

PUBLIC HEALTH, MASTER OF (M.P.H.)/AGING STUDIES, CERTIFICATE IN (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE) [DUAL DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE]

Advanced study in public health and aging studies is available through a dual degree and certificate program co-sponsored by the School of Public Health and Department of Gerontology in the College of Health Professions.

This program allows students to earn a Master of Public Health and a Certificate in Aging studies with a minimum of 51 credits rather than the 60 credits necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while reducing time to earn both degrees.

Program goals

Graduates of this dual degree and certificate program will be able to:

- Apply public health principles and epidemiologic methods to understand and address health issues affecting older adults
- Analyze biological, social and environmental determinants of aging and their influence on health outcomes and quality of life for older adults
- Design and evaluate public health programs and interventions that promote healthy aging, disease prevention and community well-being
- Interpret policies and health systems that impact older adults, including long-term care, community supports and aging services
- Collaborate and communicate effectively with interdisciplinary partners to improve health equity and outcomes for older adults

Student learning outcomes

See the individual program pages for student learning outcomes for each program.

Admission requirements

Students must meet the admission requirements for each program. Admission into one program does not guarantee admission into the other.

The Certificate in Aging Studies program is open to qualified students who have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university or the equivalent and who have met all **general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School**.

The admission requirements for the M.P.H. (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/p-health/public-health-mp-h-conc-applied/#admissionrequirements>) program can be found on the program page. Admissions requirements are the same for all M.P.H. concentrations.

Application procedure

Applicants may apply to both programs at the same time or apply to the Certificate in Aging studies while enrolled in the M.P.H. program.

Dual degree and certificate requirements

As standalone programs, the M.P.H. comprises 45 credits while the certificate requires 15 credits. The dual degree and certificate program allows students to share nine credits, therefore decreasing total credits to completion from 60 to 51.

All M.P.H. concentrations can complete the dual degree-certificate program.

The following M.P.H. courses will count towards the Certificate in Aging Studies

Course	Title	Hours
SBHD 605	Introduction to Social and Behavioral Sciences (satisfies certificate elective)	3

The following Certificate in Aging Studies courses will count towards the M.P.H. degree

Course	Title	Hours
GRTY 601	Biological and Physiological Aging (satisfies M.P.H. elective)	3
GRTY 602	Psychology of Aging (satisfies M.P.H. elective)	3
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology (satisfies M.P.H. elective)	3

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
M.P.H. requirements		
BIOS 543	Graduate Research Methods I	3
EPID 571	Principles of Epidemiology	3
HCPR 601	Introduction to Health Policy	3
IPEC 563	Interprofessional Complex Care Coordination	2
PHLT 580	Public Health Ethics	1
PHLT 593	Foundations of Public Health Profession	2
PHLT 604	Principles of Environmental Health	3
PHLT 693	Public Health Internship	3
PHLT 694	MPH Capstone Project	3
SBHD 605	Introduction to Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Concentration requirements		9
Applied public health		
PHLT 600	Introduction to Public Health Practice	3
SBHD 628	Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3
SBHD 632	Systems, Power, and Health	3
Cancer prevention and control science		
EPID 620	Cancer Epidemiology	3
SBHD 612	Disparities Across the Cancer Care Continuum	3
SBHD 613	Community-engaged Research and Cancer Disparities	3
Epidemiology		
BIOS 544	Graduate Research Methods II	3

EPID 548	Applied Data Analysis Lab	3
EPID 606	Fundamental Epidemiological Methods	3
Health communication		
SBHD 606	Practical Communication Strategies for Public Health	3
SBHD 607	Media, Health and Policy	3
SBHD 608	Health Communication	3
Health policy		
EPID 629	Data Management and Visualization	3
HCPR 602	Public Health Policy and Politics	3
HCPR 703	Health Economics: Theory and Principles	3
Elective credits (nine credits satisfied by the Certificate in Aging Studies)		10
Certificate requirements		
GRTY 601	Biological and Physiological Aging	3
GRTY 602	Psychology of Aging	3
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology	3
GRTY 606	Aging and Human Values	3
Elective (satisfied by SBHD 605)		3
Total Hours		48

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual program is 48.

Sample plan of study fall semester matriculation

General plan of study. Students should work with the M.P.H. Education Administrator for specific plans of study for each specific M.P.H. concentration.

Year one

Fall semester		Hours
BIOS 543	Graduate Research Methods I	3
EPID 571	Principles of Epidemiology	3
GRTY 602	Psychology of Aging	3
PHLT 593	Foundations of Public Health Profession	2
PHLT 580	Public Health Ethics	1
Term Hours:		12
Spring semester		
GRTY 601	Biological and Physiological Aging ((satisfies M.P.H. elective))	3
PHLT 604	Principles of Environmental Health	3
SBHD 605	Introduction to Social and Behavioral Sciences (satisfies certificate elective)	3
Concentration course		3
Term Hours:		12
Summer semester		
PHLT 693	Public Health Internship	3
Term Hours:		3

Year two

Fall semester		Hours
GRTY 603	Social Gerontology (satisfies M.P.H. elective)	3

HCPR 601	Introduction to Health Policy	3
IPEC 563	Interprofessional Complex Care Coordination	2
Concentration course		3
Term Hours:		11
Spring semester		
GRTY 606	Aging and Human Values (satisfies M.P.H. elective)	3
PHLT 694	MPH Capstone Project	3
Concentration course		3
Elective course		1
Term Hours:		10
Total Hours:		48

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual program is 48.

Contacts

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Program websites: sph.vcu.edu (<https://sph.vcu.edu>) (<https://sph.vcu.edu>) and gerontology.chp.vcu.edu/programs/mastersprogram/ (<https://gerontology.chp.vcu.edu/programs/mastersprogram/>)