PubH 418, PubH 419, PubH 420

Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 60
- Transfer Credit Maximum = 12
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 20 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 6 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 14 to 20 credits
- Professional Leadership = 6 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 8 to 14 credits

REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL COURSES AND RESEARCH METHODS
20 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waive	Transferred
PubH 402	Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice – Doctoral Seminar	3	Fall Year 1			
PubH 416	Doctoral Research Methods I: Study Design and Evaluation	3	Fall Year 1			
PubH 419	Doctoral Research Methods II: Statistical Analysis Prereq: PubH 416	3	Spring Year 1			
PubH 415	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis Prereq: PubH 416	3	Summer Year 1			
PubH 403	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research Prereq: PubH 419	3	Fall Year 2			
PubH 420	Doctoral Research Methods III: Advanced Analysis and Dissemination Prereq: PubH 419, PubH 415	3	Fall Year 2			
PubH 401	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Spring Year 2			

REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES
6 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waive	Transferred
PubH 406	Advanced Topics – Health Research in the Global Arena – Doctoral Seminar	3				
PubH 410	Advanced Topics – Health Leadership in International Settings – Doctoral Seminar	3				

REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES

14 CREDITS*

*(TAKE UP TO 6 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE CREDITS IF DISSERTATION CREDITS TOTAL LESS THAN 12)

SAMPLE COURSES BELOW – OTHER COURSES MAY BE TAKEN WITH ADVISOR’S APPROVAL

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waive	Transferred
PubH 223	Toxicology: Applic's for Public Hlth Policy	2				
PubH 228	Global Environmental and Occupational Health	2				
PubH 242	Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis	2				
PubH 244	Cancer Epidemiology	2				
PubH 245	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	2				
PubH 250	Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS	2				
PubH 259	Epidemiologic Surveillance in Public Health	2				
PubH 262	Introduction to GIS	1				
PubH 263	Advanced GIS	1				
PubH 270	HIV/AIDS Surveillance	1				
PubH 322	Comparative Global Health Systems	2				
PubH 324	Global Health Communication	2				
PubH 325	Global Health Social Marketing	2				
PubH 328	Global Health Program Devel & Implementation	2				
PubH 329	Theories & Applications in Global Health Promotion	2				
PubH 336	International Health Organizations	2				
PubH 346	Global Health Economics & Finance	2				
PubH 347	Global Hlth Regulation, Trade & Human Rights	2				
PubH 348	International Food & Nutrition Policy	2				
PubH 351	Global Mental Health	2				

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES

6 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken / Proposed	Waived	Grade
PubH 412	Instructional Leadership	Varies			
PubH 413	Research Leadership	Varies			
PubH 414	Policy/Management Leadership	Varies			

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND DISSERTATION

8 TO 14 CREDITS*

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade
PubH 417	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page-long abstract that includes the following: Student Name, Program Director, Faculty Advisor if different from the Program Director, Title, Objective (including population), Research Methods and Analysis Methods, Anticipated Results/Hypotheses. Grade = Credit/No Credit	2		
PubH 418	Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research	6 to 12 credits required	Multiple – may be taken in increments of 1 to 12 credits	

DrPH Course Descriptions – Global Health 2010-2011				
PubH	223	Toxicology: Applications for Public Health Policy	3	Introduction to principles of toxicology with emphasis on concepts most relevant in risk assessment, management, and communication; and public health policy. Prerequisites: Organic Chemistry, Spring
PubH	228	Global Environmental and Occupational Health	2	Examines environmental and occupational health issues at various stages in the development process. Emphasis will be placed on principles of development economics and associated environmental health issues. Prerequisites: 204. Fall
PubH	242	Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis	2	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. Prerequisites: PubH 202, 203, Spring
PubH	244	Cancer Epidemiology	2	Epidemiology of specific cancers, with an emphasis on molecular and genetic epidemiology. Current research in the field. Prerequisites: PubH 203, Spring
PubH	245	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	2	The role and conduct of laboratory and field investigations in the epidemiology of infectious diseases. Prerequisite: PubH 203. Spring
PubH	250	Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS	2	Methodological issues central to HIV/AIDS research. Biases peculiar to HIV/AIDS epidemiologic studies (both observational and experimental designs). The natural history of HIV, diagnosis, surveillance, vulnerable subpopulations, behavioral facets, and evaluation of epidemiologic studies with an emphasis on methodological considerations. Prerequisite: PubH 203, Recommended 202. Fall
PubH	259	Epidemiology Surveillance in Public Health	2	Focus on foundations of public health surveillance systems for communicable as well as chronic diseases. Outbreak investigation methods will be included, as well as surveillance data sources, data management, data analysis, ethical issues, surveillance system evaluation, and use of information for prevention. Surveillance systems for reportable diseases, nosocomial infections, bioterrorism events, cancer, environmental disease, vaccine-related adverse events, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and military personnel will be discussed. Prerequisites: PubH 202, 203. Spring
PubH	262	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	1	Geographic information systems (GIS) for mapping and display of health data. The course makes use of ArcGIS 8.3. The use of spatial statistics for the detection of clusters and patterns in the spread of diseases. Working with geodatabases, shape files, layers, query information from attribute tables, geocode addresses and customizing GIS applications. Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH	263	Advanced GIS	1	Provides mid to advanced level training in GIS for display and analysis of health data. Use software ArcGIS 9.3 and additional extensions such as Spatial Analyst and Geostatistical Analyst. Also uses GeoDa software. Emphasizes benefits of using GIS to do more than simply manage and map data. GIS supports a range of spatial analysis functions that enable researchers to extract additional meaning from manipulating geographic data. Learn to work with raster datasets and geodatabases to build spatial models for analyzing health data and evaluating spatial patterns of health events based on notion of distance. Prerequisite: PubH262. Fall, Spring.

PubH	270	HIV/AIDS Surveillance	1	Overview of surveillance methods used domestically and internationally to monitor HIV/AIDS epidemic. Surveillance systems including sentinel, population based, behavioral, and incidence surveillance will be presented and discussed. Strengths and weaknesses of these various systems will be discussed in addition to how data from these systems impact and inform HIV/AIDS related policies and programs. Prerequisite: PubH 203. Summer
PubH	322	Comparative Global Health Systems	2	Examines what national health systems are, how they differ, and how they are performing. Health systems will be analyzed through four different lenses: Health Care Organization; Health Workforce Development; Health Care Financing and Health Policy Development. The course compares health systems and health reforms in seven regions of the world and draws lessons on how health system performance might be improved. PubH 321; Corequisite PubH 332 Spring
PubH	324	Global Health Communication	2	Introduces the field of health and population communication. Students will learn its key concepts, theories, research and applications. Issues covered will include: definition of key concepts; understanding the feedback model of health communication; the goals of health communication research, and uses of health communication through multi-sector initiatives. Prerequisites: PubH 207, PubH 321, PubH 329 Summer
PubH	325	Global Health Social Marketing	2	Examines social marketing theory with specific emphasis on public health, including social marketing campaign design, best practices for implementation, and evaluation methodology. It will cover applied techniques for domestic and international markets. It is an introduction to the importance of public/private partnerships in development and to stakeholders in social marketing organizations. Prerequisite: PubH 207, PubH 321 Fall
PubH	328	Global Health Program Development and Implementation	2	Basic concepts and principles of program development and implementation including data collection methods, decision making, and problem-solving techniques. Application of program development techniques to specific interventions. Prerequisite: PubH 321, Corequisite: PubH 203. Fall, Spring
PubH	329	Theories and Applications in Global Health Promotion	2	Use of communication theory and methods in health promotion. Integration of multidisciplinary approaches to public health communication. Prerequisite: PubH 207, PubH 321. Spring
PubH	336	International Health Organizations	2	Provides an in-depth study of the historical development, structure and function of the institutions and initiatives constituting the international health system. Prerequisite: PubH 321 Fall
PubH	346	Global Health Economics and Finance	2	Fundamentals of macro- and microeconomics and financial analysis in international health including degree of centralization, public-private sector roles, and roles of international donor agencies. Prerequisite: PubH 321, Fall, Spring
PubH	347	Global Health Regulation, Trade and Human Rights,	2	Explores the impacts of regulations, trade and human rights on health by examining the relevant international declarations, agreements and conventions. During the course we will examine a variety of topics including the impact of international trade agreements on health, the International Health Regulations and other regulations affecting global health, and the relationship between health and human rights. Prerequisite: PubH 321 Spring

PubH	348	International Food & Nutrition Policy	2	Examines the major food and nutrition problems internationally, and the policies and programs aimed at addressing food insecurity, under- and over- nutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies. Through a combination of lectures (some delivered by invited experts), discussion sessions, seminal literature, and policy/program critique, the course strives to provide the background knowledge, state of the art strategies, and analytical tools necessary for future work in international nutrition. Prerequisite: PubH 321 Spring
PubH	351	Global Mental Health	2	Focus on global mental health knowledge and public health policy implementation skills regarding the integration of mental health, public health, and primary care in diverse health systems and challenging cultural contexts. Prerequisite: PubH 321 Spring
PubH	401	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Principles of public health practice and policy with a focus on the interdisciplinary and strategic application of skills, knowledge and competencies necessary both to perform public health core functions and to enhance the capacity to perform these functions. Spring Year 2
PubH	402	Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice– Doctoral Seminar	3	This interactive seminar course provides doctoral students with fundamental understanding of the history and current issues associated with the four principal program areas: Health Policy, Health Behavior, Global Health and Environmental and Occupational Health. Fall Year 1
PubH	403	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research	3	In this course students review principles of measurement and assessment as they apply to public health and health services research constructs, review existing state-of –the-art measures of individual and population health status (e.g., morbidity, mortality, functioning and health-related quality of life) and of individual and community health behavior, and explore current measurement issues in health research. Prerequisite: PubH 419, Fall Year 2
PubH	406	Advanced Topics - Health Research in the Global Arena	3	Alternative field methods adopted from sociology, anthropology, economics, and political sciences for social sciences and policy research. Builds data collection, instruments, measurements, indicators, and data analysis and interpretation skills in specific socio-cultural contexts. Explores ethical issues in international research. Fall
PubH	410	Advanced Topics - Health Leadership in the International Settings	3	A participatory graduate seminar providing a continuity bridge for departmental DrPH students progressing into the second and third years of academic study. Designated to provide students with the tools and experience needed to build their capacity for leadership in global health. Prerequisite: PubH 406, As needed
PubH	412	Instructional Leadership	1 to 6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their teaching skills. These activities include course development, teaching masters level courses, acting as TA for undergraduate courses, advising students about their class performance, evaluating student performance, and developing remedial programs for students.
PubH	413	Research Leadership	1 to 6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their research methods and analytic skills. These activities include participating in the development and submission of sponsored research proposals; being formally affiliated with a research project, assuming responsibility for completing a real-world research project; engaging in empirical data collection and analysis efforts.

PubH	414	Policy/Management Leadership	1 to 6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their management, leadership and policymaking skills as applied to problem solving in real-world settings, such as public health departments, community health centers, legislative settings, and public or teaching hospitals.
PubH	415	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis	3	Techniques for designing and conducting qualitative research and for analyzing and reporting qualitative data relevant to program development and implementation, community assessment, and policy analysis. Prerequisite: PubH 416, Summer, Year 1
PubH	416	Doctoral Research Methods I: Study Design and Evaluation Research	3	Prepares doctoral students to design and conduct program and policy evaluation in public health. Intensive introduction to the principles of study program design and evaluation research emphasizing the ability to synthesize the population-based intervention literature, apply planning and management methods, describe and apply research methods from a range of disciplines, and prepare a program research proposal. Pre-requisite: DrPH student or instructor permission. Fall, Year 1.
PubH	417	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design	2	Design of protocol suitable for implementation as part of Doctor of Public Health dissertation requirement. Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page-long abstract that includes the following: Student Name, Program Director, Faculty Advisor if different from the Program Director, Title, Objective (including population), Research Methods and Analysis Methods, Anticipated Results/Hypotheses. Grade = Credit/No Credit. Fall, Spring
PubH	418	Dissertation Research	1 to 12	Dissertation Research for DrPH, Prerequisite: PubH 417. Note: 6 to 12 total credits of dissertation research are required. Students may register in increments of 1 to 12 credits.
PubH	419	Doctoral Research Methods II: Statistical Methods	3	Intensive course in data management and data analysis using STATA . Database management system techniques and data analytical strategies for the appropriate analysis of data sets obtained from a variety of studies will be presented. The student will manipulate national data sets from epidemiological studies as well as Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. Pre-requisite: PubH 416. Spring, Year 1
PubH	420	Doctoral Research Methods III: Advanced Analysis and Dissemination	3	Advanced multivariate data analyses of complex datasets and programs, including advanced cross-sectional techniques, time-series analysis, and the use of panel data. Evaluation of results, and dissemination of findings to relevant stakeholders. Pre-requisite: PubH 415, PubH 419. Fall, Year 2.