

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH



The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/Master of Public Health (DVM/MPH) dual degree program combines the rigorous training of veterinary studies with a solid understanding of public health. The program is tailored to students who want to work at the interface of human wellness and animal health, spanning agriculture, food systems, emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness, and ecosystem, behavioral, community, and global health.

The University of Minnesota is the premier institution for integrated veterinary public health training.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The MPH degree requires 42 credits (up to 14 DVM credits can be applied toward the MPH degree). The program is predominantly online and is designed so students can earn a MPH degree in the same four years as their DVM degree.

In-person requirement

Students come to Minnesota at least once to participate in the Public Health Institute (PHI)—a three-week intensive session that takes place during May Term. PHI is consistently cited as a highlight of the program because it provides students from multiple veterinary programs a chance to meet, interact with, learn from, and often develop lasting networks with other health professionals.

COURSES

REQUIRED CORE COURSES/ACTIVITIES

- **PubH 6020** Fundamentals of Social & Behavioral Science (2 cr)
- **PubH 6102** Issues in Environmental & Occupational Health (2 cr)
- **PubH 6250** Foundations of Public Health (2 cr)
- **PubH 6320** Fundamentals of Epidemiology (3 cr)
- **PubH 6414** Biostatistical Literacy (3 cr) and 1 cr statistical programming course **or** **PubH 6450** Biostatistics I (4 cr)
- **PubH 6741** Ethics in Public Health: Professional Practice & Policy (1 cr)
- **PubH 6751** Principles of Management in Health Services Organizations (2 cr)
- **Applied Practice Experience** (2-6 cr)
- **Integrated Learning Experience** (1-3 cr)

ELECTIVES/TRANSFERS

- Maximum 14 DVM or graduate-level transfer credits allowed
- Balance of credits are taken at the student's discretion

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- **Expert education.** Students have access to expert U of M faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Public Health as well as guest lecturers and leaders in the field who work at government agencies, industry and commodity groups, and international organizations such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Strong connections.** Students come from 15-20 different AVMA-accredited veterinary schools, providing rich opportunities for community-building and peer-to-peer learning.
- **Cost and time savings.** All students pay resident-rate tuition for the MPH degree. Combining this model with transfer credits provides considerable savings in both time and tuition costs.

CAREERS

Increasing focus on zoonotic diseases, foodborne illness, public health preparedness, antibiotic resistance, the human-animal bond, and environmental health has dramatically increased opportunities for public health veterinarians. Students gain skills in holistic and population-based thinking and are well-prepared for a variety of positions within government (local, national, and international), industry, and veterinary practice.

A recent survey of our graduates revealed that the MPH is consistently a credential that sets candidates apart during the hiring process; new graduates who possess both the DVM and the MPH get job offers over candidates without the MPH.

ADMISSIONS

Applications are reviewed comprehensively, with great emphasis on the applicant's personal statement and career goals.

PREREQUISITES

All MPH/DVM students must have a bachelor's degree and be accepted to or be a current student at an AVMA-accredited college of veterinary medicine. Applicants are encouraged to begin the DVM/MPH program the summer prior to starting veterinary school; however, you are eligible to apply any time during vet school. Students who do not have a bachelor's degree, regardless of whether their veterinary school requires one, are not eligible for the dual degree MPH program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Applicants are encouraged to have interest in or experience with public health, including reasonable goals and/or expectations for integrating veterinary and public health training. Students should possess an open mind and the willingness to work cooperatively across the health professions.

POSITIONS HELD BY GRADUATES

American Veterinary Medical Association

Assistant Director, Division of Animal & Public Health

United States Army

Chief of Preventive Medicine & Veterinary Services

San Diego Humane Society

Shelter Veterinarian

USDA Center for Epidemiology & Animal Health

Epidemiologist

Hy-Line International

Technical Services Veterinarian

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Enteric Zoonoses Team (EZT) Lead

Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Senior Veterinarian

Wyoming Game and Fish

State Wildlife Veterinarian

Equine Community Practice, Purdue University

Clinical Assistant Professor



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