

PA-MSHS/MPH Program

PA/MPH Program Mission Statement

As the US health care system continues to evolve, market forces and changing personnel requirements create new and expanding roles for health care professionals. The joint Physician Assistant – Master of Science in Health Sciences (MSHS)/Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at The George Washington University strives to fill the need for a new type of health care professional; one who has both the depth of medical knowledge and the range of leadership and policy skills to meet the challenges of future practice. Based in both the School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) Department of Prevention and Community Health, and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (MSHS) the PA/MPH Program presents a graduate curriculum that blends two important traditional paradigms of health care – the biomedical and the preventive. Health care professionals in the future US health system must be prepared as competent and caring clinicians, as well as bring a broad view of population health and prevention to their work. Graduates of the GWU PA/MPH Program will be leaders in clinical practice in primary care and preventive medicine as well have preparation to assume high level positions in education, research, and policy.

Note: It is important to note that the School of Public Health and Health Services at GW offering the MPH programs is among only 40 Council of Education for Public Health accredited schools. To identify accredited schools of public health please see this website <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=200#> An important consideration for your career will be passing the credentialing examination and only students from accredited schools will be permitted to sit for this examination.

Goals

The PA-MSHS /MPH offered jointly by the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the School of Public Health and Health Services and sponsored by The George Washington University Medical Center, provides the opportunity for students to obtain the competencies necessary to succeed in the rapidly evolving American and global health systems.

The major goals of the GWU PA/PH Program are to:

- Recruit diverse and intellectually curious students and develop in them a strong clinical medical and prevention knowledge base necessary to deliver the highest quality patient-centered healthcare in a variety of clinical settings worldwide.
- Educate future health care professionals who are competent clinicians who can bring a population health orientation to their practice setting.
- Develop practitioners for the future who integrate concepts of prevention, community-oriented primary care, and population health.
- Graduate collaborative clinicians who will serve the healthcare needs of a worldwide community with intelligence, compassion and integrity.
- Foster analytic thinking skills such that graduates will be able to perform a wide range of clinical tasks working with physicians, as well as assessing community health problems and addressing population health needs.
- Nurture a sensitivity and respect for the cultural and personal beliefs of all patients and an understanding of how social, economic, and other system forces can impact health and healthcare and how these impact patient morbidity and mortality.
- Encourage graduates to be responsive to the needs of patients and society and advocate for quality patient care regardless of patient population.
- Graduate practitioners who will have the information technology and research skills necessary to access and interpret the medical literature and support their ongoing professional development.
- Expect graduates to practice collaboratively, professionally, legally, ethically, and with integrity.

The PA/MPH program draws from a faculty in both the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the School of Public Health and Health Services to provide instruction in a wide range of subjects in medicine, public health, and professional leadership.

The purpose of the PA/MPH Program is to provide future clinicians with a wide range of skills that will provide future clinicians with leadership, policy development and advanced skills in preventive medicine. Students in the Program prepare as clinicians fulfilling all of the requirements for national certification as a physician assistant (PA) in the GW Physician Assistant Program. The PA Program is nationally recognized and is ranked as the # 3 rated PA program in the country by U.S. News and World Report in 2005. In addition, in their course work in the School of Public Health and Health Services, students receive an orientation to population health in the community-oriented primary care track where they acquire skills in community health assessment, community based interventions, and the application of COPC principles in community based practice settings. Also, through the School of Public Health, students also obtain coursework in health care administration, management, and health care economics that prepare them to be the leaders in a wide variety of clinical settings, office practices, outpatient clinics, community-based health centers, and health care institutions. Students are also exposed to the formulation of health policy. The curriculum includes a sequence of three courses stressing the theoretical and practical aspects of clinical leadership that includes field experiences in the practice of preventive medicine and public health:

1. PubH TBA PA/MPH Clinical Leadership Seminar (understanding and discussing the unique competencies of medical providers with public health training);
2. PubH 214 Practicum (within the clinical setting, but focused on using and applying public health skills in solving community-wide health care problems);
3. HSci 272 Translating Clinical Evidence into Public Health Strategies.

Set in the center of the health policy in the nation, the PA/MPH Program affords students the chance to interact with individuals in both the public and private sector who are involved in policy research, practice, and legislation.

Inquiries should be directed to:

Professor James F. Cawley, MPH, PA-C Phone: 202.416.0487

Program Director

Prevention and Community Health

2175 K Street, NW

George Washington University

Washington, DC 20037

The PA website is: www.gwu.edu/~gwu_pa/

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

Physician Assistant Program

The Physician Assistant program at The George Washington University, one of the nation's first programs of its kind, was founded in 1972. Over 1000 health care professionals have graduated from the program and are employed nationally and internationally. The GWU PA-MSHS program ranks second among national graduate degree PA educational programs (source: *US News and World Report*, 2002). The GW PA-MSHS program graduates have a greater than 99% pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). Since 1975 the GWU PA-MSHS program has held full accreditation through the Accreditation Review Commission for Physician Assistants.

Master of Public Health Program

The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) Master of Public Health program offering the MPH degree was accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in June, 1997. Between 1987 and 1997 the Master of Public Health program was a part of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The School of Public Health and Health Services offers a wide range of courses leading to the Master of Public Health (MPH), Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), Master of Science in Health Policy, Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA), Master of Science in Exercise Science (MSES) and Graduate Certificate Programs. There are seven SPHHS departments: Environmental and Occupational Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Exercise Science, Health Services Management and Leadership, Global Public Health, Health Policy, and Prevention and Community Health. The COPC MPH program is based in the Department of Prevention and Community Health. *With permission, students may select any MPH program.*

PA/MPH Admissions Requirements

If you are interested in the joint PA/MPH Program you will be receiving correspondence from both the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (PA) and the School of Public Health and Health Services (MPH) regarding the completion of your application and admissions decisions. Acceptance decisions from both Schools means you have been accepted to

the joint PA/MPH program. Should you be accepted to one degree program and not the other, you may accept the admissions offer from the program to which you were accepted, because decisions are made separately.

1. Submit the PA Application (CASPA and PA Secondary Application) according to the instructions on the website http://www.gwumc.edu/healthsci/Programs/PA/PA_admission.htm
 - You should submit the PA Secondary Application within two weeks of submitting the CASPA.
 - October 1 is the deadline for complete applications.

The PA School, to save you time and money, will copy your application materials and send them to the School of Public Health and Health Services. Do not complete the SOPHAS Application and the SPHHS Secondary Application, as this will delay the processing of your application and result in your accruing increased application fees.

Tuition

Tuition (2009-2010) for the School of Public Health and Health Services and for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences programs is \$1,072 per credit hour. This means that tuition for a three credit course is \$3,216 ($\$1,072 \times 3$ credits = \$3,216). PA/MPH students have a cap of 11 credits each semester, which means that joint students pay \$1,072 per credit up to and including 11 credits for semesters that they enroll in 11 credits or more (\$11,792). For example, first semester in the PA/MPH program students enroll in 13 credits. They pay for 11 credits (\$11,792) only. Note: Tuition increases each year in the range of 5% beginning in the summer session, which is the beginning of the fiscal year.

For questions about Admission to the joint PA/MPH, please contact

School of Medicine and Health Sciences The George Washington University Health Sciences Programs 900 23rd Street, N.W., Room 6142 Washington, D.C. 20037 Phone: 202-994-8528 Fax: 202.994.0870 Email: hsphora@gwu.edu	School of Public Health and Health Services The George Washington University 221 Ross Hall 2300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20037 Phone: 202.994.2160 Fax: 202.994.1850 Email: sphjms@gwumc.edu
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Resources

Faculty for the joint PA-MSHS /MPH Program hold appointments in the Departments of:

- ◆ Anatomy and Cell Biology
- ◆ Biochemistry
- ◆ Emergency Medicine
- ◆ Environmental and Occupational Health
- ◆ Epidemiology-Biostatistics
- ◆ Health Care Sciences
- ◆ Health Services Management and Policy
- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Prevention and Community Health
- ◆ Obstetrics and Gynecology
- ◆ Pathology
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Pharmacology
- ◆ Physiology

Linkages and affiliations of the GWU Medical Center include the:

- ◆ Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- ◆ Children's National Medical Center
- ◆ Department of Public Health of the District of Columbia
- ◆ Departments of Public Health of the States of Maryland and Virginia
- ◆ Health Resources and Services Administration
- ◆ National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- ◆ Numerous community clinics, public health and human service organizations
- ◆ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
- ◆ Pan American Health Organization
- ◆ Regional county public health agencies
- ◆ US office of Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- ◆ World Bank

Clinical teaching affiliates for student educational experiences include the:

- ◆ Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)
- ◆ Clinical Affiliates of the George Washington University Medical Center
- ◆ Medical Faculty Associates
- ◆ University Health Plan
- ◆ University Hospital
- ◆ Urban and community hospitals, private medical practices, managed care systems, community-based clinical and public health practices

PA/MPH Curriculum Overview

Students in The George Washington University PA-MSHS/MPH Program fulfill the requirements of both programs totaling 110 credits over 9 semesters (70 required credits for the PA-MSHS program and 40 required credits for the MPH COPC program).

PA-MSHS/MPH Community Oriented Primary Care Curriculum		
2008 Entering Class		
Year 1		
Fall Semester		
Course	Title	Credits
PA 116	Medical Terminology	0
HSci 232	Biochemistry for Health Services Students	3
HSci 236	Physiology for Health Science Students	3
PubH 205	Policy Approaches to Public Health (PubH Core Course)	2
PubH 361	Introduction to Community Oriented Primary Care (PubH Program Course)	3
PubH 385	PA/MPH Clinical Leadership Seminar (PubH Required Elective and Cross over credit to PA)	2
Total Credits	Fall Semester Year 1 Total PA= 6 PA Cross over credits = 3 Total MPH = 7	13
Year 1		
Spring Semester		
HSci 234	Pharmacology for Health Sciences Students	3

PubH 366	COPC Policy and Issues (PubH Program Course)	2
PubH 382	Planning and Administration of Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Programs	2
PubH 202	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health (PubH Core Course)	3
PubH 203	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology (PubH Core Course)	3
PubH 376	Preventing Health Disparities	2
Total Credits	Spring Semester Year 1 Total PA = 3 Total MPH = 12	15
Year 1		
Summer Session		
PubH 204	Environmental and Occupational Health (PubH Core Course)	2
PubH 207	Social Behavioral Approaches to Public Health (PubH Core Course)	2
PubH 214.22	Practicum (cross credited to PA program to substitute for PA 299 for 2 cr.)	2
Total Credits	Summer Year 1 PA = 0 MPH = 6	6
Year 2		
Fall Semester		
Course	Title	Credits
PA 219	Role of the PA in Health Care	2
PA 237	Clinical Ethics for Physician Assistants	1
HSci 231	Anatomy for Health Sciences Students	4
MICR 228	Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (cross credited substitute for PubH 201)	2
PA 229	Human Behavior	2
PA 234	Clinical Assessment I	2
PubH 208	Management Approaches to Public Health (PubH Core Course)	3
PubH 384	Community Health Informatics (PubH Program Course)	2
Total Credits	Fall Year 2 PA credits = 13 PA cross over credits = 2 Credits MPH 5+ 2 Cross Over Credits	18
Year 2		
Spring Semester		
PA 225	Manifestations of Disease	5
HSci 233	Pathology for Health Science Students	4
HSci 206	Clinical Decision Making	2
HSci 235	Pharmacology in Disease Pathophysiology	1
PubH 367	Community Health Management (PubH Program Course)	2
PubH 383	Evaluation of Health Promotion Disease Prevention Programs (PubH Program Course)	3
Total Credits	Spring Semester Year 2 PA Credits = 12 MPH Credits = 5	17
Year 2		
Summer Sessions		
HSci 272	Translating Clinical Evidence into Public Health Strategies (COPC Required Selective for 3 credits)	3
PA 245	Introduction to Primary Care	2
PA 235	Clinical Assessment II	2
PA 246	Clinical Application	3
PA 248	Introduction to Electrocardiography	1
Total Credits	Summer Session PA Credits = 11 MPH Credits = (3 Cross over required elective credits)	11
Year 3		
Fall Semester		
PA 278	Emergency Medicine Clinical Practicum	3
PA 261	Inpatient Medicine Clinical Practicum	3
PA 264	Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Practicum	3
PubH 363	Introduction to Public Health Communication and Marketing	3

Total Credits	PA Credits = 9 MPH Credits = 3	12
Year 3		
Spring Semester		
PA 265	Pediatrics Clinical Practicum	3
PA 267	Psychiatry Practicum	2
PA 262	Ambulatory Care Clinical Practicum	3
PubH 215.22	Culminating Experience	2
Total Credits	Spring Semester PA Credits = 8 MPH Credits = 2	10
Year 3		
Summer Semester		
PA 263	Surgical Inpatient Clinical Practicum	3
PA 268	Final Clinical Preceptorship	5
Total Credits	Summer Year 3 PA credits 8 MPH Credits 0	8

Course Distribution Summary		Credits
Public Health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Micro 228 2 credits (substitutes for PubH 201 and is cross credited) ➤ PubH 202 3 credits ➤ PubH 203 3 credits ➤ PubH 204 2 credits ➤ PubH 205 2 credits ➤ PubH 207 2 credits ➤ PubH 208 3 credits 	15 +2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Department Courses (Including PubH Required Electives) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PubH 361 3 credits ➤ PubH 363 3 Credits ➤ PubH 366 2 credits ➤ PubH 367 2 credits ➤ PubH 376 2 credits ➤ PubH 383 3 credits ➤ PubH 384 2 credits ➤ PubH 382 2 credits ➤ PubH 285 2 credits – PA/MPH Clinical Leadership Seminar (Elective) ➤ HSci 273 Translating Clinical Evidence into Public Health Strategies 3 credits (COPC Selective and Cross Over credit) 	22 +3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practicum/Culminating Experience 	4	
Total MPH credits (40 MPH Credits + 5 credits of Cross Over Credits)		40 + 5 = 45
Total PA credits (71PA credits + 4 Cross Over Credits)		70 +4 = 74
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PA 116 0 credits ➤ PA 219 2 credits ➤ PA 225 5 credits ➤ PA 229 2 credits ➤ PA 234 2 credits ➤ PA 235 2 credits ➤ PA 237 1 credit ➤ PA 245 2 credits ➤ PA 246 3 credits ➤ PA 248 1 credits ➤ PA 261 3 credits ➤ PA 262 3 credits ➤ PA 263 3 credits ➤ PA 264 3 credits ➤ PA 265 3 credits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HSci 206 2 credits ➤ HSci 231 4 credits ➤ HSci 232 3 credits ➤ HSci 233 4 credits ➤ HSci 234 3 credits ➤ HSci 235 1 credit ➤ HSci 236 3 credits ➤ HSci 272 3 credits ➤ MICRO 228 2 credits ➤ PubH 214.11 2 credits ➤ PubH 285 2 credits 	

➤ PA 267 2 credits		
➤ PA 268 5 credits		
➤ PA 278 3 credits		
Total PA/MPH credits		110

Local Areas and Facilities – An Overview

Washington DC

In addition to being named, “The Best Place to live in the United States” (*Money Magazine*, 1998) our Nation’s Capital is a diverse city of cultural, historic, and educational opportunities. For Public Health and Health Services students, the Washington, DC area offers a wealth of options for professional and personal development. These options include, but are not limited to, access to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Children’s National Medical Center (CNMC), the National Library of Medicine, Walter Reed Medical Center, the World Health Organization, the Whitman-Walker Clinic, and an exhaustive list of community clinics and public health venues.

Foggy Bottom

The George Washington University is located in Northwest DC in the beautiful historic neighborhood of Foggy Bottom. It is a short walk to the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, The White House, the Smithsonian Institution’s many museums, national monuments, and the Potomac River.

The George Washington Medical Center

The George Washington Medical Center (GWUMC) is a comprehensive academic health center composed of teaching, research, clinical, and administrative facilities and services. These components are represented by The George Washington University Hospital, a tertiary care institution; the Ambulatory Care Center; the Medical Faculty Associates, a clinical practice and teaching group; the GW Health Plan; the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library; Medical Research Center; the School of Public Health and Health Services; and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The GWUMC enjoys a long and distinguished history that began in 1825 with the establishment of the 11th medical school in the United States. Its first building was located near Ford’s Theater, and its lectures were frequented by public figures such as then-senator John Quincy Adams. The medical school’s first hospital, the Washington Infirmary, was created in 1844 as one of America’s first teaching hospitals. Serving as a military hospital for a short time during the Civil War, it was destroyed by fire in 1861. In 1884, it became one of only a few medical schools to admit women. Committed to the needs of the surrounding community, the GMUMC, in conjunction with three other area hospitals, founded the Health Care for the Homeless Project, in the mid 1980s to provide health care for Washington’s homeless population. In 1993, the Ambulatory Pediatrics Association named our pediatrics clerkship at Children’s National Center the best clerkship in the nation. With an April 2000 groundbreaking, the growth continues as the GWUMC is expanded to include a new state-of-the-art hospital scheduled for completion in 2002.

Ross Hall

This self-contained research, educational, and administrative facility fills almost an entire city block and has more than ten acres of floor space. The building is home to the Medical Center’s schools, the School of Public Health and Health Services and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. In the beginning of 2001, the main lobby underwent a major renovation the goal of which was to brighten and modernize the lobby and to allow for more effectual use of the space. The renovation provided an area for donor recognition and an enhanced space for student activities.

The Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

2300 I Street

Phone: 202.994.2850

Web: <http://www.gwumc.edu/library>

Fax: 202.23.3691

Adjacent to Ross Hall is the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, which houses nearly 25,000 medical monographs and more than 1,400 active journal holdings, with a growing number of titles available electronically. The library also maintains an extensive audiovisual study center and microcomputer laboratory that offers video programs, computer-aided instruction, software, and interactive media for components of the curriculum. Also the site of recent renovations, the Himmelfarb Library created the Terrace Level during the summer of 2000. In addition to housing the book collection, three well-lit study rooms were created on this new level. A few levels up, the third floor, vacant of the book collection, was re-fitted with 72 new study carrels, each wired with electricity, and eight new study tables to create study space for 104 additional students.

Health and Wellness Center

2301 G Street

Washington DC 20052

Phone: 202.994.1522

Web: www.gwsports.com

The Health and Wellness Center, located two blocks from Ross Hall, is a 183,000 square foot recreational facility for students, faculty, and staff upon presentation of a validated GWorld photo ID card. Students may check out recreational equipment free of charge. The facility houses two gyms that can accommodate basketball, volleyball, badminton, and indoor soccer and hockey. In addition, a natatorium with a three lap pool, a suspended jogging track, racquetball and squash suites, and a fitness suite housing free weights and cardiovascular equipment complete the facility. Locks and towels are available at twenty-five cents each.

The Marvin Center

The Marvin Center, the University's student center, is undergoing a major renovation to provide enhancements to select areas and systems of the building. Construction of a "Great Hall" addition also includes a ballroom and additional bookstore sales area tucked within the current 21st Street entrance plaza. The Marvin Center houses student dining, food venues, a copy center, student radio station, travel agency, computer sales store, post office (202.994.6823; Mailbox Fees: \$40/semester, \$75/academic year; \$100/calendar year), convenience store, book store, student activities offices, conference center, recreation activities area, and the Betts Theater. The renovations of the ground floor retail areas, along with improvements on the second through fifth floors, are underway.