

# Dual Degree: Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and Master of Public Health (MPH)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Program is to prepare entry-level pharmacy practitioners to meet the healthcare needs of an increasingly diverse patient population, and to constantly strive to add to the knowledge base of the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling its educational mission, the school provides the environment, opportunities and stimuli for faculty, students and practitioners of the profession to learn, maintain and expand upon the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the patients they serve. The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is an interdisciplinary graduate degree in public health that provides coursework opportunities for students to obtain broad knowledge and basic skills in public health. The public health program focuses on rural and underserved populations, providing students with training in public health issues present in rural and underserved areas.

The purpose of the dual Doctor of Pharmacy/Master of Public Health Program is to graduate highly qualified health professionals who have obtained competencies necessary to succeed in the rapidly changing healthcare system. The dual program prepares students to enter a wide-range of pharmacy and public health positions that address today's most challenging population health care issues. A Public Health Pharmacist can be involved in advanced pharmacy practice, health policy development, emergency and humanitarian response, public health leadership, and much more.

Both programs integrate graduate-level critical thinking and analysis, problem solving, scientific inquiry, self-directed learning and the effective use of modern technology for professional practice that includes elements of research, leadership, education and continued enhancement of the pharmacy and public health profession. The dual program affords individuals interested in pursuing pharmacy and public health training a unique opportunity to complete both degree programs in five years, saving time and save money by completing both concurrently. The PharmD/MPH program is designed for students who are presently enrolled in or applying to pharmacy school.

## Admissions Criteria and Process for Dual PharmD/MPH Program

- Full-time student in good standing pursuing PharmD degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 during P1 Fall term.
- MPH application submitted in Spring of P1 academic year.
- Students should follow all application requirements outlined on the Graduate Public Health Admissions site.  
<https://www.su.edu/admissions/graduate-students/public-health-application-information/>
  - One letter of recommendation from current program SU faculty.
  - Personal statement that describes the applicant's education, experience, and professional career objectives (1500 word maximum).
  - Resume/C.V.

## Applying to Shenandoah

Begin the online application at  
<https://www.su.edu/health>

## Contact Us

Office of Graduate Admissions  
1460 University Drive  
Winchester, VA 22601  
[sugradadmissions@su.edu](mailto:sugradadmissions@su.edu) | (540) 665-4581

## Program Requirements

- The Doctor of Pharmacy courses listed below may not be taken out of sequence. However, most of the Master of Public Health courses may be taken in any sequence (except for PH 530, PH 700 and PH 701 which have prerequisites).
- Given the rigor and structure of the PharmD program, students will complete most of the MPH coursework, after completion of Year 4/Spring 4 in the PharmD program.
- Once the PharmD coursework is completed, students can continue the MPH coursework on either a full-time or part-time basis.
- For both programs, the required passing grade of “C” or higher must be received in each course. Additionally, maintenance of the required cumulative GPA in each program is required for satisfactory progression and graduation (3.0 for both programs).
- Policies regarding academic standing and graduation are contained in the graduate catalog as well as the *Pharmacy Program and Master of Public Health Student Handbooks*.

## Overlap of Credits Between Programs

The total credit overlap between the PharmD and MPH program is up to 19 credits. The courses and requirements that may overlap are illustrated in the table below. The selected overlap is in-line with each program’s requirements and also meets accreditation standards for both programs.

To view the entire PharmD curriculum please visit the [Shenandoah University Course Requirements](#) page.

## Sample Course Overlap and Timeline

### PH Substitutions for Pharmacy Requirements

Pharmacy Course	Credits	Semester	Public Health Course(s)	Credits	Semester
PHAR Elective 1	3	Spring 2	PH 510	3	Spring 2
PHAR Elective 2	3	Fall 3	PH 515	3	Fall 3
PHAR Elective 3	3	Spring 3	PH 525	3	Spring 3

### Pharmacy Substitutions for PH Requirements

Public Health Course	Credits	Semester	Pharmacy Course(s)	Credits	Semester
PH Elective I	3	Fall 2	PHAR 662*	3	Fall 2
PH Elective II	3	Spring 2	PHAR 669*	3	Spring 2
PH-700**	3	Spring 4	PHAR 816, 817, or 818**	3	Spring 4

\*Students can select another suitable 3 credit PharmD course to satisfy MPH electives with prior MPH Director approval.

\*\*This may count as PH 700 if the student addresses the necessary MPH competencies during one of these APPE rotations that they would address in an MPH applied practice experience. The option to use this clinical experience for the MPH degree must be approved by each student’s MPH advisor. If the clinical experience does not address the required public health competencies, then dual degree students will also need to complete the Applied Practice Experience (PH 700) in addition to their required APPE’s.