

Health Policy

DEGREES OFFERED

- Master of Public Health
- Dual Degree MPH/MBA

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The MPH degree with a major in Health Policy is focused on examining social and political systems that influence the health status of populations and then learning how to influence and/or design, implement, and manage broad, system-level instruments to improve population health outcomes. These instruments might include programs in public health agencies, not-for-profit organizations, or healthcare provider settings, or policies at the local, state, national, or international governmental levels.

The MPH major in HPML has a dual emphasis on acquiring both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Thus, this degree is ideal for recent graduates or early- and mid-career public health professionals seeking to develop or advance their careers in a variety of health care settings. Additionally, the professional practice component of the program has been designed to place students in public health settings and apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills to address real-world problems.

Upon completion of the MPH degree with a major in HPML, students will be prepared to continue developing 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. In addition, our students will be prepared to continue their graduate education at the doctoral level.

DUAL DEGREE MPH/MBA

The Department of Health Policy, Management, and Leadership has an approved Dual Degree Program with the MBA program in the College of Business and Economics. Program details are available from either program upon request.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Robert Duval - PhD (Florida State University)

PROFESSOR

- Jeff Coben - MD (University of Pittsburgh)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Thomas Bias - PhD (West Virginia University)
- Steve Davis - PhD (West Virginia University)
- Warren Eller - PhD (Texas A&M University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Lindsay Allen - PhD (Emory University)
- Lauri Andress - PhD/JD (University of Texas/South Texas College of Law)
- Sarah Woodrum - PhD (University of Illinois - Chicago)

ADJUNCT FACULTY

- Ann Chester - PhD
Assistant Vice President for Education Partnerships
- Rahul Gupta - MD/MPH (University of Delhi; University of Alabama-Birmingham)
State Health Officer and Commissioner, West Virginia Bureau of Public Health
- Chris Haddox - PhD/MBA (West Virginia University)
Assistant Professor, Interior Design & Design Studies
- Patricia Moss - MSW (West Virginia University)
- Lee Smith - MD, JD (Marshall University/West Virginia University)
Executive Director, Monongalia County Health Department
- Richard Wittberg - PhD
Independent Researcher

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 550 paper-based) (minimum 213 computer-based) (minimum of 80 internet-based) or IELTS (minimum 6.5)

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 School of Public Health is CEPH (<http://www.ceph.org>) accredited, and we participate in SOPHAS (<http://www.sophas.org>) (Schools of Public Health Application Service). **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 \$135 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.

Master of Public Health

MPH MAJOR IN HEALTH POLICY, MANAGEMENT, AND LEADERSHIP DESCRIPTION

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Upon completion of the MPH degree with a major in HPML, students will be prepared to continue developing 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. In addition, our students will be prepared to continue their graduate education at the doctoral level.

Health Policy, Management and Leadership Major Competencies

In addition to the standard MPH Foundational Competencies required of all MPH students, our major in Health Policy, Management and Leadership also prepares students to meet 5 competencies specific to the major. These include:

1. Develop a fundamental understanding of the process of the production and delivery of health policy and its outputs.
2. Acquire the skills to effectively work within the healthcare/health policy system to assist in the formulation and articulation of health care management structures and processes, and work for its efficient and equitable delivery.
3. Develop an understanding of the processes and applications of influence whereby an individual empowers a group to achieve common goals.
4. Learn a broad set of analytic, statistical, economic, presentation, and interpersonal skills and tools to facilitate the communication of health policy and its understanding.
5. Clarify the conditions of participation within the health sector and achieving results that exemplify what we believe to be good citizenship.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A final GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for the successful completion of the program.

Students must earn a minimum grade of "C-" in all PUBH and HPML coursework.

MPH Foundational Courses:

PUBH 610	Contemporary Foundations of Public Health Practice	2
PUBH 611	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	2
PUBH 612	Research Translation and Evaluation in Public Health Practice	4
PUBH 620	Building and Sustaining Public Health Capacity	2
PUBH 621	Public Health Prevention and Intervention	3
PUBH 630	MPH Field Practicum	3
PUBH 640	Leadership and Collaboration in Public Health	3
PUBH 641	Systems Thinking in Public Health Practice	2
PUBH 696	Graduate Seminar	1

HPML Major Courses:

HPML 601	Foundations of Health Policy	3
HPML 610	Health Economics for Population Health	3
HPML 620	Managing Robust Public Health Organizations	3
HPML 622	Analytic Methods for Health Policy, Management, and Leadership	3
HPML 623	Healthcare Finance	3
HPML 624	Advanced Issue Analysis for Health Policy	3
HPML 629	Tools for Health Policy and Management Communication	2

Electives:

Approved Elective Courses

Total Hours 44

1. All students in the WVU SPH MPH program are required to maintain a portfolio that demonstrates their ability to meet the competencies associated with the MPH Foundational Courses, the Department Major Courses, and to apply a selection of those competencies in an approved practice-based setting(s). This portfolio must be submitted for review at the end of each academic year, as well as reviewed and approved prior to the successful completion of the program.
2. The MPH degree will be awarded based on successful completion of all academic requirements and demonstrated achievement of competencies via the student portfolio system and class-based evaluations of competency attainment.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours Summer	Hours
PUBH 610	2 PUBH 620	2 PUBH 630	3
PUBH 611	2 PUBH 621	3	
PUBH 612	4 HPML 610	3	
HPML 601	3 HPML 620	3	
	11	11	3

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 640	3 PUBH 696	1
PUBH 641	2 HPML 624	3
HPML 622	3 HPML 629	2
HPML 623	3 Elective	1

4 Health Policy

Elective	1	
	12	7

Total credit hours: 44

Note: With approval from the MPH Program Advisor and the Director of Practice-Based Learning, PUBH 630: MPH MPH Field Practicum can be taken anytime during Year 2. Students must select at least nine credit hours for electives.

Major Learning Outcomes

HEALTH POLICY

1. Develop a fundamental understanding of the process of the production and delivery of health policy and its outputs.
2. Acquire the skills to effectively work within the healthcare/health policy system to assist in the formulation and articulation of health care management structures and processes, and work for its efficient and equitable delivery.
3. Develop an understanding of the processes and applications of influence whereby an individual empowers a group to achieve common goals.
4. Learn a broad set of analytic, statistical, economic, presentation, and interpersonal skills and tools to facilitate the communication of health policy and its understanding.
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