“I truly believe my experiences in the MPH program shaped me to become a competitive candidate and moreover a better pharmacist. I have gained numerous opportunities and I’ll be forever grateful to everyone who made an impact on me.”

Devki Gajera

“As a pharmacy student, I see public health as a beacon of light during this transition towards interdisciplinary healthcare.”

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Why Public Health?
The dual degree of Pharmacy and Public Health is designed for students who want to combine their expertise in the area of pharmaceutical care with the perspective of benefit to populations, not just individuals. The use and administration of drugs have an important impact on society. Pharmacogenetics and pharmacoepidemiology are receiving increased research focus, and the concept of targeting drugs to specific population groups is becoming a reality. Students in pharmacy should be aware of how these issues affect public health.

The program gives students the skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary to understand the needs 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 the health of populations.

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
Students in the dual degree program spend five years completing both degrees. After three years of Pharmacy school, they transition into the MPH Program to complete 36 credits of course work. During the fifth year, special advanced practice experiences in approved public health settings are completed.

Students complete a five-week rotation focusing on the intersection of pharmacy practice and public health. Student tasks could involve:
- Interning in a public health pharmacy
- Reviewing the state AIDS Drug Assistance Program
- Assisting the Virginia Department of Health’s Division of Immunization efforts and becoming familiar with influenza vaccination programs
- During the Virginia General Assembly legislative session, identifying, evaluating and following bills related to public health pharmacy
- Engaging in health education/promotion work at a free clinic

Who Should Apply
Students in their third year of the PharmD program apply by submitting an application through SOPHAS, www.sophas.org, and a supplemental application to VCU Graduate Admissions. Students may submit their PCAT scores in lieu of the required GRE scores. For more information on the application process, visit: http://bulletin.vcu.edu/professional-studies/pharmacy/pharmacy-pharmd-public-health-mph-combined/

What You’ll Get
VCU PharmD/MPH program graduates are successful in finding relevant work after graduation. Here are some examples of alumni placement:
- Pharmerit International, Medical Writer
- HCA StoneSprings Hospital Center, Pharmacist
- Evans Army Community Hospital, Community Pharmacist
- Johns Hopkins Medical Center, Community-based Pharmacy Resident

Dual Degrees
The PharmD Program offers the following dual degrees:
PharmD/PhD, PharmD/MBA, PharmD/Cert. of Aging Studies
The MPH Program offers the following dual degrees:
MD/MPH and MSW/MPH