Public Health at VCU:

• Offers innovative, rigorous educational offerings flexible enough to meet diverse student needs
• Provides a thriving transdisciplinary research base in which students will participate
• Works synergistically with state and local public health practitioners to provide opportunities for translating research to public health practice

Graduate public health programs include the MPH degree, with courses offered by the VCU public health departments. Dual MPH programs with medicine, pharmacy, and social work are available. VCU public health departments offer doctoral degrees in biostatistics, epidemiology, healthcare policy and research, and social and behavioral science.

For more information, please contact the public health chairs:

**Biostatistics:**
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**Division of Epidemiology**
**Family Medicine and Population Health:**
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**Located in the heart of Richmond**
Named one of Frommer’s Top Destinations for 2014, Richmond is located within two hours of Washington, D.C., the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean beaches. The city has many museums, historical homes and sites, a variety of cultural and educational centers, and sports activities.

Visit these web sites for information on:

**Graduate admissions:**
http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/

**Graduate program information:**
http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/

**Tuition and fees:**
http://accounting.vcu.edu/tuition/

**VCU academic calendar:**
http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu/

**VCU courses:**
http://bulletin.vcu.edu/azcourses
MD/MPH Dual Degree Program

The MD/MPH dual-degree program provides an opportunity for medical students to gain research skills and applied public health knowledge, graduating from medical school trained in both clinical and preventive, population-oriented medicine. Program graduates are prepared for positions in preventive medicine, primary care, academic research, federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, non-profit organizations, and community-based health centers and health departments.

The five-year program includes four years of medical school and one year of study in the MPH program. Students take a minimum of 36 credits of courses in the MPH curriculum, typically after the third year (M-III) of medical school. Course work in Population Health from the medical school curriculum is applied toward the MPH degree. Students must successfully complete all required course work to receive both degrees at the completion of the five years.

MPH Program Mission

The mission of the Virginia Commonwealth University MPH program is to engage students in an experiential, learner-centered environment, collaborate with public health partners in central Virginia to promote health equity and community wellness, and foster lifelong inquiry and discovery in inter-disciplinary, translational research that improves human health.

MPH Curriculum

Coursework includes biostatistics and data analysis, healthcare policy, social and behavioral health, environmental health, and public health ethics. Instruction in the core public health discipline of epidemiology is addressed in the MD curriculum. Students complete a minimum of 12 credits of elective courses that focus on areas of interest in public health, including epidemiological methods, social justice, gerontology, geographic information systems, and emergency preparedness. Students also must attend public health seminars and complete a minimum of 20 hours of community-based service-learning.

Research and Applied Public Health Opportunities

MD/MPH students engage in two credits of practicum, rotating through professional research-based or applied public health settings. Students satisfy the MPH internship requirement by completing a public health elective in the M-IV year. The MPH capstone project, the culminating degree project, may involve a hypothesis-driven research question or an applied public health project such as a needs assessment or program evaluation, according to student goals and interests. Public health faculty research programs offer a variety of research opportunities while long-standing relationships with the Virginia Department of Health and other community organizations offer opportunities for applied projects.

Application

Students usually apply to the joint MD/MPH program after they have enrolled in the VCU School of Medicine. Application to the VCU MPH program is through www.sophas.org. Applicants may submit MCAT scores in lieu of GRE scores.