



*The SCHOOL of MEDICINE
Department of Public Health Sciences*

Master of Public Health Program

A unique, individualized program in public health that prepares students with the quantitative research skills; interdisciplinary social and behavioral perspectives; and analytic foundations in law, ethics and policy to solve complex health problems at the community and population level.

The Master of Public Health (MPH) is a 42-credit, professional degree designed to provide health care and other professionals with an understanding of the public health sciences, population-based research, and the community practice of public health, as well as with the knowledge and skills that can be used in health care policy and management. The program was nationally accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health in 2006.

The MPH Program recognizes that tackling huge societal problems, such as obesity and diabetes, requires a public health approach – not only the most advanced medical care but also preventive care – to empower individuals to make healthy choices and engage communities in creating healthier places to live.

Graduates are generally prepared for roles in a variety of private, public, and regulatory agencies, in for-profit and not-for-profit health organizations, and in health services research. Degree concentrations are available in two areas: Generalist: Practice & Research; and Health Policy, Law, and Ethics.

MPH students complete courses in the five core areas of public health: epidemiology, biostatistics, social and behavioral sciences, environmental health, and health policy and management. In addition, students pursue advanced course work and field study on topics tailored to their particular interests, ranging from obesity and diabetes prevention to tobacco policy to global health disparities. They have the opportunity to work with faculty from across the University, drawing on the faculty expertise from the Schools of Medicine, Law, Nursing, Arts & Sciences, and others.

Division of Public Health Policy and Practice

The MPH Degree Program is administered by the Division of Public Health Policy and Practice in the School of Medicine's Department of Public Health Sciences. The division provides a unique home for faculty interested in multidisciplinary approaches to addressing the health needs of populations. It is comprised both of faculty members with primary appointments in the division and of others with secondary appointments who are based in departments and schools across the University and in public health departments and agencies in the community. Wide-ranging faculty interests include U.S. and international health policy; public health ethics and law; health disparities and vulnerable populations; community obesity interventions; community health needs assessment, women's health, and mental health.

Combined MPH Educational Programs

Joint degree programs are available through the schools of Medicine, Law, and Arts & Sciences. Students participating in the MD/MPH or JD/MPH degree programs will fulfill requirements for both degrees. In addition, a 5-Year BA/BS-MPH Program is available to select undergraduate students, who can begin their public health course work during their fourth year of undergraduate education.

Program Administration

Program administration includes Ruth Gaare Bernheim, JD, MPH, Director of the Division of Public Health Policy and Practice and MPH Program; and Kathy Nixon, Program Coordinator. For information about the MPH Degree Program, visit the program website at <http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/phs/mph/mpsprogramdescription.cfm> or contact:

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