"The combination of the MSW and MPH programs is a wonderful match, with each program complementing and building on respective strengths. As a result of completing this dual degree program, I feel confident in conducting research and data analysis as well as clinical practice and have great confidence for my future endeavors."

Benefits of Complementary Disciplines
Here’s what students are saying...

Nora Daly

"My favorite aspects of the program were the flexibility to complete a dual degree, the supportive faculty, and the many opportunities to collaborate with local community partners."

MSW Website:
https://www.socialwork.vcu.edu/programs/msw/

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) 828-9785

School of Social Work
Virginia Commonwealth University
Box 842027
Richmond, VA 23284-2027
Phone: (804) 828-1030

Contact Us
Phone: (804) 828-9785
public.health@vcuhealth.org

The MPH program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).
Why Public Health?
Public health and social work share a passion for health equity and social justice. Public health social work focuses on social health—solving problems and promoting healthy communities, engaging efforts across the human spectrum, from the individual to the community level. The discipline requires a skill set that includes research techniques, advocacy skills, knowledge of policy, and applied clinical and macro approaches.

Focus areas include substance abuse, successful child development, suicide prevention, maternal and child health, violence and injury prevention, immigrant and refugee issues, and hospital-based patient care coordination.

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 lifelong inquiry and discovery that improves human health.

Program Curriculum
This program requires 3 years of full-time study and a minimum of 81 semester credits leading to the MSW and the MPH degrees. Advisers guide the students in completing the structured curriculum and identifying combined social work and public health career opportunities.

Year 1 focuses exclusively on MSW foundation level coursework; year 2 focuses primarily on the public health curriculum. During year 3, students complete a social work field instruction placement focused on public health and approved by the MPH program director. Students also complete community service hours and a community-based MPH capstone project, working with a faculty advisor and a mentor from a professional public health organization.

MSW Requirements:
- 30 MSW foundation credits and 15 MSW concentration credits in the Clinical or the Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice concentration.

MPH Requirements:
- 36 MPH credits focusing on courses including epidemiology, biostatistics, public health policy, environmental health, social and behavioral health, and public health ethics

Who Should Apply
Prospective students must apply to both programs separately, meeting the admission criteria for each program. Note that MPH applications are through www.sophas.org with a supplemental application to VCU Graduate Admissions. MSW applications are through VCU Graduate Admissions. The MPH Program requires that applicants submit GRE scores. Students may apply to both programs simultaneously, but also may apply to the MPH Program during the first semester of the MSW Program. For more information, visit: http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/schoolmedicine/public-health-mpf-social-work-mswcombined/

What You’ll Get
VCU MSW/MPH program graduates are successful in finding relevant work after graduation. Here are some examples of alumni placement:

- Policy Specialist and Lead Navigator, Enroll Virginia, Virginia Poverty Law Center
- Ryan White Part B Program Manager, Health Brigade
- Comprehensive Harm Reduction Program Associate, Health Brigade
- Reproductive Health Unit Supervisor, Virginia Department of Health
- Education Director, Virginia League for Planned Parenthood
- Clinical Director, D.A. Wynne & Associates, Inc.

Dual Degrees
The MSW Program offers the following:
MSW/JD, MSW/Master of Divinity, MSW/Cert. of Aging Studies, MSW/Cert. of Gender Violence Intervention, MSW/Cert. of Nonprofit Management
The MPH Program offers the following dual degrees:
MD/MPH and PharmD/MPH