PUBLIC HEALTH, MASTER OF (M.P.H.)/SOCIAL WORK, MASTER OF (M.S.W.) [DUAL DEGREE]

Program accreditation
Council on Education for Public Health (M.P.H.)
Council on Social Work Education (M.S.W.)

To qualify as a dual degree student in any of the training paradigms which appear in the Bulletin, a student must have evidence of having been simultaneously enrolled in one or more courses of both of the programs constituting the “dual degree” for at least one semester.

Through a collaborative program between the VCU School of Social Work and the Division of Epidemiology in the School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, students complete a three-year full-time program of study, including summer course work, to obtain the Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health degrees. The purpose of this dual degree program is to prepare graduates to work with individuals, families, groups, communities and/or organizations; advocate for social, health care and economic justice in a diverse and multicultural society; and promote physical and mental health across the life course.

Prospective students are required to apply separately to both programs through the appropriate application portal indicated in the admission requirements section of this Bulletin and must meet both sets of admission requirements. Once admitted to both programs, the student is assigned an adviser from each to develop a plan of study, typically starting with the M.S.W. course work. It is preferable that students apply to both programs at the same time so that the structured dual degree curriculum can be optimally planned. Students in one program may also apply to the second program during the first year of study.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 45 M.S.W. credit hours and a minimum of 36 M.P.H. credit hours, for a total of 81 semester credit hours. In the M.P.H. program, this includes 27 credit hours of core and required courses, a minimum six credit hours of elective courses and a minimum of three credit hours of a capstone project that examines a relevant public health topic. Note that some elective courses may not be available in certain years or may require instructor permission for registration. During the third and last year of study, dual degree students are placed in internships through the School of Social Work that focus on public health; the internship placement is approved by both the M.P.H. program director and the director of the M.S.W. field instruction. With adviser approval, the student may develop a capstone project based on work in this public health/social work placement.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/)

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/)

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

For the M.P.H., apply online at sophas.org and submit a supplemental VCU application following instructions available at sophas.org; for the M.S.W., apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu.

Please review the admission requirements for each stand-alone degree (Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work) in the VCU Graduate Bulletin to learn the specific application requirements for each program.
## Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 547</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab I</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 548</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPID 571</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 580</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPID 593</td>
<td>Foundations of the Public Health Profession</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 594</td>
<td>MPH Practicum</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPID 604</td>
<td>Principles of Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 694</td>
<td>MPH Capstone Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCP 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPEC 501</td>
<td>Foundations of Interprofessional Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHD 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 601</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 602</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 603</td>
<td>Social Work and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 604</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 605</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 606</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 609</td>
<td>Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 610</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 693</td>
<td>Generalist Field Instruction I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 694</td>
<td>Generalist Field Instruction II</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Concentration courses

Select one of the following concentrations: 9

**M.S.W. clinical concentration:**

- SLWK 703 Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
- SLWK 704 Clinical Social Work Practice I
- SLWK 705 Clinical Social Work Practice II

**M.S.W. SWAPPP concentration:**

- SLWK 711 Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice
- SLWK 712 Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I
- SLWK 713 Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II
- SLWK 793 Concentration Field Instruction I
- SLWK 794 Concentration Field Instruction II

### Additional program courses

**Electives**

Select a minimum of six graduate elective credits from the following:

- BIOS 549 Spatial Data Analysis
- BIOS 571 Clinical Trials
- CCTR 630 Design Implications in Clinical Trials
- CCTR 631 Adaptive Clinical Trials
- EPID 600 Introduction to Public Health
- EPID 601 Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health
- EPID 603 Public Health Policy and Politics
- EPID 606 Epidemiologic Methods
- EPID 622 Maternal and Child Health
- EPID 624 Chronic Disease Epidemiology
- EPID 645 Public Health Genomics
- EPID 646 Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders
- EPID 692 Independent Study
- GRAD 614 Introduction to Grant Writing
- GRTY 501 Physiological Aging
- GRTY 510 Aging
- GRTY 603 Social Gerontology
- GRTY 604 Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology
- HEMS 505 Contemporary Issues in Health
- HEMS 550 Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management
- HEMS 604 Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity
- HEMS 605 Psychology of Physical Activity
- HEMS 606 Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity
- HGEN 501 Introduction to Human Genetics
- HGEN 502 Advanced Human Genetics
- HGEN 620 Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics
- HSEP 601 Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command
- HSEP 603 Risk Assessment
- HSEP 650 Public Health Preparedness
- PSYC 660 Health Psychology
- SBHD 609 Research Methods in Social and Behavioral Health
- SBHD 630 Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health
- SBHD 632 Health Disparities and Social Justice
- SBHD 636 Community-based Participatory Research
- SBHD 637 Program Evaluation
- SBHD 638 Applications in Qualitative Research Methods
- SOCY 510 Domestic and Sexual Violence in Social Context
- SOCY 524 Aging and the Minority Community
- SOCY 603 Seminar in Population Studies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 607</td>
<td>Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCY 611</td>
<td>Studies in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 620</td>
<td>Seminar in Criminology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCY 624</td>
<td>Community and Community Services for the Elderly</td>
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<td>SOCY 632</td>
<td>Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCY 633</td>
<td>Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 634</td>
<td>Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCY 635</td>
<td>Theorizing Gender Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 645</td>
<td>The Sociology of Health and Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 521</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Noncurricular requirements**

In addition to course work, students must attend 12 public health seminars and complete 20 hours of community-based service-learning.

**The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for the combined M.P.H./M.S.W. is 81.**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study, or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program directors**

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Program websites: [familymedicine.vcu.edu/epidemiology/mph/dual-degrees](http://familymedicine.vcu.edu/epidemiology/mph/dual-degrees) and [socialwork.vcu.edu](http://socialwork.vcu.edu)