NEVER A DULL MOMENT
Here’s what a few of our students are saying...

Abigail Cadua
“As an MPH student at VCU, I have the opportunity to network not only to the faculty members and students, but also to key stakeholders that play a significant role in the public health of Virginia.”

Tierah West
“I have always felt like faculty and staff care about me & are genuinely excited to support me and see me excel.”

Nadira C. Johnson
“One day you’re filling bags with condoms to help residents protect themselves against STIs, and another day you’re giving a presentation to community health workers so they can help community members navigate their health insurance forms.”

Nathan McCrea
“Discourse and debate are a theme of every course!”

Patrick Godette Jr.
“This program helped me realize that what I want to do not only for public health, but for my community, is make sure health findings are creatively communicated to all audiences.”

MD Website:
https://medschool.vcu.edu/education/md-program/

MPH Dual Degree Website:
https://familymedicine.vcu.edu/epidemiology/mph/dual-degrees/

Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
Division of Epidemiology
Virginia Commonwealth University
Box 980212
Richmond, VA 23298
Phone: (804) 828-9755

School of Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University
Box 980666
Richmond, VA 23224-2027
Phone: (804) 828-9788

Contact Us
Phone: (804) 828-9785
publichealth@vcuhealth.org
Why Public Health?
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 provide exceptional public health training; conduct cutting-edge, translational research; promote health equity and community wellness; and foster life-long inquiry and discovery that improves human health.

Program 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 9 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.

Who Should Apply
Students should apply to the 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. A supplemental application through VCU Graduate Admissions is also required.

- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores (taken within the past 5 years), with scores preferred at or above the 75th percentile in all exam components
- Undergraduate and any graduate transcripts with grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- 3 current letters of recommendation
- A curriculum vitae or resume
- A statement of interest in the MPH program

A background in biological sciences and statistics is helpful, but not required.

Unique Opportunities
MD/MPH students engage in 120 hours 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.

Dual Degrees
The MPH Program offers the following dual degrees: MD/MPH, MSW/MPH, and PharmD/MPH