VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH—M.P.H.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Increasing focus on foodborne illness, public health preparedness, antibiotic resistance, and zoonotic diseases has dramatically increased opportunities for public health veterinarians—professionals who address key issues surrounding human and animal health.
Adding an M.P.H. to your D.V.M. degree positions you to work at the interface of human wellness and animal health, spanning agriculture and food industry concerns, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health issues.

For more information about the Veterinary Public Health Program

Web site: www.php.umn.edu

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School of Public Health, Student Services Center, and application information and materials

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Unique Features

- You can earn a M.P.H. degree in the same four years as you complete your D.V. M.
- The M.P.H. is offered through a mix of online and in-person classes. Online courses are taken during summer terms before and during your veterinary curriculum. Attendance at two Public Health Institutes, held each summer at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities for three weeks in May/June, provides you the opportunity to earn up to 6–8 credits per session. The Public Health Institute is a unique opportunity for professionals from multiple disciplines to connect and immerse themselves in emerging public health issues.
- The program allows up to 14 credits of graduate or D.V.M. credits to transfer toward the M.P.H.
- You can pursue a D.V.M. at any accredited veterinary college, while pursuing your M.P.H. at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.
- Since this is a distance-learning, dual degree program, it is offered at resident tuition.

Curriculum – 42 credits

Basic Core Curriculum (21.5 credits)

- Public Health as a Team Sport: the Power of Collaboration *(PubH 6299, 1.5 credits)**
- Fundamentals of Social and Behavioral Science *(PubH 6020, 3 credits)*
- Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health *(PubH 6102, 2 credits)*
- Fundamentals of Epidemiology *(PubH 6320, 3 credits)*
- Biostatistical Methods *(PubH 6414, 3 credits)*
- Ethics in Public Health: Professional Practice and Policy *(PubH 6741, 1 credit)*
- Principles of Management in Health Services Organizations *(PubH 6751, 2 credits)*
- Master's Project: Public Health Practice *(PubH 7294, 3 credits)*
- Field Experience: Public Health Practice *(PubH 7296, 3 credits)*

* This course is offered over a weekend during the Public Health Institute, which takes place during May session.

Focus Area Curriculum (20.5 credits minimum)

Students select one of the following three focus areas for the elective curriculum. The focus courses are offered during the Public Health Institute.

- Food Protection
- Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
- Infectious Disease

The focus areas are designed for students to complete at least one class from each of the four public health practice domains as established by the Council on Linkages. The four domains are: public policy development using a systems framework; interventions based on the dimensions of community and culture; assessment and application of basic public health sciences; and program management and communications principles.

Eligibility for Admission

Eligible students must hold a baccalaureate degree with a preferred cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 point scale and be admitted to and in good standing in an accredited veterinary medical college.

Application Process

- Completed Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS) application and application fee, designating the U of MN School of Public Health
- Personal essay describing your past education experience and current professional career objectives.

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Requirements are subject to change for each incoming class, without prior notice to applicants. Contact a Major Coordinator for specific information. 9/08

- Résumé or C.V.
- Official transcripts of record from each college/university attended.
- Official GRE test scores
- Three (3) completed Recommendation Forms with attached letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess your academic work; clinical, public health or professional experiences; or leadership potential in public health

Application Deadline

The application deadline is January 15 to start the May/Summer term. Completed applications are reviewed beginning in mid-February by an admission committee. Applications are notified in writing by mail and email of the admissions decision.

Examples of M.P.H. Projects

- Communication methods used to inform Minnesota veterinarians regarding emergency animal health information
- Characterization of environmental factors that influence the evolution of antimicrobial resistance of E. coli and salmonella in water ways of rural Chile
- Critical control points for prevention of antibiotic residues in milk from the University of Minnesota CVM's transition management faculty
- Understanding noscomial infections in veterinary teaching hospitals
- Prevalence of salmonella in pet turtles in Michigan
- Rabies in MN: An evaluation of human and animal exposures, 1994–2004
- Modeling West Nile Virus (WNV) positive birds for forecasting human WNV cases, New York State
- Public health implications of the African bush meat trade
- The role of gender as it relates to avian influenza disease control and eradication efforts within the joint United Nations programs
- Cuddly cubs, adorable monkeys, and cute cats: Misconceptions of exotic pet ownership resulting in severe tragedies in the United States
- Compassion fatigue for volunteers at a crisis intervention center: Its causes, effects, and prevention
- Observational study of facility practices at petting zoos in Minnesota

Examples of Field Experiences

- USDA/APHIS Eradication of 2002/2003 Exotic Newcastle Disease Outbreak in California
  - see how emergency response to an outbreak would be organized
- State Board of Animal Health
  - observe the role of the Board of Animal Health in emergent animal diseases
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
  - gain a greater understanding of international veterinary public health
- Student epidemiology extern at the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC)
  - work on the front line using applied epidemiology to prevent disease
- Chronic Wasting Disease Sampling Program
  - learn tissue-sampling techniques for field extraction, proper record keeping, public relations with hunters
- County Public Health Department
  - focus on emergency preparedness issues at the local level
- The Humane Society of the United States–Rural Area Veterinary Services
  - provide sterilizations and vaccinations, and also educational services such as talks on disease prevention and pet care to rural communities around the globe
- State Department of Health
  - spend time with the state public health veterinarian, and understand the daily activities of the job and the role that a veteinarian can play within the Department of Health