The Path of Distinction in Public Health (PoD-PH) 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. The program provides students with additional public health didactics, experiential learning, and mentorship that supplements the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) ForWard curriculum and serves as a foundation for the UW SMPH MD-MPH Dual Degree program.

Students complete a one-credit required course and a one-credit public health selective, participate in a public health learning community, and complete a mentored public health project.

Course Work
Students are required to take POP HEALTH 712: Integrating Medicine and Public Health during the fall semester of Phase 1. 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. Students also must complete one additional public health elective during spring semester of Phase 1, and have the opportunity to choose from a large list of available public health electives.

Project
During the summer of Phase 1, students engage with experienced faculty and staff to strategically devise community facing projects that lay a foundation for developing public health skills. As a culmination of the PoD-PH project, students complete a project summary that includes a scholarly paper and oral presentation.

Learning Community
During Phases 2 and 3, students in the program will participate in the PoD-PH Learning Community. Students will have the opportunity to work with faculty mentors to develop and participate in sessions highlighting the key pillars of, and emerging topics in, public health.

How to Apply
First-year medical students apply to the PoD during spring semester Phase 1, in a process that is well-aligned with the MD-MPH application and POP HEALTH 712 assignments.

For more information, visit our website: 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. These merit-based scholarships are for students who have a strong interest in working with underserved populations in Wisconsin.

There are two scholarship programs available for financing the MPH year:
- Farrell Shapiro Scholarship – one given per year for up to $15,000
- Perlson Scholarship – up to six given per year for up to $10,000 each

Applications for these scholarships 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 have the option to complete the MPH the year prior to medical school or between Phase 2 and Phase 3. Matriculation into the MPH program is contingent upon the student remaining in good standing during medical school.

Contact Us
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or visit our website: med.wisc.edu/mdmph