

Program Director

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The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services offers a unique opportunity to a select group of students who not only demonstrate academic excellence, but also demonstrate a strong commitment to public health. SPHHS will accept a small number of outstanding students each year to the BS/MPH program. Applicants may apply to any of the MPH programs, except Public Health Management. As incentives to move beyond the traditional undergraduate curriculum SPHHS offers participants admission to the MPH program without having to sit for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the opportunity to complete both the BS and MPH degrees more efficiently than had the degrees been completed separately. This dual degree program strives to graduate public health leaders who are committed to improving the health and well-being of our local, national, and international communities and to life-long learning. This is an appropriate program for pre-professional students who are interested in public health issues.

The BS/MPH program is a multi-level, dual-degree program, meaning that students are concurrently enrolled in one undergraduate program and one graduate program and degrees will be awarded in different semesters.

Admission Requirements

Credit Requirements: Apply to the BS/MPH Dual Degree Program the semester prior to reaching 60 credits (junior status). GW students who attended another university and then transferred to GW may apply to the BS/MPH Dual Degree Program during their first semester at GW if at the end of the semester at GW they will have reached 60 credits.

BS/MPH applicants only need to submit the BS/MPH application to be considered for both the BS/MPH and the BSPH programs.

Application Deadlines

Fall Admission Only No later than April 15 in the semester prior to reaching 60 credits (junior status) or for transfer students prior to reaching 60 with one semester in residence at GW.

Grade Point Average Requirements

Students must have an overall academic grade-point average of 3.5 or higher to be admitted to the program. In addition, students must complete and receive a grade no less than a B in at least two public health required or elective courses by the end of the semester that they submit an application for the program (i.e., if students apply in the spring for fall admission, the courses must be complete by the end of spring semester).

Course Requirements

At least two public health required or elective courses must be completed at the end of the semester the student applies to the program.

Instructions for Application

In order to apply to the BS/MPH program, students must complete all of the following steps:

1. Receive guidance from the SPHHS Assistant Director of Admissions, and
2. Submit an application packet that includes:
 - a. *Transfer Application from Within GW* form to the SPHHS Office of Admissions,
 - b. Resume,
 - c. Official transcripts from all schools attended,

- d. A personal statement indicating why you are interested in the BS/MPH program, which MPH department or program you are most likely to be interested in, how you think that program will assist you in advancing your professional career, and why you are a strong applicant for the program,
- e. One letter of recommendation from a faculty member, and
- f. GRE scores if you choose to submit them. *GRE or other standardized test scores are not required for admission. However, applicants may submit standardized test scores if they feel that including this information will enhance their application)*

Office of Admissions

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: sphhsinfo@gwumc.edu

The Committee on Admissions reviews only **complete** applications; your application will not be reviewed until all required documents have been received. The application and supporting documents become the property of The George Washington University and cannot be returned. The George Washington University considers applicant information records to be confidential.

Admissions Decisions

Qualified applications will be reviewed for admission by the Director of the Undergraduate Program in Public Health (Director), who is also the director of the BS/MPH program, and members of the MPH faculty. All applicants will be interviewed during the admissions process. Admissions decisions are announced after grades are posted showing at least 60 credits have been earned or the residency requirement has been fulfilled by transfer applicants.

Initially, applicants are admitted to the BS/MPH program, but not to a specific MPH program/department. It is expected that BS/MPH students will select the specific MPH program/department they wish to matriculate in at the end of their junior year. Applicants will be required to indicate their top two choices of programs/departments. Admissions into the programs/departments will be made through a matching system with the graduate school. The MPH program/department may choose to interview BS/MPH students as part of the matching process. It is possible that an applicant may not be admitted to the program/department that is his or her first choice, but all applicants in good standing will be admitted to an MPH program/department.

BS/MPH Graduation Requirements

1. Graduate Credit Requirement. 156 undergraduate and graduate credits are required.
2. Course Requirements. Successful completion of the Undergraduate degree and the graduate Core Courses and the Program-Specific Courses are required.
3. Grade Point Requirement. A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required for graduate courses.
4. Time Limit Requirement. The degrees must be completed within six years of the date accepted to the program.
5. Transfer Credit Policy. In concordance with undergraduate and graduate established policies.
6. Comply with policies and procedures as outlined in the *SPHHS Student Handbook* and the *GW Undergraduate Bulletin*. Pay particular attention to the SPHHS requirements to complete human research training, to complete 8 hours of professional enhancement activities, and to pass the Academic Integrity Quiz.

BS/MPH Credit Distribution Chart

Category	Non Premed Credits	Premedical Credits
BS General Curriculum Requirements*	52-57	75-77
BS Public Health Core Course Requirements (BS Program = 21) (Includes 9 graduate crossover credits)**	30	30
BS SPHHS Electives***	9	9
BS Additional Electives	24-29	4-6
BS Total Credits	120	120
MPH Total Credits (Includes 9 graduate crossover credits)	45	45
Total Remaining MPH Credits (45 credits minus 9 credits = 36 credits)	36	36
BS/MPH Total Credits (120 credits plus 36 credits = 156 total credits)	156	156

***BS General Curriculum Requirements**

Requirement	Non Premed Credits	Premed Credits
Literacy	10	10
Quantitative and Logical Reasoning (including one statistics course)	6	6
Natural Science	9-12	32
Social Behavioral Sciences	6	6
Creative and Performing Arts	3	3
Humanities	12	12
Foreign Language and Culture	6-8	6-8
Total General Curriculum Requirement Credits	52-57	75-77

****BS Public Health Core Course Requirements and Graduate Substitutions**

Graduate Course Descriptions: <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/graduate.cfm>

Required Courses	Credits	Title
PubH 101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PubH 103	3	Introduction to Preventive Medicine
PubH 105	3	Plagues and People: A History of Public Health and Epidemic Diseases
PubH 106	3	Introduction to Management and Economics of Health Services
PubH 180	3	Introduction to Global Health and Development
PubH 191	3	Introduction to Health Policy
PubH 195 W	3	Senior Seminar
Total Undergraduate Core Credits	21	
PubH 207	2	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health (Replaces PubH 121 Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
PubH 203	3	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology (Replaces PubH 132 Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
PubH 204	2	Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World (Replaces PubH 172 Health and Environment [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
PubH 201	2	Biological Concepts for Public Health (Replaces PubH 102 Public Health Biology [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
Graduate Cross Over Credits	9	
Total Core Credits	30	

***SPHHS Elective Courses		
Elective Courses	Credits	Title
HLWL 103	3	Issues in Men's Health
HLWL 104	3	Outdoor and Environmental Education
HLWL 106	3	Drug Awareness
HLWL 109	3	Human Sexuality
HLWL 110	3	Issues in Alternative Medicine
HLWL 112	3	Issues in Women's Health
ExSc 119	3	Basic Nutrition
ExSc 134	3	Sport and Nutrition
ExSc 151	3	Kinesiology
ExSc 154	4	Applied Anatomy and Physiology I
ExSc 155	4	Applied Anatomy and Physiology II
EHS 40	3	Emergency Medical Tech - Basic
EHS 41	1	Emergency Medical Tech - Lab
Hist 772	3	Race, American Medicine, and Public Health: African-American Experiences
Anth 150	3	Human Rights and Ethics
Anth 154	3	Illness, Health, and Culture
HSCI 101	3	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness
PubH 181	3	Environment, Health and Development
PubH 182	3	Health, Human Rights, and Displaced Persons
PubH 183	3	Global Delivery of Health Services
PubH 184	3	International Public Health Practice
PubH 185	3	Impact of Culture Upon Health
PubH 190	1-3	Various Topics in Public Health
PubH 192	3	Introduction to Health Law
PubH 193	3	Service-Learning in Public Health

MPH Core Course Requirements				
Begin Planning Your Practicum after Completing the First Half of Your Program				
Required Core Course		Credits	Semester Offered	Grade
PubH 201	Biological Concepts for Public Health (Replaces PubH 102 Public Health Biology (3 credits) in the BS Public Health Program)	2	Summer, Fall, Spring	
PubH 202	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Summer, Fall, Spring	
PubH 203	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology (Replaces PubH 132 Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease (3 credits) in the BS Public Health Program)	3	Summer, Fall, Spring	
PubH 204	Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World (Replaces PubH 172 Health and Environment (3 credits) in the BS Public Health Program)	2	Summer, Fall, Spring	
PubH 205	Policy Approaches to Public Health	2	Summer, Fall, Spring	
PubH 207	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health (Replaces PubH 121 Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion (3 credits) in the BS Public Health Program)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PubH 208	Management Approaches to Public Health	2	Summer, Fall, Spring	
Total	Core Credits	16		

Please refer to the relevant MPH Program Guide for your Program-Specific Graduate Requirements

BS/MPH Supplement to the School of Public Health and Health Services Student Handbook

Overview

This supplement is intended to provide information about policies and procedures that apply to students in the School of Public Health and Health Service's BS/MPH dual-degree program. BS/MPH students should use this supplement along with the information in the *School of Public Health and Health Services Student Handbook* ("Handbook") and the University's Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins. These Bulletins are available on-line at www.gwu.edu/~bulletin/.

Some policies are course-specific (i.e., grade appeal of a course) while others relate to the students' overall participation in the program (i.e. academic standing). Unless otherwise specified in this supplement, students should follow the policies and procedures relating to course-specific issues that coincide with the program level of the course. In other words, if the issue relates to an undergraduate course, students should follow the undergraduate rules and if the issue relates to a graduate course, students should follow the graduate rules. For issues relating to the students' overall participation in the program, students should follow the policies that coincide with the students' level of progress in the program. In other words, the student should adhere to undergraduate policies and procedures until the student completes the requirements for a BS in Public Health. Once the student completes the requirements for the BS in Public Health, the student should follow the graduate policies and procedures.

HOW TO FINANCE YOUR BS/MPH PROGRAM

Prior to the award of the BS degree, BS/MPH students are eligible only for undergraduate financial assistance. Once matriculating into the graduate program, BS/MPH students are eligible for graduate support.

To retain eligibility for undergraduate Federal and institutional financial aid, the number of graduate courses for which an undergraduate student is registered in any given semester or summer session must be less than half of his or her total course load.

GET ADVISING BEFORE YOU REGISTER

BS/MPH students have two academic advisors, one who focuses on undergraduate course work and completion of the BS requirements and one who focuses on graduate course work and completion of MPH requirements. (Contact information for these advisors is in your acceptance packet). These two advisors will work together as needed to assist BS/MPH students in course selection and sequencing for the entire program.

Since University policy allows only seniors to enroll in graduate courses, BS/MPH students will not take any graduate courses towards their MPH program during their junior year. The earliest BS/MPH students may take graduate courses is the summer following their junior year.

BS/MPH students, like other BS Public Health Majors, must meet with their undergraduate academic advisor before registering for classes in fall of their junior year. At that time, they should plan their course sequencing for the remaining undergraduate requirements. Even though BS/MPH students cannot take graduate level courses until after completion of the junior year, they must also meet with their MPH academic advisor in the fall of their junior year to plan their graduate course selection and sequencing. By meeting with both advisors early in the program, BS/MPH students are less likely to encounter scheduling or sequencing conflicts that delay graduation. It is assumed that BS/MPH students will take courses during summer sessions if they wish to graduate in a reduced timeframe. However, BS/MPH students are not required to take courses during the summer to maintain enrollment status.

Please refer to the *SPHHS Student Handbook* for additional information on advising and registration.

PAY YOUR TUITION BILL ACCORDING TO ESTABLISHED BILLING PLANS

The fixed rate tuition plan remains in effect for BS/MPH students who chose to participate in the plan upon enrolling at GW. Students who are not part of the fixed-rate tuition plan or students who are still enrolled at GW after the term of their fixed-plan tuition plan expires, will pay on a per-credit basis according to the undergraduate rate for undergraduate courses or the graduate rate for graduate courses.

PARTICIPATE IN PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

BS/MPH students are required to complete 16 hours of professional enhancement activities during their program. At least 8 credit hours must be completed to meet the requirements for the BS degree.

PROCEDURES FOR FILING PETITIONS

BS/MPH students should use the undergraduate or graduate petitions as appropriate.

BS/MPH students who wish to drop out of the BS/MPH dual-degree program but wish to continue to pursue a BS in Public Health should submit an undergraduate petition. In the area labeled “Request”, students should check “other” and describe the reason for the petition in the “Specifics” section. Students who wish to become a Public Health major will be automatically accepted into the major unless there are outstanding academic or disciplinary issues that must be addressed. In those cases, the Director of the Undergraduate Program will make the final decision about admittance into the BS in Public Health and may establish requirements by which students must abide as a condition of enrollment into the major.

ACADEMIC STANDING

Undergraduate: BS/MPH students have undergraduate standing until they successfully complete 120 credit hours and meet the other requirements necessary to obtain their BS in Public Health. Until BS/MPH students fulfill their requirements for the BS degree, they are subject to the undergraduate guidelines on academic standing, with the following changes:

- Students will be placed on academic probation if their cumulative grade point average is below 3.0 but above 2.0 after attempting a minimum of 12 credit hours in the BS/MPH program or if they receive a grade of C- or lower in any class. Students return to good standing if, after a first or second semester on probation, the grade-point average is raised to 3.0 or better. Students who receive grades of D, F, I, or Z or fail to raise the cumulative GPA to 3.0 after two semesters on probation (or 24 additional credit hours attempted) are subject to removal from the BS/MPH program.
- Students may be suspended from the BS/MPH program if 1) their cumulative grade-point average falls below 2.0 after attempting a minimum of 12 credit hours, 2) they receive a grade of D, I, or Z while on academic probation or do not meet the conditions to return to good standing from academic probation, 3) they receive a grade less than B (3.0) in a graduate course before completing the requirements for the BS in Public Health or 4) they receive a grade of F at any time. Once a grade of F is earned in any course, it remains a part of the student’s permanent record and is calculated into the grade-point average.
- Students who are suspended from the BS/MPH program will remain enrolled as a BS in Public Health and subject to all the rules that apply to undergraduate students. Suspended students may be re-admitted into the BS/MPH program if they apply and receive approval from their graduate department and the Undergraduate Program Director. The Undergraduate Program Director and graduate department may set academic or other requirements that suspended students must abide by as a condition of re-enrollment into the BS/MPH program. BS/MPH students who receive an F in any core or required course and are permitted to continue in the program, must repeat the course and achieve at least the grade of B; such a repeat does not expunge the grade of F, which remains part of the student’s record.
- Students who are 1) suspended from the BS/MPH program for receiving an F and are unable to earn a grade of B when repeating the course, or 2) suspended from the program twice for poor scholarship will not be re-admitted into the BS/MPH program.

- The SPHHS Dean's Office, in consultation with students' graduate department and the Director of the Undergraduate Program, may continue students on probation (in lieu of suspension from the BS/MPH program) if satisfactory progress is demonstrated during the probationary period and sufficient evidence of academic promise, by way of a statement of appeal, is offered by the student.

Once BS/MPH students fulfill their requirements for the BS degree, they follow the graduate guidelines on academic standing.

For graduate course work to be cross-credited toward the undergraduate degree, students must earn at least a B and the course work must be taken for graduate credit. Students who earn less than a B in a graduate course that is to be cross-credited may apply this course only toward the undergraduate degree. To meet graduate degree requirements, the student must substitute an advisor-approved graduate-level course from the same discipline, to help the student reinforce competency in this discipline.

PREPARING TO GRADUATE!!

Spring Commencement Ceremony

BS/MPH students earn their degrees sequentially, with the BS awarded after students successfully complete 120 credits and meet all other requirements for the undergraduate degree. Students may choose to participate in the Spring Commencement Ceremony twice, once to celebrate their undergraduate degree and later to celebrate their graduate degree. Students must follow SPHHS guidelines for graduation application, ceremony, and walk-through requirements as indicated in the Handbook.

Honors

BS/MPH students are only eligible for honors or awards given through the BS/MPH or MPH program, but not through the BS in Public Health Program. Students are eligible for honors or awards only after completion of all requirements for both degrees.