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 elective, 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