



MD/MPH AND MD/CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

CLINICAL PUBLIC HEALTH

The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) seeks to graduate “clinician-citizens.” We define this as clinicians who are prepared to deliver excellent patient care in 21st century health systems; pursue, translate, and apply scholarly inquiry to inform decision-making and improve health systems; design population-based interventions to address issues that impact the health of individuals and diverse populations; engage with communities to improve health and promote health equity for local, national, and global communities; perform effectively on interprofessional teams; and serve as leaders and advocates to improve the health and lives of patients and communities.

To achieve these objectives, the SMHS MD curriculum continues to evolve to better meet the demands of our changing health systems. To help achieve these goals, SMHS has joined with the Milken Institute School of Public Health at GW (Milken Institute SPH) to provide two combined medicine-public health programs for MD students: the MD/MPH and the MD/Graduate Certificate in Public Health. Upon completion of either the MD/MPH or MD/Certificate, students may take the national certifying exam in public health (CPH).

MD/MPH

MD students can complete an MPH with one additional year of training (four years MD + one year MPH) through a combination of online and residential MPH courses. Students pursue a generalist MPH program that provides them with a broad knowledge of public health, while offering a generous number of electives to allow students the opportunity to design a program tailored to their interests and goals.

By capitalizing on the SMHS MD curriculum’s inclusion of public health, population health, and health systems in its clinical public health curriculum, the MD/MPH provides 15 cross-credits from the MD program for Milken Institute SPH courses (PUBH 6011, 6012, 6021, 6023, 6060, 6061, and seven credits of electives), with 30 credits completed at Milken Institute SPH. Also, four credits from Milken Institute SPH (PUBH 6007, 6009) cross-count as four weeks of MD fourth-year electives. Students may begin Milken Institute SPH coursework during the summer after Year 3 or Year 4 of the MD program.

MD/Certificate

MD students can complete a Graduate Certificate in Public Health within the four-year MD program. Providing a foundational understanding of the disciplines of public health, the MD/Certificate provides five cross-credits from the MD program for Milken Institute SPH courses (PUBH 6011, 6012), with 10 online credits at Milken Institute SPH. Also, four credits from Milken Institute SPH (PUBH 6007, 6009) cross-count as four weeks of MD fourth-year electives. All credits taken for the MD/Certificate can be applied toward the MD/MPH if students transfer within their four-year MD program. Students may complete the Milken Institute SPH coursework during Year 4 of the MD program depending upon clinical schedule and in consultation with their Advising Dean.

IMPORTANT DATES

SMHS INFORMATION SESSION:

October 15, 2024: 7:00p-8:00p

EARLY ADMISSION: MS3s (MD/MPH)

Application Deadline: December 4, 2024 11:59p

Milken SPH Notifies Students of Determination: December 12, 2024

REGULAR ADMISSION: MS3s, MS4s (MD/MPH)

Application Deadline: March 27, 2025 11:59p

Milken SPH Notifies Students of Determination: April 4, 2025

SCHEDULE FOR ACCEPTED STUDENTS: MS3s, MS4s (MD/MPH)

SMHS Orientation: April 8, 2025 6:30p-7:30p

Deadline to Submit Declaration of Intent: April 14, 2025 11:59p

Burgess Loan Submission Deadline: April 15, 2025 11:59p

SPH Advising & Registration Session: April 17, 2025 6:30p-7:30p

Deadline to Submit Registration Form: April 24, 2025 11:59p

*MPH Courses Begin (Online): July 1, 2025** Estimated*

Combined Medicine/Public Health Application Form

FAQs about GW's MD | Public Health Combined Degree Programs

CLINICAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Who can apply for the Combined Degree Programs? What are the admission requirements?

Students enrolled in GW's MD program are eligible to apply: MS3s and MS4s can apply for the MD/MPH; MS4s can apply for the MD/Certificate. MD students with less than a Passing Grade (Conditional, Fail) are not eligible to apply until the grade has been remediated. Students are not required to take the GRE, but must take USMLE Step 1 before beginning their MPH.

When and how do I apply for the Combined Degree? When do I start the program?

Milken Institute SPH coursework for the MD/MPH begins during the summer following either MD Year 3 or 4. Some students may pursue the MD/Certificate during MD Year 4 in consultation with their advising dean. MD/MPH students may apply in either December or March of the MS3 year; MD/Certificate applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the MS4 Year. The application for both programs is an online form with academic information and a brief narrative.

What are the credit requirements? How long does it take?

The MD/Certificate requires successful completion of four Milken Institute SPH courses (10 credits) in addition to the MD program; courses are taken either all in one 10-week term, or divided across several 10-week terms. The MD/Certificate is completed within the four-year MD program. The MD/MPH requires successful completion of at least 30 credits at Milken Institute SPH in addition to the MD program. Students may begin courses during the summer following Year 3 or 4. The MD/MPH requires a one-year leave of absence from the MD program between MD Years 3 and 4 or after Year 4 to complete the MPH coursework for a total of five years (4 MD + 1 MPH). Students pursuing the MPH after Year 4 will delay MD graduation for one year until completion of the MPH.

Do I need to complete a practicum, thesis, culminating experience, and/or Capstone?

The MD/Certificate does not require any of these. The MPH requires a Culminating Experience satisfied through the MD program's Summit IV. Also, MD/MPH students must complete an Applied Practice Experience (APEX) in Spring of their MPH Year after completing all MPH courses.

What is the tuition for the Combined Degree Programs?

Students in the MD/Certificate are financially responsible for 10 Milken Institute SPH credit hours at the published MD/Certificate rate; total tuition for the MD/Certificate in 2022-23 is \$12,860. Students in the MD/MPH receive a 10% tuition discount for their 30 Milken Institute SPH credits; total tuition for the MD/MPH in 2022-23 is \$48,600.

Is financial aid available for the Combined Degree?

Both the MD/Certificate and MD/MPH are eligible for federal financial aid. Applications and disbursements are handled by the SMHS Office of Financial Aid. Deadline for submission for summer aid is July 1, but late fees may apply so students are encouraged to apply by mid-April to ensure continuity of funding streams.

Can I transfer from one Combined Degree Program to the other? Can I transfer credits from other schools?

Students can transfer from the MD/Certificate to MD/MPH. All four Milken Institute SPH courses for the MD/Certificate will apply toward the MD/MPH; students then continue on the MD/MPH timeline with a one-year leave of absence for MPH coursework. No coursework or credits can be transferred from other institutions for either the MD/Certificate or MD/MPH.

What if I drop the Combined Degree without completing it?

The MD remains the primary degree for both the MD/Certificate and MD/MPH; the MD will be awarded if the MD requirements are successfully completed regardless of the status of the Milken Institute SPH degree. The Certificate or MPH will be awarded only if the MD and public health requirements are completed.

Can I engage in clinical activities during the MPH?

Yes, students can make arrangements with clinical preceptors to pursue clinical activities depending upon MPH course demands and schedule.

Will I be able to sit for the national certifying exam for public health?

All students who successfully complete the MD/Certificate or the MD/MPH are eligible to sit for the national certifying exam through NBPHE – Certified in Public Health (CPH). <https://www.nbphe.org/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MD | Public Health Combined Degree Programs - MDMPH@gwu.edu