

## Public Health at VCU

- offers innovative, rigorous educational offerings flexible enough to meet diverse student needs
- provides a thriving transdisciplinary research base in which students will participate
- works synergistically with state and local public health practitioners to provide opportunities for translating research to public health practice

In the midst of a rapid expansion plan, VCU is recruiting multiple faculty members in biostatistics, health services research, epidemiology, and social and behavioral health.

For more information, please contact the academic department chairs:

### Biostatistics:

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### Epidemiology:

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### Healthcare Policy and Research:

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### Social and Behavioral Health:

Laura Siminoff, PhD, [lasiminoff@vcu.edu](mailto:lasiminoff@vcu.edu)

### Located in the heart of Richmond

Richmond is located within two hours of Washington D.C., the Blue Ridge mountains, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean beaches. Richmond offers many cultural and educational centers, while still enjoying beautiful surroundings. The city has many museums, historical houses and sites, and cultural activities.



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# PharmD MPH



## Dual Degree in Pharmacy & Public Health

**VCU** Medical Center  
Virginia Commonwealth University

# M

## MPH/PharmD Dual Degree Program

The dual degree of Pharmacy and Public Health is designed for students who want to combine their expertise in the area of pharmaceutical care with the perspective of benefit to populations, not just individuals. The area of drugs in society is an important one. Pharmacogenetics and pharmacoepidemiology are receiving increased research focus, and the concept of targeting drugs to specific population groups is becoming a reality. Students in pharmacy should be aware of how these issues affect the health of the public.

The program gives students the skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary to understand the needs of populations; perform program planning and evaluation; understand the effects of contemporary issues and health policies on the public's health; and provide care and services to prevent disease and promote the health of populations.



# P

## Public Health: Why choose it?

The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is a professional degree that prepares students for careers in public health, a multi-disciplinary field dedicated to maintaining and improving the health of populations in communities, regions, and around the world. Pharmacists with public health knowledge may find such careers as:

- Pharmacist in the U.S. Public Health Service, at agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- State health department pharmacist
- Pharmaceutical researcher in the private sector
- Non-profit health advocacy analyst
- Academic researcher
- Community-based pharmacist

## What is involved?

Students in the dual degree program spend five years completing both degrees. After three years of Pharmacy school, they transition into the MPH Program to complete 36 credits of course work. During the fifth year, two pharmacy rotations are done in approved public health settings. Depending on the MPH specialty track selected, students may be required to take an additional course (3 credits).

# H

## Health & Pharmacy Rotation -

A five-week rotation with the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Division of Disease Prevention focuses on the intersection of pharmacy practice and public health.

Student activities include:

- Learning about a public health pharmacy
- Review of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program
- Work with the Division of Immunization to assist in immunization efforts and become familiar with influenza vaccination programs
- Planning and preparation activities with the VDH Emergency Preparedness and Response Program
- During the legislative session, identify, evaluate and follow bills related to public health pharmacy
- Other relevant public health related activities as appropriate

