

PhD students at UTMB have the opportunity to earn the **Master of Public Health degree** while enrolled in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. MPH training provides select students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to succeed in public health research and practice careers.

Public Health Is...

What we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.

Institute of Medicine (1988)

Our MPH Program includes coursework and learning experiences that prepare graduates to contribute to and apply the **evidence base supporting population and public health.**



MPH students were among participants in the UTMB-sponsored Field Epidemiology course in Peru during summer 2010. Pictured, students looking for mosquito larvae.

The **dual degree plan** combines MPH training with the doctoral degree program. Up to 12 credits in the student's doctoral curriculum may count as dual credits in the MPH Program. Student advisory committees will include MPH faculty members and the student's doctoral advisor.

To earn the MPH degree, students must complete **required courses** in the core knowledge areas of public health—biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences—and additional required courses relevant to public health practice and research.

Students select **elective courses** from among diverse offerings in the Population Health Sciences and other GSBS Programs.

The thesis project and the practice experience provide students with opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills obtained in coursework to **public health practice and research.**

MPH Degree Requirements

- 42 total credit hours
- Required courses
 - Biostatistics
 - Introduction to Epidemiology
 - Environmental Health & Toxicology
 - Health Policy & Management
 - Health Promotion: Social & Behavioral Approaches
 - Epidemiological Methods
 - Prevention & Public Health
 - Ethics
 - choice of:* Public Health Law
or Advanced Business Management
- Elective courses
- Capstone (applied) or thesis (research) project
- Mentored public health practice experience

PhD-MPH Dual Degree Program

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To complete the practice experience and research projects, students typically work with public health practitioners in community based settings such as governmental health agencies, nonprofit social service organizations, and health clinics providing care for the medically underserved. Students may also elect to conduct the projects in a public health research setting.

Our MPH Program originally was developed to serve the Preventive Medicine Residencies at UTMB. These MPH graduates have gone on to **successful careers** in academic medicine, aerospace medicine, occupational medicine, and governmental public health practice. The first cohort of MD-MPH students enrolled in academic year 2009-2010. The program opened to broader enrollment, including UTMB PhD students, in fall 2010.

Our graduate education environment provides a unique **interdisciplinary and interprofessional** experience for MPH students. Teaching faculty members come from a range of clinical and population health disciplines and have varied areas of research expertise.

Application for the PhD-MPH dual degree program is through the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). PhD students must have completed one academic year in the GSBS before applying to the MPH program.

To apply, doctoral students must complete the GSBS online application for the MPH, provide three letters of reference, and submit a current UTMB transcript. The application **essay and reference letters** should specifically address the student's interest in public health and ability to complete the degree. *One of the three letters must be from the student's doctoral advisor and must state that the student will be allowed the necessary time to complete MPH coursework and requirements.* Personal interviews with the MPH Admissions Committee will be scheduled.

The UTMB MPH Program is fully **accredited** by the Council on Education for Public Health. Graduates are eligible to become Certified in Public Health (CPH) through the National Board of Public Health Examiners.



MPH students participate in community health fairs and other public health service activities.