

Department of Epidemiology and Community Health

Ranked among the top community health programs in the United States by U.S. News and World Report, the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health strives to improve community health and stresses community service. In addition to the Addiction Studies Track, the Department offers specialized MPH tracks of study in epidemiology and in environmental health, as well as a generalist track that offers a broad overview of public health for students who do not wish to concentrate their study.

For more information on general MPH requirements and application guidelines, please visit our website, www.epidemiology.vcu.edu, or contact:

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Mission Statement

The mission of the MPH program at Virginia Commonwealth University is to promote health and well-being through commitment to public health education, excellence in research, and dedication to community service.



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MPH/MS in Nursing

Public Health and Nursing

This dual degree program, offered by the Department of Epidemiology and the School of Nursing, provides students with a Master of Science degree in Community Health Nursing and a Master of Public Health degree. This 5-semester program meets the accreditation requirements of both disciplines. The program is designed to prepare students with the skills, knowledge and competencies necessary to conduct needs assessments of populations; perform program planning and evaluation; understand the effects of contemporary issues and health policies on the public's health; and provide care and services to prevent disease and promote and preserve the health of populations.

The program is open to students with any of the following credentials: 1) Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nursing; 2) Registered Nurse (RN) with a baccalaureate degree in another discipline; or 3) a baccalaureate degree in another discipline but not RN (admitted into the accelerated second degree program). The accelerated second degree program offers students who already have a baccalaureate degree to obtain a BS in Nursing in one year and an MS in Nursing in two years. Accelerated second degree students are required to take several additional core nursing courses.

All students enrolling in the dual degree program must meet admission requirements and prerequisites of both programs. Students apply to the VCU School of Graduate Studies and the applications will be forwarded to the School of Nursing for review. If accepted into the nursing program student applications

are sent to the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health for review. Students will be assigned advisors in the School of Nursing who have MPH degrees. Faculty from Epidemiology and Community Health will serve as preceptors for the MPH final research project.

Career Possibilities include program development and evaluation at a local health department, community nursing and advocacy and policy development and oversight.

Course plan for the dual-degree program

This program requires 64 credits, 31 nursing and 33 MPH. Additional MPH requirements are satisfied by nursing coursework.

Fall 1 Total Credits: 13

NURS 501 - Advanced Professionalization I (1)
NURS512 - Advanced Nursing Science (3)
EPID 600 - Intro to Public Health (3)
EPID 571 – Epidemiology I (3)
BIOS543 - Statistical Methods I (3)

Spring 1 Total Credits: 15

NURS 508 - Advanced Nursing Practice: Systems (3)
NURS 689 - Integrative Practicum (3)
EPID 605 – Health Behaviors (3)
EPID 606- Epidemiologic Methods II (3)
EPID elective

Summer 1 Total Credits: 9

NURS 503 - Advanced Nursing Practice: Psychosocial (3)
NURS 689 - Integrative Practicum (6)

Fall 2 Total Credits: 15

NURS 601 - Advanced Professionalization II (1)
NURS 655 - Nurse as Integrative Leader (2)
NURS 620 - Theoretical Perspectives of Community Health Nursing (3)
EPID 602 - Health Care Organization and Services (3)
EPID 604 - Principles of Occupational and Environmental Health (3)
EPID elective

Spring 2 Total Credits: 12

NURS 509 - Program Planning and Development (3)
NURS 689 - Integrative Practicum (3)
EPID 603 - Public Health Policy and Politics (3)
EPID 691 - MPH Final research project (3)

