

## PHARM.D./MPH DUAL DEGREE OPTION - FAQs

The Master of Public Health (MPH) offers diverse tracks in public health that build upon the strengths of campus to meet the practical needs of the public and health care practitioners who serve it. Specific specializations at NDSU include public health in clinical systems, health promotion, management of infectious diseases, and American Indian public health.

The MPH degree consists of 42 credits and can be completed in two years as a full time graduate student. Pharm.D. students are able to complete a Pharm.D./MPH dual degree with a public health in clinical systems or management of infectious diseases specialization in as little as one extra year of study. Pharm.D. students who are in good academic standing are eligible to apply for the Pharm.D./MPH program through the graduate school during their P2 year.

### **Why Public Health?**

Practitioners in our region have limited opportunities for advanced, practical public health training that focuses on the unique challenges facing this largely rural area that encompasses North Dakota and other Northern Plains states. There are many underserved populations living in the region that would benefit from expanded public health interventions. For example, the American Indian communities have typically been underserved and significant health disparities between this population and others have resulted. Overall, there is much to be gained from greater collaboration within the Northern Great Plains, and the education of public health professionals is a natural starting point to facilitate that collaboration.

### **Is the MPH accredited?**

Because the program is relatively new, it is not currently accredited, but obtaining accreditation is our top priority. We applied for accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2014. The accreditation process requires a minimum of three years of student data and a graduate in every specialization.

### **What are the admission requirements for the Pharm.D./MPH dual degree?**

You must be enrolled in the Pharm.D. program and in good academic standing. In addition to graduate school requirements (with the exception of the GRE which is waived for Pharm.D. students), the MPH Admissions Committee will invite selected applicants for an interview. Final decisions will be made after all interviews are completed.

### **How do I apply to the Pharm.D./MPH dual degree?**

You apply online during the spring semester of your P2 year through the Graduate School at <http://ndusndsugrad.askadmissions.net/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=application> and choose "Public Health". If you are a P1 student and wish to get started early, apply online at the above website but choose "Non-Degree" in the drop down box during the spring semester of your P1 year. This will allow you to take PHRM 632 for Graduate credit. Up to nine graduate credits can be taken as a non-degree student.

### **When can I start the MPH program?**

Applications are reviewed each year beginning in January through April for a fall semester start. You may also take up to nine graduate credits as a non-degree seeking student with permission of the instructor.

### **How much does it cost for MPH courses?**

Tuition and fees for MPH coursework is \$693.00 per credit for ND and \$822.00 per credit for Minnesota residents. <http://www.ndsu.edu/bisonconnection/accounts/tuition/>

### **Are there scholarships available?**

Yes. Express Scripts Scholars Program offers scholarships for Pharm.D. dual degree students. The program provides four (4) \$10,000 scholarships nationally each year to enrolled dual degree students. The awarded students are given \$2,500 per semester for four consecutive semesters, totaling \$10,000 over two years. For application instructions, please contact: [ExpressScriptsScholars@aacp.org](mailto:ExpressScriptsScholars@aacp.org).

The College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences has a limited number of scholarships and awards available for assistance to students. Applications for scholarships and awards are available February 1 of each calendar year on the college web page ([www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy](http://www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy)). Deadline for uploading the on-line scholarship application is the Friday before Spring Semester Break.

**NOTE:** Specific information related to criteria for selection of scholarship recipients is available in the Office of Advancement in Sudro Hall 120.

### **When are MPH courses offered?**

MPH core courses are generally offered in the evening to accommodate students who work. These courses are only offered in the Fall and Spring semesters. There are no summer core courses, although the MPH practicum may be done during summer. See the sample curriculum page for information on course offerings and schedules. Current students are encouraged to talk with their faculty advisors for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.

### **Does the MPH program accommodate distance learners?**

MPH students can take their courses on campus at NDSU or off-campus through live video broadcasts of classes.

### **Since I will not enroll in Phrm 555 IPPE III or Phrm 552L in the P3/Public Health year, do I still need to complete the required online trainings (e.g. HIPAA, HIPAA Security, NDSU Bloodborne Pathogen, Medicare Fraud, Waste & Abuse, Preventing Methamphetamine Abuse, etc.)?**

Yes. You will still need to complete the required trainings in the fall of your P3/Public Health year. In addition, you will need to be registered as a Pharmacy Intern in the state of North Dakota.

### **Can I take courses in more than one area of specialization?**

Yes, there is a list of electives in each specialization that are available to all MPH students. You are welcome to take additional credits if you are interested.

### **Can I change to a different specialization track after starting the MPH program?**

For change to a specialization at NDSU, there is an established application process. You must be in good academic standing within the MPH program and the admissions committee for the specialization you wish to enter must agree that your background is sufficient for the transition.

### **Where can I do my Practicum? Can the Practicum be done in another country?**

NDMPH has secured Practicum affiliation agreements with local, national, and global sites in public health. Students can also request a Practicum site without an existing affiliation agreement, but this must be done a minimum of 6 months in advance of the Practicum start date to ensure that a working agreement can be established. Practicums can be done in other countries as long as an acceptable agreement can be established beforehand. The Practicum must be advisor-monitored, and therefore, the advisor must approve the location, as well.

### **What are the hardware and software requirements for off-campus students?**

If you are calling-in from an off-campus location, other than an IVN classroom on a North Dakota University System campus, your computer will need to meet the following hardware specifications and have the following software installed.

#### *Hardware:*

- Working Webcam
- Headset

#### *IBM Minimum Requirements*

- 4GB RAM
- Windows 7 Basic or Above

#### *Macintosh Minimum Requirements*

- 4GB RAM

#### *Software:*

- Microsoft Office Software-you may purchase discounted software from the following:  
<http://www.ndsubookstore.com/MerchList.aspx?ID=21283>
- Adobe Flash Player installed
- Adobe Air Installed
- Minimum of 200 MB hard disk space available to run the Polycom CMA desktop video application

#### *Other:*

- Broadband connection of 1 Mg Download and 384kbps upload
- Test your connection speed by visiting  
<http://www.dakotacarrier.com/speedTest/index2.asp>

The results will show upload and download speeds from your personal computer to the state network. For good quality audio and video, the download and upload speeds should be a minimum of 384 Kbps.