Admission Requirements

The MPH degree is awarded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). The MPH program generally follows the GSAS admission process.

Applicants must hold a minimum of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution (or qualifying foreign institution) in order to be considered for admission. Strong quantitative skills and computer literacy are vital to success in the program, and special attention is given to evidence of these abilities.

Applications should be submitted electronically to:

www.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/gradschool/admissions/index.html

For more information visit the program website at:

www.medicine.virginia.edu/clinical/departments/phs/degree_programs/mph

or contact:

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What is Public Health in the 21st Century?
As threats of infectious diseases and bioterrorism grow and the nation confronts chronic conditions such as obesity and substance abuse, leaders are needed in both the private and public sectors who understand the scientific, ethical, and political issues necessary to combat them. Public health professionals must work in partnership with communities, stakeholder groups, citizens and other professionals. They must assess the complex behavioral, social and environmental factors related to health in the community.

Public health professionals include epidemiologists, clinicians, lawyers, health policy analysts, environmental scientists, and health management experts, to name a few. Master of Public Health graduates from the University of Virginia are prepared for a variety of positions in health care, research, community health, and health policy and management.

The UVa MPH Program Mission
The program’s mission is to provide an interdisciplinary academic environment where students develop comprehensive public health knowledge, skills, and professional values; where students identify and pursue individualized educational and professional goals in research and practice; and where faculty and students collaborate with community partners on public health research and serve the community through public health interventions.

The Master of Public Health Degree at the University of Virginia
UVa’s MPH program provides graduate professional training in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies; health policy, law and ethics; and translational and community-based research and engagement strategies to improve the health of individuals and populations. Created in 2003, this individualized and interdisciplinary program draws upon the strengths of UVa faculty within the Schools of Medicine, Arts & Sciences, Nursing, Law, Business, Education, Public Policy, and Architecture, as well as the larger university community. The program has been accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 2006.

Tracks and Curriculum
Students choose one of two tracks:
- Research in Practice
- Health Policy, Law & Ethics

The 42-credit curriculum includes:
Courses in the five core areas of public health:
- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Health Policy
- Health Promotion & Behavior
- Environmental Health

Other core courses:
- Public Health Law & Ethics
- Practice of Public Health
- SPSS, SAS, and/or GIS
- Practicum
- Culminating Experience

And track-specific courses, including:
Research in Practice track
- Comparative Effectiveness
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Informatics
- Survey Methods
- Biostatistics II
- Epidemiology II

Health Policy, Law, & Ethics track
- Health Care Law
- Food & Drug Law
- Health Economics
- Global Health Policy & Practice
- Management & Quality of Health Care Organizations

Dual Degree Programs
- MD-MPH
- JD-MPH
- MBA-MPH
- MPP-MPH

Community Engagement for Research and Service
The MPH program values and supports collaborative efforts with community partners to work on public health projects and to serve the community through public health interventions. Students gain practical experience and the opportunity to apply public health skills and knowledge working with community-based organizations through their field placements and service.

Opportunities for field placements exist in many organizations, such as the Virginia Department of Health, Region Ten Community Services Board, local Free Clinics, the UVa Teen Health Center, the Centers for Disease Control, and in other U.S. and international locations. Students are also strongly encouraged to participate in service, which is an important part of the education of a public health professional and demonstrates commitment to public health’s core value of serving those in need.

The MPH Degree at the University of Virginia