

# 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.

**For the M.P.H., apply online at** [sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org) (<http://www.sophas.org>) and submit a supplemental VCU application following instructions available at [sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org); **for the M.S.W., apply online at** [graduate.admissions.vcu.edu](http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu) (<http://www.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

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Program core</b>		
BIOS 543	Graduate Research Methods I	3
BIOS 544	Graduate Research Methods II	3
EPID 547	Applied Data Analysis Lab I	1.5
EPID 548	Applied Data Analysis Lab II	1.5
EPID 571	Principles of Epidemiology	3
EPID 580	Public Health Ethics	1
EPID 593	Foundations of the Public Health Profession	2
EPID 594	MPH Practicum	2
EPID 604	Principles of Environmental Health	3
EPID 694	MPH Capstone Project	3
HCPR 601	Introduction to Health Policy	3
IPEC 501	Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1
SBHD 605	Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health	3
SLWK 601	Human Behavior in the Social Environment I	3
SLWK 602	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I	3
SLWK 603	Social Work and Social Justice	3
SLWK 604	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I	3
SLWK 605	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II	3
SLWK 606	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II	3
SLWK 609	Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice	3
SLWK 610	Human Behavior in the Social Environment II	3
SLWK 693	Generalist Field Instruction I	3
SLWK 694	Generalist Field Instruction II	3
<b>Concentration courses</b>		
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	3
SLWK 794	Concentration Field Instruction II	3
<b>Additional program courses</b>		
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

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SOCY 607	Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America
SOCY 611	Studies in the Community
SOCY 620	Seminar in Criminology
SOCY 624	Community and Community Services for the Elderly
SOCY 632	Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy
SOCY 633	Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence
SOCY 634	Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence
SOCY 635	Theorizing Gender Violence
SOCY 645	The Sociology of Health and Illness
URSP 521	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 621	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 622	Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS
URSP 625	Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling

#### 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) (<http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu>)