

Doctor of Pharmacy/Master of Public Health Program

Program Description

For qualified students at the College of Pharmacy, Mercer University provides an opportunity to pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree concurrently with the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. The MPH degree is earned through Mercer's College of Health Professions (CHP).

The MPH degree program is designed to transform students into competent, passionate professionals ready to tackle the complex and dynamic challenges of public health in neighborhoods and populations in the U.S. and world. The MPH degree is designed to complement the Pharm.D. degree in a manner that will broaden the occupational and professional opportunities of the prospective graduate in community, industry, or institutional practice. The program has been carefully designed to permit concurrent pursuit of both the Pharm.D. and the MPH curriculum.

Program Outcomes/Objectives

The outcomes of the Pharm.D. degree program also apply to the Pharm.D./MPH Program. The MPH Program has been passionately committed to the educational development of public health professionals who are challenged to confront complex health issues, such as improving access to healthcare, controlling infectious diseases, and reducing environmental hazards, violence, substance abuse, and injury.

Admissions Requirements

In order to apply for admission to the MPH Program, a Doctor of Pharmacy student must have completed a bachelor's degree or 120 hours of college credit. At 120 hours of college credit, the Doctor of Pharmacy student is considered to have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in terms of a focused record of study.

Admission requirements for the MPH Program follow those outlined on the College of Health Professions MPH Program Admissions website (<https://chp.mercer.edu/admissions/admissions-requirements/>). MPH Program applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). At the time of application, students submit GRE scores and a completed application through the Centralized Application Service for Public Health (SOPHAS Express; <https://sophasexpress.liaisoncas.com/>).

Academic Advisement and Progression

Faculty in the College of Pharmacy and College of Health Professions provide academic advisement for students pursuing the Pharm.D./MPH Program. Students admitted into the Pharm.D./MPH Program are required to meet with the Director of the Public Health Program, or designee, to discuss the program requirements prior to enrollment in their first MPH course.

Pharm.D./MPH Program students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 and maintain good academic standing in the Pharm.D. Program throughout their enrollment in the MPH Program. Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or above in all public health courses.

While Doctor of Pharmacy students may opt to pursue the Pharm.D./MPH Program at any time during their Pharm.D. Program enrollment and can complete the MPH coursework at their own pace, they must maintain full-time status in the Pharm.D. Program and must complete the MPH Program within five (5) years of initial enrollment in the MPH Program.

Program Requirements

While completing the requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, students may take courses at the College of Health Professions toward the MPH degree. The prerequisite and core courses for the MPH degree are listed below.

MPH Required Courses (33 hours)

MPH 611	Principles of Epidemiology	(3 hours)
MPH 621	Basic Biostatistics and Health Measures	(3 hours)
MPH 631	Environmental Health	(3 hours)
MPH 641	Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	(3 hours)
MPH 652	Public Health Management	(3 hours)
MPH 675	Community Health Needs Assessment	(3 hours)
MPH 713	Health Systems and Policy	(3 hours)
MPH 721	Grant Proposal and Writing	(3 hours)
MPH 730	Introductory Program Evaluation	(3 hours)
MPH 739	Diverse Populations	(3 hours)
MPH 740	Health Equity	(3 hours)

MPH Program courses can be used to satisfy up to eight (8) professional-level didactic elective hours required for the Pharm.D. Program. This does not preclude students taking professional-level electives in the Pharm.D. Program, and students are encouraged to take advantage of elective courses offered by the College of Pharmacy that will further develop their knowledge and skills in specific areas within the field of pharmacy.

MPH Electives (6 hours)

Three (3) of the two (2) credit hour courses of the first professional year in the Pharm.D. Program will satisfy six (6) hours of electives in the MPH Program: PHA 305 Pharmacy Management, PHA 308 Health Care Delivery, PHA 309 Research Design and Literature Evaluation, or other courses approved by the program director.

MPH Internship (3 hours)

MPH 793	Applied Practice Experience	(3 hours)
---------	-----------------------------	-----------

Both Pharm.D. and MPH programs require students to complete service learning hours as part of each program's curriculum. MPH students are required to complete 40 service learning hours intended to improve public health and expand upon their existing public health skills and knowledge. Pharm.D. students must complete 70 hours of service learning to improve patient care and expand upon their patient caring skills. It is feasible for these hours to be completed simultaneously. With approval of the Director of the Public Health Program, an advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) may be substituted for MPH 793 Applied Practice Experience if the APPE has a public health emphasis.