

Public Health at VCU:

- 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

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 health.

For more information, please contact the public health chairs:

Biostatistics:

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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. Richmond offers many cultural and educational centers, while still enjoying beautiful surroundings. The city has many museums, historical houses and sites, a variety of cultural and educational centers, and sports activities.

Visit these web sites for more information

Graduate admissions:

<http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/>

Graduate program information:

<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/>

Tuition and fees:

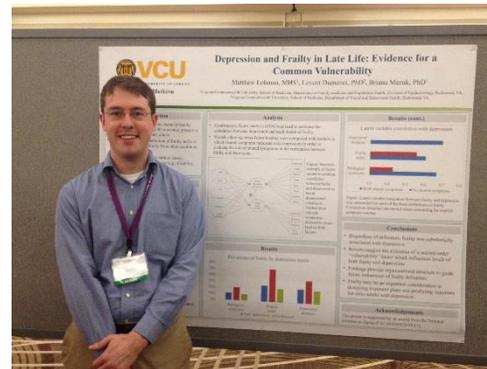
<http://accounting.vcu.edu/tuition/>

VCU academic calendar:

<http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu/>

VCU courses:

<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/azcourses>



Division of Epidemiology Department of Family Medicine and Population Health

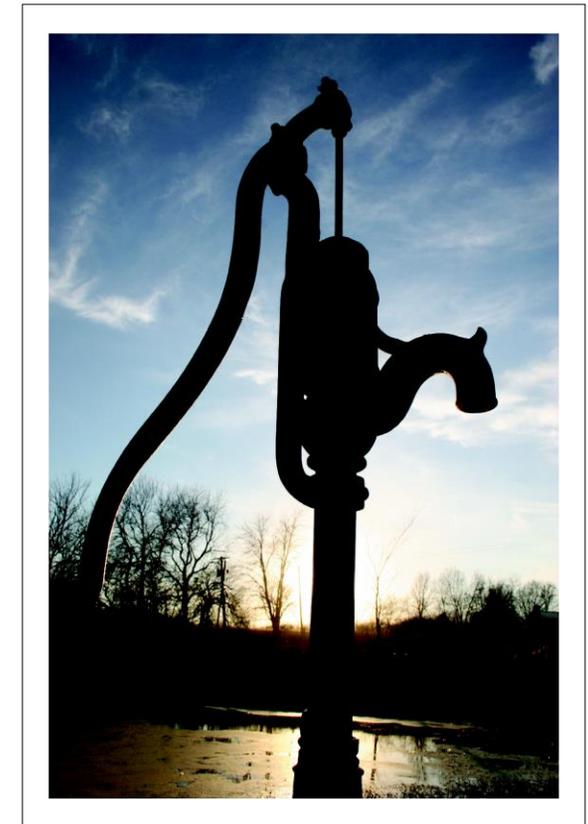
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Director of Educational Programs

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PhD in Epidemiology



Division of Epidemiology Department of Family Medicine and Population Health

VCU Medical Center
Virginia Commonwealth University

Frameworks grounding doctoral training in epidemiology at VCU

VCU embraces a new paradigm to understand population patterns of disease and indices of health and well-being. Using a framework that acknowledges that risk and causal factors are nested one within another with environmental factors, genetic factors, behaviors and social contexts, scientists at VCU face public health challenges of this century using a team science approach. By recognizing the complex web of causation, coupled with emerging understanding of the interaction of genetic and biological factors with social and behavioral factors, VCU offers doctoral training that includes complex conceptual models, analytic strategies, statistical methodology, and epidemiologic design. To address these challenges, VCU offers a redesigned, innovative strategy of training such epidemiologists that boasts:

- Doctoral training tailored to trainees' cumulative experiences on matriculation and career objectives
- Full-immersion approach
- Competency-based curriculum
- Solid epidemiologic methods foundation

Expected time-to-degree completion is 4 years. This doctoral program is fully funded, providing tuition, fees, and stipend contingent on satisfactory academic progress.

Research Programs

The Division of Epidemiology is seeking students interested in research agendas related to:

- Genetic epidemiology
- Maternal and child health
- Social epidemiology
- Traumatic brain injury

Upon matriculation, students will be linked to research working groups in their substantive area and will begin participating in research with the goal of significant contributions in manuscripts, grants, and technical reports. Early exposure to the research enterprise stimulates rapid student professional development. VCU's unique institutional culture of collaboration supports matrix programs which promote engagement of scientific inquiry across disciplinary boundaries, as well as center and institutional structures. These programs permit team science within a broader center structure which provides opportunities for the development of transdisciplinary research programs around broadly defined research themes. Examples include the Massey Cancer Center, the Center on Society and Health, the Institute for Women's Health, and the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics.

Admission Requirements

Students accepted into VCU's doctoral training program in epidemiology must embrace a collaborative style of learning, be committed to learning reflective practice, welcome a transdisciplinary approach to science, and accept non-traditional components to doctoral training in epidemiology such as leadership development. Applicants must have a master's degree in related field (e.g. MPH, epidemiology, sociology, psychology, biostatistics, etc.) Applicant requirements are:

- Official report of the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in graduate courses
- Personal statement that should include:
 - Research interests
 - Career objectives
 - Why VCU's approach to doctoral training is a good fit for you
- Three letters of reference
- Current CV or resume

Applications are through SOPHAS, www.sophas.org. A supplemental application to VCU Graduate Admissions is also required. Students interested in VCU's approach to training the next generation of epidemiologists are strongly encouraged to contact Lisa S. Anderson, MPH, Director of Educational Programs, publichealth@vcuhealth.org

Program Objectives

VCU seeks to:

- Develop scientists experienced in the use of state-of-the-art research methods for the purpose of advancing fundamental knowledge of issues central to the improvement of population health
- Cultivate public health professionals skilled in the communication of scientific knowledge
- Train scientists to optimally contribute as part of multidisciplinary teams
- Develop scientists equipped with leadership skills for the purpose of implementing transformative research programs, to influence health equity

Why VCU?

Selecting the right doctoral program for your educational needs and career objectives is critical. VCU wants to ensure an optimal fit for students. Consider the following highlights of VCU's training program:

- Careful match to advisor and mentoring team
- Goal setting, strategic mapping of educational program
- Support for membership in professional organizations and attending research meetings
- Annual student research seminar presentations
- Teaching assistant requirement for one semester
- Dissertation format – 3 first author, peer-reviewed publications
- Leadership development and leadership opportunities
- Community of learning

