

**Doctor of Public Health Handbook
Policies and Procedures***

2009-2010

*The George Washington University
School of Public Health and Health Services*

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*University and School policies and procedures as outlined in the SPHHS Student Handbook apply to DrPH students.

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EOH	Health Behavior	Health Policy	Global Health
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The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree offered by The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (GWU SPHHS) prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, health behavior, health policy and international health. 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.

The DrPH degree is the terminal degree in the professional discipline of public health. Consistent with this advanced professional orientation, the DrPH degree prepares 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 degree is designed to both follow and promote the principles of academic public health practice. As noted in a recent Association of Schools of Public Health 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 population's 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 degree is designed to prepare professionals with the necessary skills to provide this leadership.

University and School policies and procedures as outlined in the SPHHS Student Handbook apply to DrPH students.

Admissions Requirements

An important first step for all prospective applicants to the DrPH degree is to discuss their interests and goals with the respective specialty field directors (see above).

The DrPH degree is open for admission fall semester of even-numbered years (i.e., 2008, 2010, 2012). The DrPH degree is designed as a part-time program for mid-career professionals who are seeking to become public health leaders. Applicants who have completed a master's degree (e.g., an MPH) from a program accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) are strongly preferred for admission to the DrPH program. Students accepted to the DrPH program who have not completed an MPH may be required to take additional courses beyond the 60-credit minimum requirement to satisfy pre-requisites associated with doctoral level public health studies.

Applications must be received on or before February 15, 2010, to be considered for admission for Fall 2010. Only completed applications, with all supporting materials, will be considered for admission.

All applicants complete two applications: SOPHAS, the on-line, national application for CEPH accredited schools of public health (www.sophas.org) and the SPHHS Secondary Application (http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/admissions/sophas_inf.cfm). All applicants, without exception, must submit GRE scores (no older than 5 years) to SOPHAS.

All international students asking for an F1 visa must prove English proficiency. There are a variety of ways to do this.

1. The applicant has received a degree (not enrolled in a program, but the degree is already conferred) in the United States. College or graduate programs are accepted.
2. The applicant has successfully passed the TOEFL. Generally, SPHHS requires that the applicant receive a 600 paper-based or 100 internet-based score.
3. The applicant is a citizen of a country where English is the official language.

If the student is international but does not require an F1 visa from GW (for example, the student is on an H1-B visa or is now a permanent resident), SPHHS does not require documentation as part of the admissions process. The specialty field director, however, may request proof of English proficiency for consideration prior to admission.

Applicants are required to include a personal statement. The personal statement must be specific about the reasons for application and particular interest in attending SPHHS. Applicants must include the choice of one of the four DrPH specialty fields and address the reasons for their interest in the program. Applicants must include their academic and career interests and professional and volunteer experiences as they relate to the specialty field. The statement should also include a description of current skills and future goals related to research, leadership, and problem solving in public health.

All applications will be reviewed by DrPH program directors; competitive applicants will be interviewed in-person or by telephone. All applicants will receive an admission decision by June 1. Students accepted to the program will receive a packet containing a "Checklist and Resource Guide for Accepted Applicants." This document will give instructions on how to secure a GW email address and GW ID card (called GWorld), register for classes, and other important details to be completed before registration and orientation.

DrPH Core Competencies

Doctoral study is a multifaceted and complex challenge that begins with thoughtful planning and deliberate execution with the guidance of faculty members. The experience culminates with the awarding of the DrPH degree to candidates who successfully complete these requirements as outlined in this document. Progression through the DrPH degree requires dedication, commitment, and persistence.

Upon completion of the DrPH degree, students will demonstrate ability in the following core competencies:

- Analyze a public health problem and determine appropriate sources of data and methods for problem identification, program planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Relevant courses: PubH 249, 260, 403, 415, 417.
- Develop and analyze hypotheses that can be tested by appropriate quantitative or qualitative research designs and methodologies. Relevant courses: PubH 247, 252, 415, 416, 417.
- Synthesize and evaluate research conducted by others. Relevant courses: PubH 401, 415, 416, 417.
- Design strategies to accurately and effectively describe public health, economic, administrative, legal, social, political, and cultural implications of different health policy options. Relevant courses: PubH 247, 401, 403, 415.
- Design grant proposals to address public health problems. Relevant courses: PubH 416, 417.
- Present public health data and research syntheses to scientific and professional audiences and the public. Relevant courses: PubH 410, 417.

- Defend the feasibility and expected outcomes of different policy options and transform them into organizations, plans, processes, and programs. Relevant courses: PubH 247, 401, 415, 417.
- Appraise the dynamic forces that contribute to cultural diversity and develop responsive plans and programs. Relevant courses: PubH 247, 252, 401, 415.
- Assess the determinants of health and illness, factors that contribute to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors that influence the use and cost of public health services in a population. Relevant courses: 249, 252, 260, 403, 417.
- Develop and defend a budget statement that presents programmatic fiscal requirements to achieve stated objectives. Relevant courses: PubH 401.
- Describe the theory of organizational structure and its relation to professional practice. Relevant courses: PubH 247, 201, 416.
- Support a culture of ethical standards of conduct in the research process and within organizations and communities. Relevant courses: PubH 401, 416, 417.
- Lead a team of diverse professionals reflecting shared values and vision to achieve specific objectives. Relevant courses: PubH 401.

DrPH Specialty Fields

The GWU SPHHS offers the DrPH degree in four specialty fields and each has specialty field competencies (see the web links to the specialty field curriculum guides here):

1. Environmental and Occupational Health, offered by the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health
http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/DrPH_EOH_Program.pdf
2. Global Health, offered by the Department of Global Health
http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/DrPH_Global_Health_Program.pdf
3. Health Behavior, offered by the Department of Prevention and Community Health
http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/DrPH_Health_Behavior_Program.pdf
4. Health Policy, offered by the Department of Health Policy
http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/DrPH_Health_Policy_Program.pdf

DrPH Specialty Field Directors

Each DrPH specialty field has a director who provides doctoral students with guidance through the pre-candidacy phase. For most students the DrPH specialty field director will initially serve as the primary advisor. The specialty field director may also become the chair or serve as a member of the Dissertation Research Committee and provide further guidance throughout the dissertation.

The role of the specialty field director/primary advisor is pivotal to the student's progression through the pre-candidacy phase. The specialty field director/primary advisor role supports the School of Public Health and Health Services' commitment to student development by:

- Guiding the student in the development of a program of study that lists and sequences courses, including the selection of elective courses, and selection of professional leadership development work that enhances the dissertation research experience during the candidacy phase. The program of study is based upon the student's entry knowledge, skills, and experiences; his or her career objectives; and the expectations of the applicable field for scholarly professionals. Any variation from the program of study requires the approval of the specialty field director.
- Mentoring the student in his or her development as a scholar and professional, including addressing interpersonal skills as necessary.

- Guiding the student in later semesters to consider the focus of the dissertation research, exploring various potential topics and questions, and weighing the feasibility, advantages, and disadvantages of each.
- Guiding the student's development in the core competencies for doctoral students: knowledge of foundations, critical literature reviews, inquiry and research methods, clarity of written and oral thought, professional development, technological skills, and knowledge of the specialty area.
- Setting clear expectations and guiding the student toward achieving a high level of quality in all written work.
- Guiding the student's preparation for the comprehensive examination.
- Serving as a resource as the student selects a dissertation committee chair and committee members.

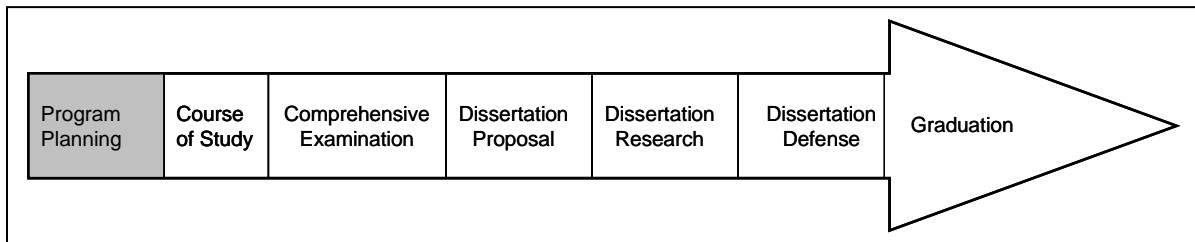
DrPH Phases:

The Doctor of Public Health Degree is divided into two phases: pre-candidacy and candidacy. During pre-candidacy a student completes the requirements through the Comprehensive Examination. Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements associated with pre-candidacy, the student is considered by both the department and the Dean for admission to candidacy.

Students must complete all requirements of the doctoral program, including the pre-candidacy and candidacy phases, within eight (8) years. Students are expected to make meaningful progress toward completion of the degree requirements throughout their time in the program.

PRE-CANDIDACY PHASE:

1. Program Planning: The Program of Study



Careful program planning with the specialty field director is the important first step. The student and specialty field director will discuss the student’s interests, goals and experiences, and prepare a Program of Study. The director must approve the Program of Study. All courses must be listed on the Program of Study Form and any deviation from this original plan requires the director’s approval and signature. A time line for completion of coursework will also be discussed and agreed upon.

Each Specialty Field requires a minimum of 60 credits. Up to 12 graduate credits may be transferred to the DrPH degree. This is done through petition and also requires your Specialty Field Director’s approval.

GWU SPHHS Graduate Petition forms can be accessed from:

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/2006_Petition.pdf

There are three categories of doctoral, didactic courses associated with the pre-candidacy phase:

1. Required foundational courses and research methods (23 credits)
2. Required specialty field courses (6-11 credits, depending on specialty field)
3. Required specialty field elective courses (6-11 credits, depending on specialty field)

In addition, students must complete 6 credits of professional leadership courses that can be completed before or after the pre-candidacy phase.

These courses are listed below.

1. REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL COURSES AND RESEARCH METHODS – IDENTICAL FOR ALL SPECIALTY FIELDS			
23 CREDITS			
<i>BEGIN PLANNING FOR YOUR DISSERTATION DURING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER</i>			
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Proposed
PubH 401	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy – Doctoral Seminar Can not be transferred	2	Fall Year 1
PubH 260	Advanced Data Analysis for Public Health May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 221, 249	3	Spring Year 1
PubH 403	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research – Doctoral Seminar Can not be transferred Prereq: PubH 260	3	Fall Year 2
PubH 252	Advanced Epidemiology Methods May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 221, Pre or Co-req 249	3	Spring Year 1
PubH 249	Use of Statistical Packages: Data Management and Data Analysis May Transfer. Approved by Instructor	3	Fall Year 1
PubH 221 PubH 247	Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology (EOH only) or Design of Health Studies (Health Behavior, Health Policy, International Health) May Transfer. Approved by Instructor	3 3	Spring or Fall Year 1
PubH 415	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 260	3	Spring Year 2
PubH 416	Evaluation Research Can not be transferred Prereq: PubH 260, 403	3	Fall Year 2

2. REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES			
EOH (6 CREDITS)			
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Proposed
PubH 407	Advanced Topics – Principles of Environmental Health Risk Science – Doctoral Seminar	3	Year 1 or Year 2
PubH 411	Advanced Topics – Environmental and Occupational Health Research and Practice	3	Year 1 or Year 2
HEALTH BEHAVIOR (6 CREDITS)			
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Proposed
PubH 405	Advanced Topics – Health Behavior Research and Practice Application – Doctoral Seminar	3	Year 1 or Year 2
PubH 409	Advanced Topics – Health Communications Research – Doctoral Seminar	3	Year 1 or Year 2
HEALTH POLICY (11 CREDITS)			
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Proposed
PubH 283 or PubH 284	Health Services and Law or Public Health and Law	3	
PubH 404	Advanced Topics- Health Systems and Health Policy Research – Doctoral Seminar (Prereq: PubH 281 and PubH 282 or approval by instructor)	3	

PubH 408	Advanced Topics –Advanced Health Economics Research – Doctoral Seminar (Basic microeconomics required; Prereq: PubH 285 or approval by instructor)	3	
PubH 209.31	Chair’s Seminar in Health Policy (Prereq: PubH 281 and PubH 282 or approval by instructor)	1	
PubH 289	Federal Budget Process for Health Policy	1	

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH (6 CREDITS)

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Proposed
PubH 406	Advanced Topics – Health Research in the Global Arena – Doctoral Seminar	3	
PubH 410	Advanced Topics – Leadership in the International Setting – Doctoral Seminar	3	

3 REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES

EOH (11 CREDITS)
HEALTH BEHAVIOR (11 CREDITS)
HEALTH POLICY (6 CREDITS)
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH (11 CREDITS)

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Proposed
TBD	Advisor Approval		

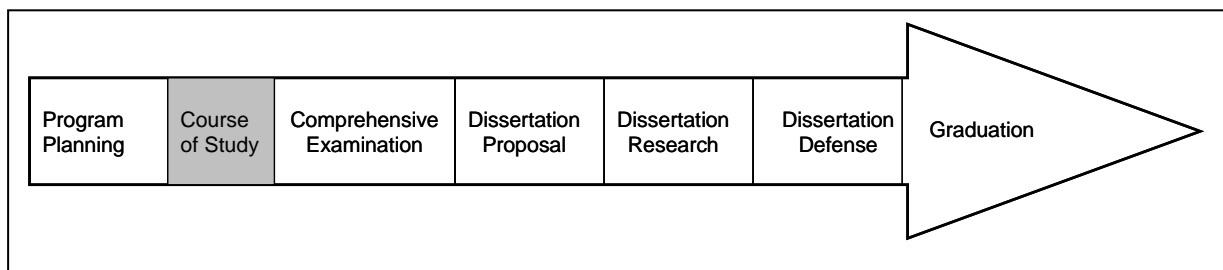
4. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES – ALL SPECIALTY FIELDS (6 CREDITS)

Professional Leadership Course Form Required:

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/Professional_Leadership_Course_Form.pdf

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

2. Course Enrollment



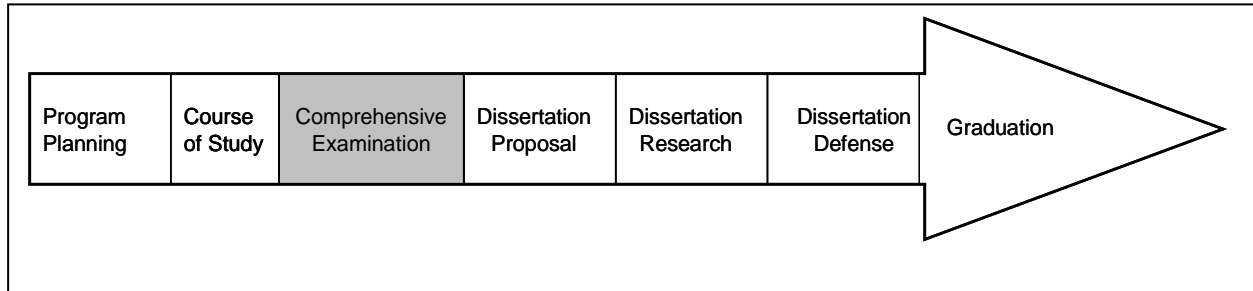
Once the Program of Study has been developed and approved/signed by the specialty field director, DrPH students must register for classes according to the procedures detailed in the Checklist and Resource Guide for Accepted Applicants (included in the DrPH Student Acceptance Packet).

Students should review their approved program of study each semester with the specialty field director for accuracy and relevance. If changes are necessary, updates can be made using the Program of Study Form. Any changes to the

Program of Study must be approved and signed by the specialty field director. Approved Program of Study Forms must be submitted to SPHHS Student Records, 222 Ross Hall.

DrPH students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing. For more information on academic standing, please see the SPHHS Student Handbook.

Comprehensive Examination



The comprehensive exam assesses the knowledge of general public health concepts and the student's specialty area. The exam challenges students to synthesize theory, concepts, research, and practice in the student's specialty area. Students take comprehensive exams once all core and specialty field required courses are completed. The exact date of the comprehensive exam is determined in consultation with the specialty field director.

Once students pass the comprehensive exam, they are officially admitted into the candidacy phase. Students who fail to complete or pass comprehensive exams will be permitted to retake the exam only once. Failure to complete or pass the comprehensive exams will be grounds for termination.

CANDIDACY PHASE:

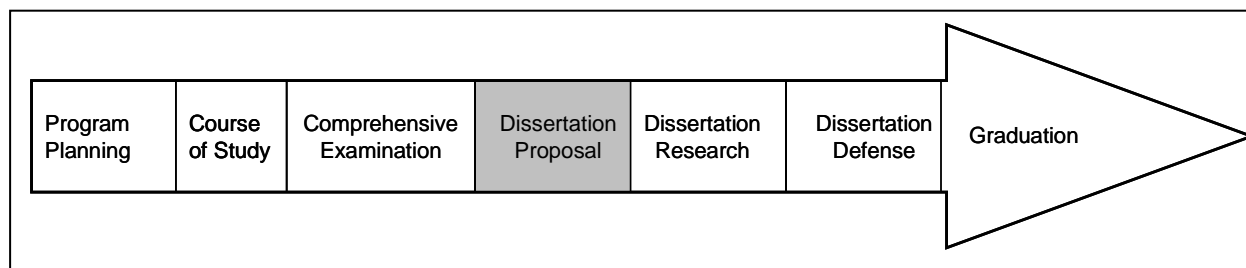
The objective of the dissertation is to demonstrate that the candidate has synthesized the knowledge gained during the pre-candidacy phase and is able to apply this knowledge to the resolution of a concrete and substantial applied research problem. The dissertation also demonstrates that the candidate has mastered research methods to successfully conduct scientific research.

The dissertation is a problem-based or issue-based inquiry that will involve empirical, applied research on a selected public health policy and practice issue as manifested in an actual community, public or private health care institution, organization or delivery system. Dissertation research will:

- Be guided by relevant and current theories or conceptual frameworks.
- Use appropriate and scientifically rigorous methods.
- Build on previous research.
- Contribute to public health policy and practice either domestically or internationally.

The research should result in the identification or assessment of feasible solutions or recommendations to the selected problem or issue, appropriate to the context in which they occur. Candidates are expected to demonstrate competencies in structured scientific inquiry, research design and analysis, and the primary methods of social research including qualitative methods and/or quantitative methods.

1. Dissertation Proposal



After passing the comprehensive exam all doctoral candidates register for and complete PubH 417, “Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design” for two credits. Prior to registering for PubH 417, students must:

- Identify a dissertation topic
- Select a chair of their Dissertation Research Committee
- Develop a one-page abstract on the research topic
- Receive approval in writing of the dissertation abstract from their Dissertation Research Committee chair.

Dissertation Preparation – All Specialty Fields			
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Proposed
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.	2	

A draft of the dissertation proposal is developed during PubH 417. The dissertation proposal should provide a clear, concise, and thorough plan of proposed research. While enrolled in PubH 417, students must identify and confirm their Dissertation Research Committee members and submit the Dissertation Research Committee Approval Form to SPHHS Student Records, 222 Ross Hall. The Dissertation Research Committee Approval Form can be accessed at: http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/Dissertation_Committee_Approval_Form.pdf.

The candidate is expected to work closely with the Dissertation Research Committee (see page 11) during the development of the proposal. The proposal normally includes the first several chapters of what will become the dissertation including:

- Statement of the problem: describe the nature and history of the problem or issue being studied and the potential significance of the proposed research.
- Literature review: detail prior research in this area and provide a historical and conceptual framework.
- Research methods: specify the research question and/or hypotheses, methods and design, human subjects review, and limitations of the dissertation research.
- Data analysis plan: Provide a detailed discussion about how the data collected will be managed and analyzed to address the research question(s).
- A statement of the expected contributions.

The proposal will be finalized by the candidate in consultation with the Dissertation Research Committee and presented in a formal oral defense proceeding. Proposals should include sufficient detail to give the committee members confidence that the candidate can accomplish what is proposed, and that there is a good reason to believe that the findings will be valid and reliable, and make a valuable contribution to the field of study.

2. Dissertation Research Committee

The doctoral candidate and his/her Dissertation Research Committee must have specific conversations to clarify/agree upon the procedures for committee review of and decision making about the dissertation research, and about the allocation of work and responsibilities among the committee members. The Dissertation Research Committee helps the student to define a research idea, provides feedback as it is developed, and ultimately approves the research proposal. As such, the committee plays a critical role in determining the quality of the final product.

The Dissertation Research Committee is comprised of three to five members; the chair and a minimum of two others. Committees must have no more than five (5) voting members. At least one member of the Dissertation Research Committee should have an appointment as regular or research faculty in the GWU SPHHS. Committee members should not have a conflict of interest that would prevent them from objectively evaluating the quality of the dissertation. At a minimum, each member should have a terminal, doctoral-level degree or equivalent credentials in a field relevant to the dissertation topic. For the mentoring process to work optimally, the dissertation chair and as many committee members as possible should be active scholars in the field who are published and have the first-hand experience required to teach students methods of scholarship.

Membership on the Dissertation Research Committee:

- Chair – a faculty member of the GWU SPHHS, typically from the candidate’s specialty field department.
- Member from the GWU SPHHS or other University faculty. This member must be from the candidate’s specialty field department, if the chairperson is not.
- Member who is a qualified public health professional currently active in work related to the dissertation, and can be from outside of the GWU SPHHS.
- Up to two other members within or outside of GWU with content or methodological expertise of relevance to the student’s dissertation research.

3. Dissertation Readers

Two readers serve as “outside examiners” who participate in the dissertation review process, including the dissertation defense, but do not serve as part of the Dissertation Research Committee. Readers should be selected in consultation with the committee chair. The readers need not come from GWU SPHHS, but must have doctoral-level credentials or the equivalent.

Readers do not participate in the proposal defense process and do not serve as mentors for the student during the dissertation research process. The two readers should not have any relationship with the candidate that might create a conflict of interest for the person or candidate in the process of evaluating the proposal or the dissertation.

4. Proposal Meeting – Proposal Defense

The proposal defense is scheduled for two hours. During the first 20 minutes the candidate presents the research proposal. This requires that the candidate be prepared to present the entire proposal orally with sufficient detail about all of the relevant and fundamental elements such that someone attending the defense who has not read the proposal would have a firm grasp of the entire proposed research. The DrPH candidate and the Dissertation Research Committee should attend the proposal meeting. The candidate must:

- Provide a written dissertation proposal to the Dissertation Research Committee members at least three calendar weeks prior to the proposal meeting unless they agree to a tighter timetable.
- Defend the dissertation proposal to the Dissertation Research Committee.

The Dissertation Research Committee will either approve the proposal (with possible stipulation of any changes that must be made) or reject the proposal. If the committee rejects the proposal then a revised proposal must be submitted and a second proposal meeting held. Significant changes in proposals require agreement by the Dissertation Research Committee.

Dissertation Proposal Forms must be signed by the Dissertation Research Committee and submitted to SPHHS Student Records, 222 Ross Hall. Students are advised to keep a copy of the form for their records.

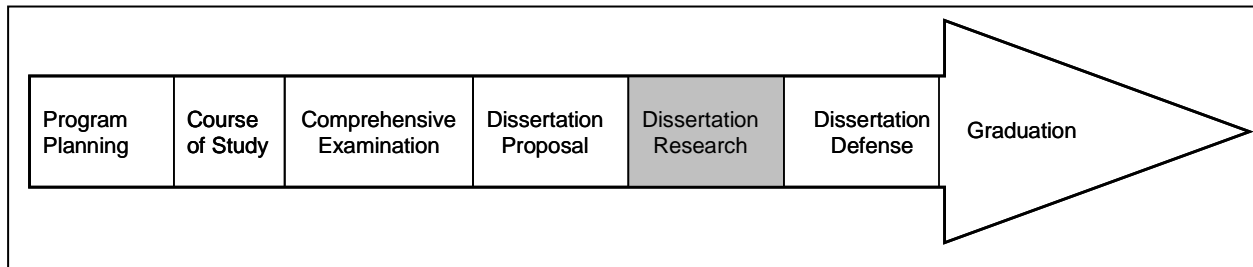
Proposal Defense Report

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/Proposal_Defense_Report.pdf

Proposal Defense Request Form

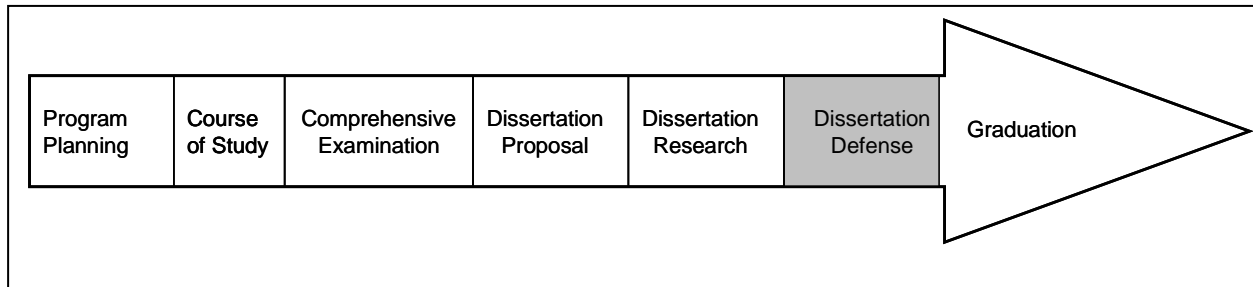
http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/Proposal_Defense_Request_Form.pdf

5. Dissertation Research



Once the proposal has been successfully defended, students should enroll in PubH 418 Dissertation Research credits each semester. A total of 12 dissertation credits are required. After students have taken all of their required dissertation hours, they then enroll in the Continuous Enrollment (currently \$35/semester) each fall and spring semester until they complete and defend their dissertation. Students may not enroll in the Continuous Enrollment until they have satisfied all of the 12 dissertation credits.

6. Dissertation Defense



The oral defense is scheduled for two hours and during the first 20 minutes the candidate presents the dissertation. This requires that the candidate be prepared to present the entire dissertation orally with sufficient detail about all of the relevant and fundamental elements such that someone attending the defense who has not read the dissertation

would have a firm grasp of the entire dissertation research. In addition to the competencies/skills outlined above, the oral defense provides the opportunity for the candidate to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Synthesize and summarize lengthy and/or complex materials into the most salient points
2. Communicate clearly, succinctly, precisely, and persuasively about the significance of the dissertation research and research findings.

Final Dissertation Request Form

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/Final_Dissertation_Defense_Request_Form.pdf

Dissertation Defense Report

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/Dissertation_Defense_Report.pdf

7. Preparing for the Oral Defense

The oral dissertation defense is the culmination of rigorous academic training and represents an extraordinary achievement on the part of every DrPH candidate. In preparation for the oral defense, students must:

- Submit the dissertation to the Dissertation Research Committee for their review. The committee reviews the submitted manuscript carefully and must agree that the dissertation is ready to defend before the defense date is set and the manuscript is forwarded to the Dean.
- Submit the abstract to the dissertation chair for review. The abstract will be distributed at the defense and transmitted to University Microfilms International (UMI) as the official summary of the work.
- Schedule a defense date once the student is vetted for completion of degree requirements.
- Submit the dissertation to all Oral Examination Committee members a minimum of four weeks before the oral defense date. The Oral Examination Committee includes the Dissertation Research Committee chair and members and outside examiners (readers).
- In order to schedule a defense, the members of the Dissertation Research Committee must have approved the candidate's dissertation for defense.
- Before the defense, the candidate should ensure that the necessary visual aid equipment, such as an overhead projector or computer, is reserved, and that the room is reserved and is prepared for the defense (including enough seats for visitors).

8. The Oral Defense

The Dissertation Research Committee reviews the dissertation for quality and accuracy and must attend the oral defense. The duration of the oral defense is generally expected to be two hours. Following the student's 20-minute presentation, the Dissertation Research Committee and outside examiners question the candidate in a vigorous and collegial fashion about the research. The candidate is expected to respond to the questions in a thoughtful and thorough manner. Questions in the defense may address any aspects of the research presented or raise questions that arise as a result of the research. The oral defense provides the candidate with the opportunity to expand upon the salient characteristics of the dissertation research, to identify areas for additional research, to evaluate the research methods and their strengths and limitations, and to place the work in a larger public health context.

9. Oral Examination Committee

The Oral Examination Committee should consist of no fewer than five voting members—a minimum of three members of the Dissertation Research Committee and two readers. All members of the Committee must participate in the oral examination. There should be one individual who presides over the meeting who is not entitled to vote, e.g., a Dean's representative or doctoral specialty field representative who looks after due process and ensures that

the student receives a fair examination. The dissertation chair typically plays the role of advocate for the student, and may question the candidate and vote.

The oral defense is an open examination and visitors are welcome. For the student to successfully pass the oral defense, all but one of the examiners must vote to approve the dissertation. The voting members will determine whether the dissertation is approved in its current form, approved with modifications, or not approved.

Dissertation Research Committee Approval Form

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/forms/Dissertation_Committee_Approval_Form.pdf

11. Disposition of the Dissertation

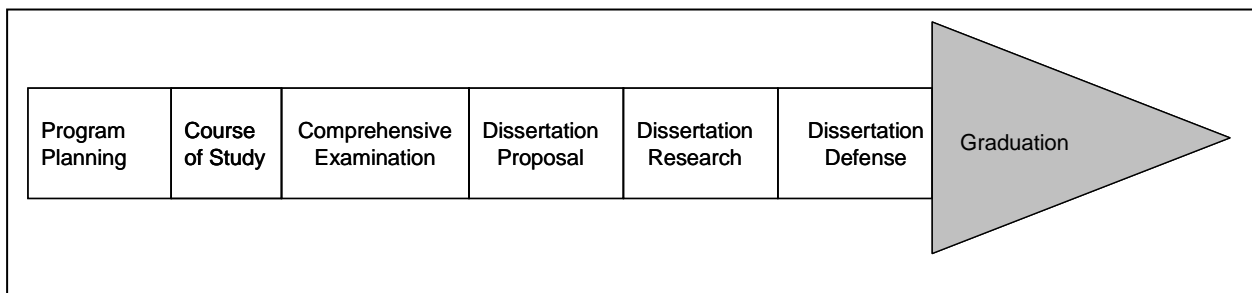
As of spring 2008, all doctoral dissertations are submitted electronically to Proquest/UMI. The Electronic Thesis/Dissertation (ETD) replaces the bound dissertation, which is no longer accepted at GWU. More information is found at: <http://www.gwu.edu/~etds/>

The deadline for submission in ETD for spring graduation is April 1. All doctoral candidates are required to submit the FINAL dissertation (with all the approved changes) to the above site by April 1 of the year they apply for graduation.

After submission, the library checks the format then forwards the ETD to the GWU SPHHS DrPH administrator. The DrPH administrator will review the ETD and confirm that all doctoral requirements have been met and submit the ETD to Proquest/UMI.

In addition to electronic submission of the dissertation, students must also submit a double-sided spiral bound copy of the final dissertation to the GWU SPHHS dean's suite for display.

DrPH Degree Certification (and the Graduation Ceremony)



Requirements, policies, and procedures to apply for graduation are detailed in the GWU SPHHS Student Handbook.

GW Application for Graduation

<http://www.gwu.edu/~regweb/web-content/onlineforms/applicationforgraduation.pdf>

University and School policies and procedures as outlined in the SPHHS Student Handbook apply to DrPH students.