Health Policy, Management and Leadership

Degree Offered:

- MPH in Health Policy

The MPH degree in Health Policy (within the Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership) is designed for students with a keen interest in using population-based approaches to improve the health status of large groups or populations. The focus of this degree is on understanding how systems in our society influence the health status of populations and how to influence and/or design, implement, and manage broad, system-level instruments to improve population health outcomes. These system-level instruments might include programs in a public health or healthcare setting, or policies at the local, state, or national government levels.

In the MPH in Health Policy there is a dual emphasis on acquiring both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Students are also offered the opportunity to select electives that will allow for additional focus in areas such as, but not limited to: health services research, health policy, healthcare management, environmental policy, and public health leadership.

Thus, this degree is ideal for recent graduates or early- or mid-career health professionals seeking to develop or advance their careers in a variety of public health or health care settings. Additionally, the internship program has been designed to place students in health settings and apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills to address real-world problems. Upon completion of the MPH in Health Policy, students will be prepared to be successful as they continue their graduate education at the doctoral level or as they continue to develop their careers as leaders, managers, public health professionals, policy analysts, program evaluators, advocates, or health program managers in a variety of public health, government, health care, or other professional settings.

FACULTY

INTERIM CHAIR
- Robert Duval - Ph.D. (Florida State University)

PROFESSORS
- Jeffrey Coben - MD (University of Pittsburgh)
- Gilbert Ramirez - Ph.D., CPH (University of Texas)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- Warren Eller - Ph.D. (Texas A&M University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
- Lauri Andress - Ph.D. (University of Texas), JD (S Texas College of Law)
- Thomas Bias - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
- Elyce Biddle - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
- Stephanie Frisbee - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)

FACULTY ASSOCIATE
- Jean Siebert - MBA (West Virginia University)

ADJUNCT FACULTY
- Wendy King - MHA (George Washington University)
- Sarah Woodrum - Ph.D. (University of Illinois - Chicago)

Admission Guidelines (MPH in Health Policy)

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a preferred overall GPA of 3.0
- GRE scores of 150 (verbal), 144 (quantitative), 4.0 (analytical writing)
- TOEFL scores (minimum 515 paper-based) (minimum 213 computer-based) (minimum of 80 internet-based)

MPH Applicants (Fall Admissions Only)

If you are ready to apply to West Virginia University School of Public Health, the admissions team is here to assist you. Our MPH Program is CEPH-accredited, and our new School of Public Health is transitioning to be a CEPH-accredited school of public health as well.
WVU participates in the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS). **Our MPH process is a two-step process.** All MPH applications must be submitted through the national SOPHAS service and applicants must also submit a WVU Graduate application.

In addition to the general application, applicants must submit to SOPHAS a statement of purpose and objectives, official GRE test scores, three letters of reference, a current resume/curriculum vitae, and all university transcripts. SOPHAS requires original transcripts from all U.S. institutions attended. (Including Study Abroad) Please see each Major’s website for additional application requirements.

There is a $120 SOPHAS application fee. Applicants must indicate their first choice of MPH major, and may also indicate a second choice. A maximum of two choices is allowed.

- E-submit your application as soon as the applicant entered information is complete. Do NOT wait for SOPHAS to receive transcripts, recommendations or test scores.
- Plan Ahead! Allow up to 4 weeks for SOPHAS to verify grades, process, and mail your application to your designated institutions after your documents have been received.
- SOPHAS grants fee waivers based upon financial need for Peace Corps Volunteers, McNair Scholars, Gates Millennium Scholars Program, AmeriCorps, U.S. and International applicants.

Once the department has reviewed the SOPHAS application, students will receive a communication from the WVU School of Public Health regarding their recommendation for acceptance and instructions to complete the WVU graduate application and pay the $60.00 WVU application fee.

Admission decisions to the West Virginia School of Public Health are conducted in two rounds. Fully completed SOPHAS applications received by April 15 will be considered first. Incomplete applications and new fully completed applications received by June 1 will be considered for those degree programs/concentrations that have openings after the April 15 decisions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their completed applications by the April 15 deadline in order to be considered during the first round.

Important: When sending GRE scores for consideration for admission to WVU, please use the WVU School of Public Health College GRE code: 0157. This code MUST be used, otherwise your GRE score will not be reported to SOPHAS and your application will be incomplete. Incomplete applications cannot be reviewed for an admissions decision. [Each program at West Virginia University has a specific code]

All other degrees and certificate programs will use the WVU application system.

### Overview of MPH in Health Policy Curriculum

Students in the MPH program in Health Policy will complete a total of forty-five credit hours (sixteen credit hours of School of Public Health core courses, two credit hours of seminar, eighteen credit hours of departmental required courses, and nine credit hours of elective courses). The culminating experience, taken the last semester, requires completing an internship (six credit hours) and submitting a paper and poster. This degree will typically take four semesters to complete.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

**MPH Core Courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 601</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 1</td>
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<td>BIOS 602</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPID 601</td>
<td>Public Health Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPML 601</td>
<td>Foundations of Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEHS 601</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 696</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 601</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Concentration Curriculum:**

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPML 610</td>
<td>Health Economics-Popln Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPML 620</td>
<td>Pub Hlth Leadership/Managmnt 1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPML 622</td>
<td>Anlytc Mthd-Hlth Plcy/Mang/Ldr</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPML 624</td>
<td>Policy Tools for Popln Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPML 696</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
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**Practice-based/Culminating Experiences:**

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<th>Course</th>
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<td>PUBH 622</td>
<td>MPH Practice-Based Experience</td>
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<td>HPML 629</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
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**Electives:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPML 670</td>
<td>Policy Analysis-Popln Hlth 1</td>
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</table>

HPML Course - Health Insurance Policy:Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act
HPML Course - Performance and Economic Evaluation for Public Health

HPML 695  Independent Study

| Total Hours | 45 |

**SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY**

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 601</td>
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<td>HPML 696</td>
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**Second Year**

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<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPML 610</td>
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<td>HPML 629</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 622</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
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Total credit hours: 45

**ELECTIVES**

Students must select at least nine credit hours for electives. The Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership offers four elective courses; additionally, any course offered by any department within the School of Public Health is an acceptable elective. Students may select a course not listed specifically, but only with approval, in advance, from their faculty advisor and the Department Chair.

**PRACTICE-BASED EXPERIENCE**

Students will be required to complete a practice-based experience as part of the MPH program in the department of Health Policy, Management & Leadership. The practice-based field experience will include identification of site preceptor, learning objectives, field reports, and final evaluation. All students must complete a minimum of 180 hours of field experience.

**CULMINATING EXPERIENCE/CAPSTONE**

This course is to be taken in the last semester of study. Students are required to demonstrate the ability to synthesize and integrate knowledge and competencies across the full breadth of the MPH-HP curriculum.

The MPH degree will be awarded based on successful completion of all academic requirements and demonstrated achievement of competencies. The department chair, using a faculty panel, will review competency performance evidence and based on the evidence reviewed, determine if the student has achieved the expected competencies. If a determination is made that competencies have not been achieved, the department chair will inform the student what must be accomplished to demonstrate achievement and therefore be recommended for awarding of the MPH degree. This may include taking additional courses.

**COURSES**

**HPML 601. Foundations of Health Policy. 3 Hours.**

Students acquire a fundamental understanding of current health policy as well as the policy making system. Students will learn how health policy is made in the larger context of social structures and social choices.

**HPML 610. Health Economics-Popln Health. 3 Hours.**

PR: BIOS 601 and HPML 601. Students acquire fundamental knowledge of health economics and economic approaches and methodologies to analyze critical issues in health care and health policy.

**HPML 620. Pub Hlth Leadership/Managmnt 1. 3 Hours.**

Students gain a foundation in the principles of leadership and management for public health and health care settings. Topics addressed include aspects of both strategic planning and human resources.

**HPML 622. Anlytc Mthd-Hlth Plcy/Mang/Ldr. 3 Hours.**

PR: BIOS 601 and HPML 601. Students acquire a foundation in essential evaluation approaches and methods needed as professionals in health policy, management, and leadership including policy analysis, health services research, program evaluation, and decision analysis.
HPML 624. Policy Tools for Popltn Health. 3 Hours.
Students advance their proficiency and ability to understand the policy system and work successfully within it to develop and advance evidence-based policy alternatives in order to improve population health.

HPML 626. Internship. 1-6 Hours.
(May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credit hours.) The internship provides students the opportunity to develop their practical skills and enhance professional competencies by applying the knowledge and techniques gained from their MPH coursework to public health practice.

HPML 629. Capstone. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 622. A required course for HPML students, this course is to be taken in the last semester of study. Students are required to demonstrate the ability to synthesize and integrate knowledge and competencies across the full breadth of the MPH-HPML curriculum.

HPML 660. Methods-Hlth Services Rsrch 1. 3 Hours.
PR: BIOS 601 and HPML 622. Students acquire proficiency in health services research methodologies used to assess how health care services are organized, financed, assessed and delivered, and how these arrangements affect health care quality and outcomes, and population health.

HPML 661. HSR Informatics. 3 Hours.
This course provides students with the applied practical understanding of and skills needed to access and use health care information systems used in performing health services research analysis.

HPML 670. Policy Analysis-Popltn Hlth 1. 3 Hours.
PR: BIOS 601 and HPML 601 and HPML 622 and HPML 671. This course provides students an intermediate understanding of policy analysis approaches during the formation, implementation, and outcome stages of a policy’s lifespan. A wide variety of healthcare and public health policies will be analyzed.

HPML 671. Popltn Hlth Plcy Anlyss Info 1. 3 Hours.
PR: BIOS 601 and HPML 601 and HPML 622 and HPML 670. This course provides students with the applied practical understanding of and skills needed to access and use public health and policy information systems used in performing health policy analysis.

HPML 675. Hlthcr/Insr Pol:Mdcd/Mdcr/AvCr. 3 Hours.
Students will attain a thorough understanding of Medicaid, Medicare, and other healthcare delivery systems in the United States, with special attention paid to issues of Federalism, financing, and the political nature of health insurance delivery systems. The massive Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act legislation and its effect on the healthcare system in the United States will also be examined.

HPML 680. Perfrmnc/Econ Evalutn-Pub Hlth. 3 Hours.
This course presents methods to demonstrate the business merit and worth of public health programs and policies. These commonly used techniques include measuring business performance, developing business case arguments, and performing economic evaluations.

HPML 691A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation in advanced topics that are not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

HPML 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty-supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

HPML 696. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.