

Program Director

Karen A. McDonnell, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Prevention and Community Health
George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services
2175 K Street NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202)994-6823
Fax: (202)994-3601
sphkxm@gwumc.edu or kmcdonne@gwu.edu

Mission

The mission of the Department of Prevention and Community Health in graduating Doctoral-level professionals within this specialty field is to create a cadre of professionals who are uniquely equipped to provide leadership at the in the field of Health Behavior . The arena of health promotion and disease prevention is aimed at understanding and impacting the health of a variety of populations and cultures, with special emphasis upon underserved populations. Our graduates are prepared to apply their research and analytic skills to a range of implementation, evaluation, and advocacy needs of various cultural and socioeconomic groups and communities.

Admissions Requirements

The Doctor of Public Health Program is designed for 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.

DrPH 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 program, students in the program will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed here:

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

Students in the DrPH Health Behavior program will demonstrate ability in the following program-specific competencies listed below:

Program-Specific Competencies

On completion of the DrPH Program requirements students will possess the following functional competencies and subject area knowledge:

- Evaluate research tools including research design, statistical analysis data collection instruments and measurement systems. Evaluation will be based on course requirements (PubH 260, 247, 249, 403, 415, 416, 417), answers to comprehensive examination questions, and dissertation defense.
- Apply epidemiological and biostatistical techniques to studies designed to assure effective practice and policy decision-making in a field within public health. Students will possess epidemiological and biostatistical concepts/techniques necessary to successfully analyze and apply the results to epidemiological research to making

and implementing complex decisions in a field within public health and related to public health practice. Evaluation based on completion of courses (PubH 247, 249, 252), comprehensive examination, and dissertation defense.

- Assess public health problems; analyze quantitative data; and design public health studies including sampling and hypothesis testing. Evaluation based on completion of courses (PubH 249, 252, 247, 215, 416), comprehensive examination, and dissertation defense.
- Use the basic concepts of public health practice and the philosophy of social science to justify their dissertation research. Evaluation will be based on completion of appropriate courses (PubH 401, 260, 417), comprehensive examination, and dissertation defense.
- Identify an area of interest within public health and develop a level of knowledge that will allow them to use appropriate conceptual or theoretical models and build on the current state of the art in that topic area. They will be able to develop research agendas and questions. Completion of individualized study courses, doctoral seminars, and the comprehensive examination will assess preparation in this area.
- Possess graduate-level competence in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Health Administration. Preparation will be assessed based on completion of prior MPH degree, coursework at the graduate level (in the case of environmental health, health behavior, and health administration, these may need to be in addition to DrPH program requirements), or successfully passing an examination to assure MPH-level competence in these core public health areas.
- Attain the skills necessary to conduct doctoral level research that involves a problem-based inquiry in a real world setting in their specialty area of public health. Evaluation will be based on successful defense of a dissertation proposal and final dissertation.

Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 60
- Transfer Credit Maximum = 12
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 23 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 6 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 11 credits
- Professional Leadership = 6 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 14 credits

REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL COURSES AND RESEARCH METHODS
23 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waive	Transferred
PubH 401	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy – Doctoral Seminar	2	Fall Year 1			Can not be transferred
PubH 260	Advanced Data Analysis for Public Health May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 247, 249	3	Spring Year 1			
PubH 403	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research – Doctoral Seminar Prereq: PubH 260	3	Fall Year 2			Can not be transferred
PubH 252	Advanced Epidemiology Methods May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 247, Pre or Co-req PubH 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 247	Design of Health Studies May Transfer. Approved by Instructor	3	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 Prereq: PubH 260, 403	3	Fall Year 2			Can not be transferred

REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES
6 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade
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	

**REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES
11 CREDITS
SAMPLE COURSES BELOW**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waived	Transferred
PubH 382	Planning and Administration of Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention Programs	2				
PubH 383	Evaluation of Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention Programs	3				
PubH 363	Introduction to Public Health Communication and Marketing	3				
PSYC 277	Health Psychology	3				
PSYC 231	Development of Psychometric Instruments	3				

**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

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.	2		
PubH 418	Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research	1 to 12		

PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS

	Semesters	Fulfilled

Course Descriptions 2009-2010				
PSYCH	231	Development of Psychometric Instruments	3	Quantitative techniques and principles used in construction, standardization, and evaluation of personality and ability measures for research and practice; quantification of human judgment for measurement purposes. Prerequisite: course in tests and measurements and an elementary course in statistics. (Fall)
PubH	247	Design of Health Studies	3	Epidemiologic concepts and methods applied to specific research questions especially new types of public health problems. Recognition and development of the most appropriate study design for a specific health issue. Ecologic, cross-sectional, case-control, cohort studies and clinical trials. Sampling, measurement, questionnaire design, causality and causal criteria. Development of a research proposal. Year 1
PubH	249	Use of Statistical Packages: Data Management and Data Analysis	3	This course familiarizes the student with one of the most widely used database management systems and statistical analysis software packages, the SAS System, operating in a Windows environment. Throughout the course, several database management system techniques and data analytical strategies for the appropriate analysis of datasets obtained from a variety of studies will be presented. Statistical techniques covered include linear regression, analysis of variance, logistic regression, and survival analysis. Prerequisite, PubH 202, Year 1
PubH	252	Advanced Epidemiology Methods	3	Advanced quantitative epidemiologic methods, with a focus on basic data analytic techniques, identifying and evaluating bias and adjusting for confounding. Dose-response, trend analysis, and multiple linear and logistic regression models. Pre- or co-requisites: PubH 249; Prerequisite 247, Spring Year 2
PubH	260	Advanced Data Analysis for Public Health	3	Advanced data analysis using the SAS System to expand on the analytic techniques gained in PubH 202 and PubH 249 and to provide students with the applied statistical skills required to analyze various types of public health datasets. Prerequisites: PubH 249, Spring Year 1
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. Fall Year 1
PubH	403	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research	3	Reviews principles of measurement and assessment as they apply to public health and health services research constructs. Reviews 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. Explores current measurement issues in health research. Prereq: PubH 260, Fall Year 2
PubH	405	Advanced Topics - Health Behavior Research and Practice Application	3	Advanced topics relating theory to practice in areas of health education and behavioral change. Application of qualitative and quantitative research to health related behavior at individual and community levels. Spring
PubH	409	Advanced Topics - Health Communications Research	3	Examines the methods of communications research designated to alter health behavior. Emphasis placed on critical analysis of communications research aimed at the mass public, groups, and interpersonal level. Prerequisite: PubH 405
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 260, Spring Year 2
PubH	416	Evaluation Research	3	Principles of 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 research proposals at the R01 level. Prerequisite: PubH 260, Fall Year 2
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: 417