

2026-2027 PROGRAM GUIDE: Graduate Certificate, Public Health

Information in this document is updated annually. Please refer to the document for the year you entered the program. Student resources, policies, and procedures applicable to all School of Public Health graduate students can be found on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org.

Overview

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<https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/degree-programs/graduate-certificates/certificate-public-health/>

Graduates of the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Graduate Certificate in Public Health (GCPH) have a solid foundation in the core public health knowledge areas (biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences) and abilities and skills (data analysis, communication, community engagement, and systems thinking). To support working and distance students, coursework for the Graduate Certificate may be completed entirely online. Graduates often remain in their current positions in public health systems or advance in their careers and are eligible to sit for the National Board of Public Health Examiners Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam.

Program Competencies

Students graduating with a GCPH will be able to:

1. **Apply** foundational public health knowledge to analyze determinants of health across populations.
2. **Evaluate** public health data using appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods to inform evidence-based decision-making.
3. **Demonstrate** ethical reasoning and professional identity in public health practice and research.
4. **Communicate** public health concepts effectively to diverse audiences using appropriate channels and strategies.
5. **Collaborate** effectively within interdisciplinary teams to address public health challenges.
6. **Integrate** principles of equity and social justice to promote inclusive and community-engaged public health solutions.

Competency-based achievement: Competencies consistent with a graduate-level certificate are achieved through foundational courses (21 credits). Additional information about planning and selection of elective courses can be found at the end of this guide.

GPA and grade requirements: Minimum overall GPA of 3.0; minimum grade of “B-” in required courses; no more than two grades lower than “B-” can be applied to the degree. More information may be found on the [Graduate Student Policies and Procedures](#) website.

Academic support and resources: [Academic resources](#) and [student support services](#) available to SPH graduate students are listed on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org. Please review the resources listed there.

Meeting basic needs and resources: Referrals (for [OHSU](#) and [PSU](#) students specifically) and resources are available to SPH graduate students for personal, physical, emotional challenges and [meeting basic needs](#).



Graduate Certificate Public Health Program of Study

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Foundational Core (21 credits)		
PUBH 511	Foundations of Public Health	3
PUBH 521	Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3
PUBH 522	Analytic Methods 2: Applied Analysis	3
PUBH 531	Communicating Public Health	3
PUBH 532	Public Health Systems & Practice	3
PUBH 533	Environment & Health	3
PUBH 534	Upstream Public Health & Policy	3
Total Credits Required for GCPH		21

Abbreviations of course prefixes: PUBH, Public Health Core Studies

Graduate Certificate Public Health Recommended Course Sequencing

Below are recommended course schedules for full and part-time students. Because course scheduling may vary from year to year, and overall schedule configurations are possible, limited modifications to this course plan are possible. Although other schedules may be possible, you should try to adhere to the recommended sequence as much as possible; foundational classes are offered in specific terms and should be taken in certain sequences. This assists in resource allocations at the level of the school. Be sure to consult with your Faculty Advisor regarding your program of study to choose the best electives for your educational and professional goals.

In each term, online sessions of foundational public health courses (PUBH prefix) will prioritize the registration needs of students in the online program. However, students in other Graduate Certificate and MPH programs will be able to register for these courses if space remains once priority registration is lifted.

Your Faculty Advisor is an important resource, along with the Program Director. We recommend consulting with your Faculty Advisor quarterly regarding your program of study and course selection to determine the schedule that fits best for you.

For questions regarding financial support, scholarships, grants, and other financial assistance, please contact OHSU's Financial Aid Office: <https://www.ohsu.edu/education/financial-aid>.



Graduate Certificate Public Health Program Schedule

Term	Full Time			Part Time			
	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of Public Health	3	- Attend SPH Fall Welcome - Meet with advisor re: academic interests & goals	PUBH 511 Foundations of Public Health	3	- Attend SPH Fall Welcome - Meet with advisor re: academic interests & goals	
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3		PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3		
	PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health	3					
Winter	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II: Applied Analysis	3		PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II: Applied Analysis	3		
	PUBH 532 Public Health Systems and Practice	3		PUBH 532 Public Health Systems and Practice	3		
	PUBH 533 Environment & Health	3					
Spring	PUBH 534 Upstream Public Health & Policy	3	Meet with advisor re: career and academic goals	PUBH 534 Upstream Public Health & Policy	3		
				Summer	PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health	3	Meet with advisor re: career and academic goals
					PUBH 533 Environment & Health	3	

OPTION TWO – if not able to take courses in the summer

Fall Year 2	PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health	3	
Winter Year 2	PUBH 533 Environment & Health	3	Meet with advisor re: career and academic goals

Graduate Student Resources, Policies, and Procedures

[Policies and procedures](https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/graduate-students-policies-and-procedures/) applicable to all School of Public Health graduate students can be found on the SPH website at <https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/graduate-students-policies-and-procedures/>. Please review the student policies and procedures listed there, including but not limited to the following sections:

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| ☐ Advising | ☐ Course Approvals (Electives) |
| ☐ Academic Standing | ☐ Independent Study |
| ☐ Academic Dismissal | ☐ International Travel and Coursework |
| ☐ Academic Dishonesty | ☐ Continuous Enrollment |
| ☐ Codes of Conduct | ☐ Leave of Absence |
| ☐ Educational Records Privacy | ☐ Withdrawal Policy |
| ☐ Minimum Course Grade Requirements | ☐ Time Limits |
| ☐ Recognition of Prior Earned Credit | ☐ Grievance Resolution |
| ☐ Course Waiver Policy | ☐ Degree and Certificate Conferral |
| ☐ Incomplete Coursework | |