The Path of Distinction in Public Health (PoD) is a four-year longitudinal experience for medical students interested in learning more about how to effectively integrate public health into their careers as physicians. Students can focus on any area of interest, such as urban health, rural health, global health, health disparities or health policy.

The PoD is a six-credit public health enhancement of the medical curriculum. Students complete a 1-credit required course, 5 elective credits and a public health project. Students who meet the requirements of PoD will be recognized in their Dean’s letter, used for the residency selection process.

**Required Course**

Students take POP HLTH 712: Integrating Medicine and Public Health during the Fall semester of Phase I. This course increases awareness of the opportunities and strategies that physicians use to improve the health of the public—beyond the provision of clinical services to individual patients. Students will understand the role that physicians can play in public health—to improve the conditions in which their patients live, work, learn, and play.

**Electives**

Students complete 5 public health elective credits to complete the PoD. They choose from a large list of public health electives that are typically taken during Phases 1 and 3.

**Project**

During the summer of Phase 1, students engage with experienced faculty and staff to strategically devise projects that lay a foundation for developing public health skills. As a culmination of the PoD project, students complete a project summary that may include a scholarly paper and a poster and/or oral presentation. Students present their work at a relevant seminar or symposium.

**How to Apply**

First-year medical students apply to the PoD early spring semester of Phase 1, taking advantage of the program’s excellent advising for elective choice and summer projects. For more information, visit our website: [http://www.med.wisc.edu/pod](http://www.med.wisc.edu/pod)
The Doctor of Medicine-Master of Public Health (MD-MPH) Dual Degree Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health provides medical education that allows the exploration of the multifaceted relationship between medicine and population-focused health.

The MD–MPH dual degree is a five-year program that requires completion of all MD requirements and all MPH requirements. However, the curriculum is designed to maximize time spent in both programs. Several courses that can be taken during medical school count as electives towards the MPH.

How Does Tuition for the Dual Degree Work?
The MD–MPH Dual Degree Program uses a step-out model for tuition payment. Students pay medical school tuition while enrolled in medical school. Then when students “step out” of medical school for a year to complete the MPH Program, they pay MPH tuition. Scholarships are available to assist students in financing the MPH portion of their education, including the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association Perlson MD-MPH Dual Degree Scholarship that supports the tuition expenses for the MPH year for up to 6 MD-MPH dual degree students who have a strong interest in working with underserved populations in Wisconsin. Application for this scholarship must be submitted by February 1 of the calendar year the student will matriculate into the MPH program.

Required Coursework
MD-MPH students complete all 42 credits required for the MPH degree. This includes 20 credits of core courses and seminars, 3 credits of methods coursework, 13 credits of electives (up to 12 credits can be taken during medical school), and 6 credits of field experience. There is also a non-credit Capstone requirement.

How to Apply
Students may apply to the MPH Program at the same time as medical school or at any point after being admitted to medical school, preferably during the first year. Students are admitted to each program separately. Students complete the MPH Program between Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the medical curriculum. Matriculation into the MPH program is contingent upon the student remaining in good standing during medical school. Applications for the MPH Program are due on February 1. To apply, visit: apply.mph.wisc.edu.

Contact Us
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