

Emerging School of Public Health

VCU has a strategic plan to develop Virginia's first school of public health. We seek to develop a vibrant school of public health that :

- offers innovative, rigorous educational offerings flexible 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

In the midst of a rapid expansion plan, VCU is recruiting multiple faculty members in biostatistics, health administration, epidemiology, and social and behavioral health.

For more information, please contact the academic department chairs:

Biostatistics:

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Epidemiology:

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Health Administration:

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Social and Behavioral Health:

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Located in the heart of Richmond

Richmond is located within two hours of Washington D.C., the Blue Ridge mountains, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean beaches. Health Magazine named Richmond "The Healthiest U.S. City," citing medical facilities, clean air, recreational areas, and low cancer rates, and Money Magazine, Inc., named Richmond as "the Best Place to Live in the South" in its mid-sized cities categories. Richmond offers many cultural and educational centers, while still enjoying beautiful surroundings. The city has many museums, historical houses and sites, and cultural activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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School of Social Work

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MSW MPH Dual Degree

Combined degree in
Social Work (MSW) and
Public Health (MPH)



Combined degree in Social Work & Public Health

Through a collaborative program between the VCU School of Social Work and VCU Public Health, students complete a three-year full time program of study, including some summer course work, to obtain the Master of Social Work and the Master of Public Health degrees. The purpose of this dual degree program is to prepare graduates to work with individuals, families, groups, communities and/or organizations, advocate for social and economic justice in a diverse and multicultural society, and promote physical and mental health across the life course.

Admission to the MSW/MPH Dual Degree Option. Prospective students must apply to both programs independently, meet both sets of admission requirements, and pay two application fees to the School of Graduate Studies. While it is preferable for students to apply to both programs at the same time so that the structured dual degree curriculum can be followed to the student's benefit, application to the second degree program will be accepted during the first year of study in the other program.

MSW/MPH Degree Requirements. Students must complete a minimum of 78 semester credits leading to both degrees. Currently, the MSW program requires 60 credit hours and the MPH program requires 45 credit hours. **In social work,** dual degree students complete all 30 MSW foundation credits and 15 of the 30 MSW concentration credits. Public Health courses satisfy 15 credits that are normally required in either the clinical or social work administration, planning and policy practice concentration: two MSW electives (6 credits); the concentration research sequence (SLWK 706-706 or 714-715 for 6 credits), and a concentration policy course (SLWK 710 or 716 for 3 credits).

In the MPH Program, dual degree students complete a total of 33 of 45 required credits. The

generalist track requirements of EPID 603, Public Health Policy and Politics and SBHD 608, Health Communication, will be satisfied following completion of SLWK 602 and SLWK 606, Social Work Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I and II and SLWK 704 and 705, Clinical Social Work Practice I and II OR SLWK 712 and SLWK 713, Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice I and II. Students will be required to take EPID 691, Program Evaluation, and one to two public health electives. Students will satisfy the public health internship requirement with SLWK 793-794 or SLWK 795, Concentration Field Instruction (6 credits) in a public health-related setting approved by both social work and public health faculty members. During the third and last year of study, the School of Social Work places dual degree students in a field instruction placement focused

on public health and approved by the MPH Program Director. A final research project is completed through the MPH Program, with the guidance of a public health faculty advisor.

Advisement. Students are assigned an advisor from each program who will guide the student in the completion of the structured curriculum and in identifying combined social work and public health career opportunities.

MSW Waiver. Students can exercise the existing MSW waiver option for up to 9 foundation credits: SLWK 609, Foundations of Social Research and SLWK 601-610, Human Behavior and the Social Environment. These credits must be replaced with either social work upper level courses or public health core courses that will be planned and approved on an individual basis.

Sample Program of Study

Year 1 Fall	Spring	Summer
SLWK 601 Hum. Behav. I	SLWK 610 Hum. Behav. II	EPID 600 Intro. to PH
SLWK 602 Policy/Pract. I	SLWK 606 Policy/Pract. II	BIOS 543 Stat. Meth. I
SLWK 603 Social Justice	SLWK 609 Found. Research	SLWK703 Clin. Behav. (or Fyr2) for Clinical Concen.
SLWK 604 Micro Pract. I	SLWK 605 Micro Pract. II	
SLWK 693 Foundation Field Instr.	SLWK 694 Foundation Field Instr.	
Year 2 Fall	Spring	Summer
SLWK703 Clin. Behv.	SLWK711 Strategies	EPID Elective (or F/Syr2)
EPID 571 Prin. of Epidemiology	EPID 605 Epi. of Health Behav.	EPID Elective (or Fyr3)
EPID 602 PH Org. & Mgt.	EPID 606 Epi. Meth. II	
EPID 604 Prin.of Occ. & Env.Health	EPID 691 Program Eval. in PH	
Year 3 Fall	Spring	Summer
SLWK 704 /712 Conc. Pract. I	SLWK 705/713 Conc. Pract. II	EPID Elective
SLWK 793 Conc. Field Instr. I	SLWK 794 Conc. Field Instr. II	
EPID elect. (or Su Yr 2)	EPID 694 (if needed)	
EPID 694 PH Res. Proj.		
(Students choose either SLWK 703, 704 & 705 for the Clinical Concentration or SLWK 711, 712 & 713 for the Administration, Planning and Policy Practice Concentration; SLWK 793-794 is required for both concentrations.)		