

University of Arizona

College of Medicine - Phoenix

College of Public Health

*MD/MPH Dual Degree Program*

**Introduction**

The MD/MPH Phoenix Dual Degree Program is offered jointly with the University of Arizona Phoenix, College of Medicine and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus. The Dual Degree Program allows a student to earn a Doctor of Medicine (MD) and a Master of Public Health (MPH). The emphasis of the Dual Degree Program is on Clinical Leadership.

The MD/MPH program is designed to give students exposure to public health, prevention, and clinical issues they will face in practice, and provide a framework for problem solving and implementing effective health programs. Students can expect to acquire the skills needed to work effectively in a variety of clinical and public health settings. Examples of leadership positions that the Dual Degree Program prepares a student for include: medical director of a community health center, health officer of a state or local public health agency, global health physician, chief of staff of a hospital, and disease control specialist at a state health department or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of the fall of 2022 there have been 89 students at the Phoenix College of Medicine who have been admitted to the Dual Degree Program and 78 have completed both degrees successfully.

The required MPH courses and field experiences are coordinated with the MD degree in a way that enhances the learning in both programs and allows completion of both degrees in four years, or at a more relaxed pace of five years. Even if a student does not plan a public health career, the MPH will provide them with skills and knowledge that will add to their preparation for clinical practice and provide them with a population perspective to complement their clinical training. This manual describes the curriculum and administrative aspects of the Dual Degree Program including deadlines and requirements.

**Description of MPH Courses & Course Sequence**

The MPH degree consists of 42 academic credits as described in Table 1. There are 6 core courses with 16 curriculum credits required of all MPH students. These are all available online at different times. There are three courses that are specifically required for dual degree students, accounting for 10 credits. The remaining required credits come from the MPH Applied Practice Experience (APE) (5 credits), electives (9 credits) and 2 credits awarded for public health-related basic science material taught in medical school. Half of the course work (21 credits) must be in courses with grades (A, B, C, etc.).

Table 1: Courses Comprising the MPH Degree

* Core MPH required courses (16 credits)
  + PHPM 574\*(3) Public Health Policy and Management – Online Spring
  + HPS 577\* (3) Sociocultural and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health – Online Fall
  + EHS 575\* (3) Environmental and Occupational Health – Online Fall
  + BIOS 576a\* (3) Biostatistics in Public Health – Online Spring
  + EPID 573a\* (3) Basic Principles of Epidemiology – Online Fall
  + PHP 580\*(1) Integrated Learning Experience—Online Fall and Spring
* MD/MPH required courses (10 credits)
  + - PHPM 570\* (3) Issues and Trends in Public Health – Classroom Fall Year 1
    - PHP 572\* (3) Applied Public Health Practice (3)—Classroom Spring Year 1
    - PHP 696i\* (4) Clinical Leadership and Administration – Classroom Spring Year 4
* PHP 909 - APE/Master’s Report (5 credits)
* MD curriculum block with public health content (2 credits)
* Electives (9 credits)
* Total of 42 credits
* Those courses marked by an \*must be graded courses. The others can be taken as pass/fail up to 21 total pass/fail units.

**Course Sequencing**

There are a variety of possible ways to complete the MPH course work. The most optimal sequence of courses depends on several variables such as whether the student wants to complete the program in 4 or 5 years, and how many courses have been completed prior to starting medical school. The main factors to keep in mind are that three of the MPH core courses must be completed before starting the APE, no MPH core courses can be taken in the last year except 580, and any MPH courses taken in the summer results in extra tuition. The sequence described in Table 2 is the ideal sequencing for students opting for the four-year program. Students who want to pursue other options need to discuss this with the program director.

Medical School Year 1

* + Fall
    - PHPM 570 (3) Issues and Trends in Public Health – Live Online
    - 2 units from COM-P Block (MEDP 801)
  + Spring
    - PHP 572 (3) Applied Public Health Practice – Live Online
    - BIOS 576a (3) Biostatistics in Public Health – Online

Medical School Year 2

* + Fall
    - Choose 2 (if not taken here, must take in the Fall Year 3):
      * EPID 573a (3) Basic Principles of Epidemiology – Online
      * EHS 575 (3) Environmental and Occupational Health – Online
      * HPS 577 (3) Sociocultural and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health – Online
  + Spring
    - PHPM 574 (3) Public Health Policy and Management – Online Second 7-week Session
      * Full semester session of this course is not an option for MS-2 students
    - Complete MPH APE planning webinar and submit plan and paperwork for fall

Medical School Year 3

* + Fall
    - PHP 909 (2) APE/Master’s Report
    - Choose 1:
      * EPID 573a (3) Basic Principles of Epidemiology – Online
      * EHS 575 (3) Environmental and Occupational Health – Online
      * HPS 577 (3) Sociocultural and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health – Online
  + Spring
    - PHP 909 (1) APE/Master’s Report
    - Electives

Medical School Year 4

* + Fall
    - PHP 909 (1) APE/Master’s Report
      * Must be First 7-week Session of the course
    - Electives
      * 4th year rotations or First 7-week Session of a COPH graduate course
  + Spring
    - PHP 696i (4) Clinical Leadership and Administration – Classroom
    - PHP 909 (1) APE/Master’s Report
    - Electives
    - Present at APE Conference (early April)

**The MPH APE & the MD Scholarly Project**

The MD degree requires the completion of a scholarly project, which is planned in the first year of medical school and carried out during subsequent years. The completed scholarly project is presented to the medical school community in year 4 as a poster summary of the project and in a final written report describing the project and results in detail. A more detailed description of the scholarly project requirements can be found at (include website).

The MPH degree requires an Applied Practice Experience (APE) with an agency that works in the field of public health. The APE can be fulfilled in a well-defined time or part time, spread out over several years. A description of the activities is presented to the MPH faculty and students, and a final, written report is required that details the activities and learning experiences. APE requirements are described in a required planning workshop which is conducted each semester, which will be in an email to you once you are an official MPH student. A more detailed description of the MPH APE and requirements can be found on the Student Hub (MEZCOPH Intranet).

The scholarly project and the MPH APE can be two entirely different and unrelated activities, or they can be related, with the scholarly project serving as the first part of the MPH APE. If the two requirements are related, about 2 units of 909 credit will be awarded for the work completed on the scholarly project. That would leave 3 units to complete. Students should plan on spending 45 hours of time on an APE for 1 credit; 225 hours for 5 credits, 135 hours for 3 credits.

An example of the two requirements being linked was a scholarly project that explored the epidemiology of dual syphilis and HIV infections in Maricopa County and an MPH APE that involved working with the STD control program at the Maricopa Department of Public Health, attempting to reduce the impact of HIV and syphilis in men who have sex with men. Another example involved a scholarly project studying the enrollment in a registry for those volunteering to participate in a study on the prevention of Alzheimer’s disease and an MPH APE at the Alzheimer’s Research Center, helping to set up a national registry of interested research participants.

**Electives**

There are 9 credits of electives that need to be completed. This can be accomplished several ways, including:

* Any graduate level course offered by the College of Public Health at the University of Arizona
* Graduate level courses taken at another University approved by the Program Director. Up to 6 units of these credits can be transferred to the U of A.
* Clinical electives at the College of Medicine that have a public health component and that are approved by the Program Director for dual MD and MPH credit. The list of approved dual credit electives is frequently updated and is available from the Program Director. If an elective you are interested in is not on the list, discuss it with the Program Director.
* Successful completion of a College of Medicine Certificate of Distinction (3 credits).

**Application Process**

Medical students who want to enter the Dual Degree Program apply to the College of Public Health in the spring of their first year of medical school. Applications are due by April 1. The site to go to for further information & links for applying is: <https://publichealth.arizona.edu/graduate-students/admissions/how-to-apply>

The requirements for admission to the MPH program include:

* Official academic records from undergraduate and graduate institutions (3.0 GPA required)
* One course in college algebra or a more advanced math course
* Two letters of recommendation
* TOEFL or IELTS for international applicants
* Resume or CV
* Personal statement of experiences and goals

A medical student who applies for admission to the four-year Dual Degree Program must be in good academic standing in the College of Medicine, with no block or course failures or marginal performance in any course. Students who have had academic challenges in medical school and who want to complete both degrees can be considered for a five-year dual degree option, with the approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the College of Medicine.

A medical student who is already enrolled in the College of Public Health MPH program when admitted to medical school and who wants to complete the MPH degree while obtaining their MD degree should meet with the Dual Degree Program Director before or immediately after starting medical school to develop a plan to complete the MPH degree.

**Cost of the Dual Degree Program**

For the four-year option the cost of the MPH degree, which is in addition to the tuition and fees involved with the MD degree, is $1500 per year for 3 years (total of $4500) plus any course fees and additional tuition required for courses taken in any summer or winter session. The five-year option requires one additional year of graduate school tuition.

**How to Decide if the Dual Degree Program is for You**

If you enter medical school and become interested in the dual degree program but are not sure if you can and want to make the commitment to it, you should enroll in the Issues and Trends in Public Health class (PHPM 570) offered in the Fall semester. Participating in this class allows you appreciate how much extra work is involved while learning about current issues in medical care and public health. You might also locate and talk with dual degree students in the second, third and fourth years to learn about their experience. After completion of the Fall course, if you decide you do not want to complete the dual degree, that is fine. You will have learned a lot from the course. If you decide you want to complete both the MPH and MD degrees, you should enroll in PHP 572, Applied Public Health Practice, and BIOS 576a, Biostatistics in Public Health. For the Spring semester and apply for admission to the College of Public Health by the April 1 deadline.

**Deadlines**

There are some important deadlines to remember for those interested in applying to the Dual Degree Program including:

* Enroll in the Issues and Trends in Public Health class as soon as registration opens for the semester.
* Apply for the MPH program — April 1
* Registration for public health classes follows the University’s standard semester deadlines:
  + Go to these sites for calendars & other pertinent information: <https://registrar.arizona.edu/>
* Register for public health classes by contacting the MEZCOPH Director of Student Affairs – Phoenix, Kim Barnes, [kjf@arizona.edu](mailto:kjf@arizona.edu), Phone: (602) 827-2070
  + If you send an email, it should include your full name, student ID number, and course(s) requested.

**Key Faculty & Staff**

Doug Campos-Outcalt MD. MPA

Director of the MD/MPH Dual Degree Program

The University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Phoenix

[dougco@arizona.edu](mailto:dougco@arizona.edu)

Kim Barnes, MPH

Director of Student Affairs – Phoenix

The University of Arizona, Mel & Enid Zuckerman, College of Public Health

602-827-2070

[kjf@arizona.edu](mailto:Kim.barnes@arizona.edu)

**Appendix: Notes on D2L**

****

***D2L (Desire2Learn) basic instructions:***

Desire2Learn (D2L) is a web-based course management system designed to create a rich online learning environment for students. D2L is the ‘blackboard’ system of the university, and it allows “anytime”, “anywhere” access to syllabi, readings, multi-media files, electronic drop boxes, online quizzes, grading etc.

***Logging in:***

1. Go to <http://d2l.arizona.edu/>, in your browser.
2. Click on UA NetID Login
3. Log in using your NetID

***Course access:***

You’ll see ‘My Courses’ on the right side of page.

Your courses will automatically appear within a few days of registration.

Click the name of the course that you wish to view.

***Accessing course materials:***

When you are in the course site, you will see Content, Grades, Discussion, etc.

You can click the desired tab and you will see the material there.

***Tips:***

The browser 'Back' button does not work well if at all in D2L.

When exiting your D2L course, be sure to click on the Logout link AND close the browser window.

***Important links:***

Online help materials and tools go to: http://help.d2l.arizona.edu

If you need help adjusting your web browser or computer configuration to settings that are optimal for use with D2L, contact the [24/7 IT Support Center](http://the247.arizona.edu/)