**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM**

The Mission of the NDSU MPH Program is to promote health and well-being in diverse populations with an emphasis on American Indian and other underserved populations by providing educational, practical, and research opportunities for public health professionals.

Public health is defined as the practice of helping members of society live healthier, longer lives. More specifically, public health focuses on improving the general health of communities through efforts to monitor the spread of diseases, initiatives (both clinical and policy-oriented) to prevent disease and disability, and by promoting healthy lifestyles through education and community engagement. Public health is both an art and a science. It is practiced by inter-professional teams whose members’ training spans a wide array of academic and vocational fields.

Of particular importance to public health in our state is determining how to meet the challenges of change and diversity within rural areas. Rural health solutions are essential to the well-being of North Dakota and to other areas of the nation and the world. North Dakota is an ideal location for rural public health research in addition to the application of practical solutions to health improvement for rural communities. Public health is an interdisciplinary field; it is common for many people to gain competencies and/or training in a related field (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, business, engineering, etc.) and subsequently move into public health as a matter of vocation or occupation. The MPH degree is uniquely designed to accommodate the needs to these individuals. It blends theory and practical knowledge across a wide array of disciplines, and is the “degree of choice” among practitioners in the field.

There are three specializations to choose from within the MPH degree at NDSU. The specializations of *Community Health Sciences* or the *Management of Infectious Diseases* are the most suitable for most pharmacists, as they prepare health professionals to integrate public health initiatives and policies within traditional medical models. It is designed to provide pharmacists and other health professionals with a better understanding of their diverse roles in public health.

For more information on the NDSU MPH program you can visit [www.ndsu.edu/publichealth](http://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth) or contact the Academic Coordinator/Lecturer, Stefanie Meyer, at Stefanie.meyer@ndsu.edu.

**PHARM.D./MPH DUAL DEGREE OPTION**

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. Specializations at NDSU include community health sciences, 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 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?**

Yes. The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) at its October 6-7, 2016, meeting acted to accredit the Master of Public Health Program at North Dakota State University for a five-year term, extending to December 31, 2021.

**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; the PCAT score can be used instead for Pharm.D. students), the MPH Admissions Committee may invite selected applicants for an interview.

**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 March through May 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 can be found here: <https://www.ndsu.edu/onestop/accounts/tuition/graduate_tuition_full_time/>

**Are there scholarships available?**

Yes. [Express Scripts Scholars Program](http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/financialaid/Pages/ExpressScriptsScholarsProgram.aspx) 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.

The College of Health Professions 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/healthprofessions](http://www.ndsu.edu/healthprofessions). Deadlines vary.

**NOTE:** Specific information related to criteria for selection of scholarship recipients is available in the Office of Development 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 completed during summer. 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 (IVN).

**Since I will not enroll in 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?**

Yes. 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. Contact the Academic Coordinator/Lecturer if interested.

**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.

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

The ability of a student to succeed in a distance education class depends on his or her ability to understand both the course structure and the associated technology. Informing students of what skills and technology are needed for distance education allows them the opportunity to self-evaluate their capability to succeed in the course.

At the time of admission to the program, students are required to ensure that their computers meet the minimum hardware and software requirements described below. Registration for the course constitutes the student’s understanding and acceptance of the requirements necessary to participate in the course.

*Minimum* *Hardware requirements:*

* Working webcam & headset
* 4GB RAM
* 1 GB available storage space
* Broadband connection of ≥ 1 Mbps download and 512 Kbps upload
	+ Connection speed can be tested at:

 <http://speedtest.dakotacarrier.com>

*Minimum Software requirements:*

* Windows 7 Basic (and higher) OR Macintosh OSX 10.7.4 (and higher)
* Microsoft Office
	+ Available for NDSU students for free at:

<https://www.ndsu.edu/its/software/software_licensing_program/>

* Adobe Flash Player (newest version)
	+ Available at: <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
* Mozilla Firefox (newest version)
	+ Available at: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>
	+ Additional course-specific software

A successful connection test is required at least 2 business days before the first class meeting date and each new network/location also needs to be tested before it can be used to connect to a class meeting (e.g. if you are traveling and are using a different computer or internet connection).