

# PHARMACY, DOCTOR OF (PHARM.D.)/PUBLIC HEALTH, MASTER OF (M.P.H.) [DUAL DEGREE]

Advanced study in pharmacy and public health is available through a dual degree program co-sponsored by the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science in the School of Pharmacy and the School of Public Health.

The dual degree Pharm.D. and M.P.H. program allows students to earn two degrees with a minimum of 191 credits rather than the 200 credits necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while also reducing time to earning both degrees.

## Program goals

The objectives of this dual degree program are to train students to be well-grounded in the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes of public and population health, while they achieve a Doctor of Pharmacy. Students completing the program will be able to:

- Collect, analyze, and evaluate public health data
- Plan, implement and evaluate public health interventions
- Apply results of evaluations and data analyses to policy development
- Promote community health through educational campaigns
- Synthesize and apply evidence-based information to the identification of key areas of practice and research

Among the many benefits offered by participation in the dual degree program are the following:

- Understanding of health issues on a population level
- Mastery of health behavior theory necessary for effective for health promotion activities such as community vaccination campaigns and wellness programs
- Ability to plan and evaluate health programs
- Training in epidemiological methodology and data analysis techniques
- Competitiveness in applying for pharmacy residencies

The diplomas for this dual degree program may be awarded simultaneously. Students receive both degrees after five years of study to complete the requirements of both degree programs.

## Student learning outcomes

The student learning outcomes described on the individual M.P.H. concentration pages also apply to Pharm.D.-M.P.H. students.

- M.P.H. with a concentration in applied public health (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/p-health/public-health-mph-conc-applied/>)
- M.P.H. with a concentration in epidemiology (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/p-health/public-health-mph-conc-epidemiology/>)
- M.P.H. with a concentration in cancer health equity science (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/p-health/public-health-mph-conc-cancer-health-equity/>)

The educational outcomes of the Pharm.D. program (<https://pharmacy.vcu.edu/about-us/educational-outcomes/>) can be viewed on the School of Pharmacy website.

## Other information

### Advising

The student is assigned an adviser from each program to develop a plan of study. The M.P.H. program administrator provides guidance on course registration issues to ensure successful completion of the student's year in the M.P.H. curriculum. An M.P.H. faculty member provides guidance on the student capstone project; a Pharm.D. faculty member may collaborate in this mentoring process.

## Admission requirements and application procedure

Pharm.D. students apply to the M.P.H. program in their P3 year. Applications are made through [sophas.org](https://sophas.org) (<https://sophas.org/>), which lists the current admission year's application deadline. A supplemental application to VCU, with an additional fee, is also required. GRE or other academic test scores are not required for the M.P.H. program application; students may choose to include PCAT scores with their application.

Students should refer to the admission requirements information for the specific concentration within the M.P.H. degree in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for additional details on admission requirements, including transcript, personal statement and recommendation letter guidelines.

## Degree requirements

Students in the dual degree program are required to take a minimum of 37 credits in the M.P.H. curriculum, including 20 credit hours of core courses, a minimum of nine credit hours of concentration courses, a minimum of six credits of elective course work and a minimum of three credit hours of a capstone project that examines a relevant public health topic.

The dual degree Pharm.D. and M.P.H. program allows students to earn two degrees with a minimum of 185.5 credit hours rather than 193.5 credit hours necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while also reducing the time to earn both degrees.

These courses within the Pharm.D. curriculum satisfy requirements in the M.P.H. degree:

Course	Title	Hours
PHAR 508	Evidence-based Pharmacy I	2
PHAR 511	Evidence-based Pharmacy II	2
PHAR 530	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Community Practice	4
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>8</b>

Students receive both degrees after five years of study to complete the requirements of both degree programs.

## Curriculum requirements for the dual degree

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Pharm.D. requirements</b>		
IPEC 501	Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1

IPEC 502	Interprofessional Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	1	PHAR 605	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Hematology/Oncology	2.5
IPEC 560	Interprofessional Collaborative Care for Older Adults	1	PHAR 606	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Nephrology/Urology	2
MEDC 527	Basic Pharmaceutical Principles for the Practicing Pharmacist	3	PHAR 609	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Reproductive Health, Dermatology, EENT, Bone and Joint	3.5
MEDC 533	Pharmacognosy	1	PHAR 615	Continuous Professional Development II	1
MEDC 542	Biotechnology-derived Therapeutic Agents	1	PHAR 618	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Gastrointestinal/Nutrition	2.5
MEDC 553	Concepts in the Medicinal Chemistry of Therapeutics Agents	1	PHAR 640	Foundations V	1.5
PCEU 507	Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics I	2.5	PHAR 645	Foundations VI	1.5
PCEU 508	Pharmacokinetics	3	PHAR 652	Health Promotion and Communication in Pharmacy Practice	2
PCEU 509	Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics II	3	PHAR 702	Pharmacy Practice Management	2.5
PCEU 601	Applied Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenomics	2.5	PHAR 703	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Complex Patient Cases and Critical Care	3.5
PHAR 501	Pharmaceutical Calculations	1	PHAR 715	Continuous Professional Development III	1
PHAR 502	Introduction to Pharmacoeconomics	1	PHAR 724	Pharmacy Law	2.5
PHAR 503	Ethics and Equity	1.5	PHAR 730	Continuous Professional Development IV	.5
PHAR 505	Pathophysiology and Patient Assessment Skills	3	PHAR 760	Acute Care Pharmacy Practice I	5
PHAR 506	Nonprescription Medications and Self-care	2	PHAR 761	Advanced Hospital Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 507	Introduction to Health Informatics	1	PHAR 763	Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 508	Evidence-based Pharmacy I	2	PHAR 765	Elective I	5
PHAR 511	Evidence-based Pharmacy II	2	PHAR 766	Elective II	5
PHAR 515	Continuous Professional Development I	1	PHAR 767	Clinical Selective I	5
PHAR 523	Foundations I	2	PHAR 768	Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 524	Foundations II	1.5	PHAR 773	Acute Care Pharmacy Practice II	5
PHAR 530	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Community Practice	4	PHTX 606	Introduction to Pharmacology of Therapeutic Agents	1
PHAR 532	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Hospital Practice	3	Electives		8
PHAR 533	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Patient Care (satisfies M.P.H. elective)	.5	<b>M.P.H. requirements</b>		
PHAR 534	Foundations III	1.5	• M.P.H. core requirements		
PHAR 535	Foundations IV	1.5	BIOS 543	Graduate Research Methods I	3
PHAR 544	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Cardiovascular	4.5	EPID 571	Principles of Epidemiology	3
PHAR 545	The U.S. Health Care System (satisfies M.P.H. elective)	1.5	HCPR 601	Introduction to Health Policy	3
PHAR 546	Pharmacy-based Immunization Delivery	1.5	IPEC 563	Interprofessional Complex Care Coordination	2
PHAR 551	Pharmacy-based Point of Care Testing	1.5	PHLT 580	Public Health Ethics	1
PHAR 555	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Endocrinology	2.5	PHLT 593	Foundations of Public Health Profession	2
PHAR 556	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Neurology	3.5	PHLT 604	Principles of Environmental Health	3
PHAR 602	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Psychiatry	3	PHLT 693	Public Health Internship	3
PHAR 603	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Respiratory/Immunology	2.5	PHLT 694	MPH Capstone Project	3
PHAR 604	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Infectious Diseases	4	SBHD 605	Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health	3
			• Concentration requirements (select one concentration)		9
			Applied public health concentration		
			PHLT 600	Introduction to Public Health	
			SBHD 628	Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	

SBHD 632	Health Disparities and Social Justice Epidemiology concentration	
BIOS 544	Graduate Research Methods II	
EPID 548	Applied Data Analysis Lab	
EPID 606	Epidemiologic Methods	
	Cancer health equity science concentration	
EPID 620	Cancer Epidemiology	
SBHD 612	Fundamentals of Cancer Health Equity	
SBHD 613	Community-engaged Research and Cancer Disparities (Cancer Health Equity Science concentration)	
• Electives (minimum)		
Select courses according to the area(s) of interest in public health; PHAR 508 and PHAR 511 and PHAR 530 satisfy 8 credits towards M.P.H. electives		10
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>186.5</b>

The minimum number of credit hours required for this dual degree is 185.5

## Plan of study

Students in the dual program spend the first three years (P1-P3) in the professional Pharm.D. curriculum. In the fourth year, they transition to the M.P.H. program to finish 37 credits of graduate coursework. In year five, students return to the Pharm.D. program to complete P4 rotations.

Students may also opt to complete 34 credit hours of didactic M.P.H. coursework in year four and finish the three-credit M.P.H. capstone project during the fifth year while completing the P4 rotations.

### Contacts

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**Program website:** [sph.vcu.edu/education/mph/dual-degree](https://sph.vcu.edu/education/mph/dual-degree) (<https://sph.vcu.edu/education/mph/dual-degree/>)