The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)/Master of Public Health (MPH) Dual Degree at Touro University California trains students concurrently enrolled in the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) to assume leadership roles in population-based care and to incorporate prevention in their clinical practices. The discipline of osteopathic medicine – with its traditional emphasis on treating the whole person, education, and prevention – is particularly well-suited to complement public health in its mission to improve knowledge and change behaviors on a large scale.

WHY A DUAL DEGREE?

- Increased knowledge of and sensitivity to the political, historical, economic and social environments of health promotion and health services delivery;
- Increase capacity to incorporate preventive practices into care of individual patients;
- Greater knowledge in the area of health policy and management;
- Opportunities for physicians who want to initiate change in managed health care, hospitals, and acute care centers;
- Planning, implementation, and evaluation of interventions to improve the health of a population;
- Ability to investigate outbreaks of disease or symptoms in a population.

Physicians with MPH degrees enjoy a wide range of career choices:

- Leadership positions with health departments, federal and international agencies, managed care organizations and healthcare providers, schools of medicine and public health;
- Performing clinical research;
- Planning and implementing disease prevention and control strategies;
- Consulting in global health research and programs.

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CURRICULUM

The MPH degree requires a 42-unit course of study, encompassing the five core areas of public health: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Health Policy and Management, Environmental Health Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. DO/MPH students complete 30 units of MPH coursework. The remaining 12 units are transferred from the DO curriculum and cover related cross-over content. Students gain depth through coursework in a chosen specialized public health track (Community Health or Global Health). In addition to the courses in the core areas of public health, the Community Health and Global Health programs of study are designed from the following track core courses:

COMMUNITY HEALTH TRACK

- Health Education and Promotion
- Health Disparities and Community Organizing
- Program Evaluation and Needs Assessment
- Research Methodology

GLOBAL HEALTH TRACK

- Essentials of Global Health
- Emerging Health Threats
- Global Reproductive Health
- Research Methodology

“As I am now at the start of my practice as a resident physician, my combined DO/MPH degree from Touro has given me the skills, knowledge, and experience to not only deliver health care to individuals, but to also incorporate promoting health and providing services at the community level. Further, the faculty and overall learning environment at Touro constantly encouraged me and supported me in working towards achieving my goals.

-Mayron Lichterman, DO, MPH (Class of 2010)

“My experience as a DO/MPH student has broadened my perspective on the field of medicine, such that when it becomes time for me to practice I will be able to treat, not only the person sitting before me, but the larger community of which we are all a part.”

-Kyle Stephens, OMS III
DO/MPH Candidate 2014
TO SERVE, TO LEAD, TO TEACH

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE / MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DO/MPH SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE

Summer Academic Session I (CHT & GHT)  
(Prior to Start of DO Program)  
Course & Number of Units

- PH 606: Health Education & Promotion (3—CHT)
- PH 607: Biostatistics (3)
- PH 608: Behavioral & Social Aspects of Public Health (3)
- PH 614A: Essentials of Global Health (3—GHT)
- PH 648: Environmental Health (3)
Total: 12 Units

Summer Academic Session II (CHT)  
Course & Number of Units

- PH 604A: Health Policy & Management (3)
- PH 618: Epidemiology (3)
- PH 619: Research Methodology (1)
- PH 620: Health Disparities & Community Organizing (3)
- PH 647: Program Evaluation & Needs Assessment (3)
Total: 13 Units

Summer Academic Session II (GHT)  
Course & Number of Units

- PH 602A: Emerging Health Threats (3)
- PH 604A: Health Policy & Management (3)
- PH 618: Epidemiology (3)
- PH 619: Research Methodology (1)
- PH 622A: Global Reproductive Health (3)
Total: 13 Units

Year 3 or 4  
Culminating Experience

- PH 623: Public Health Field Study (2)
- PH 645: Capstone (3)
Total: 5 Units

THE CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

This essential part of the curriculum is comprised of the Public Health Field Study and Capstone courses.

DO/MPH students are required to complete a 200-hour field study in a public health setting that integrates core skills and knowledge acquired during the Program’s didactic phase. This course also satisfies the COM research elective rotation requirement in the DO curriculum. The Public Health Program has successfully developed collaborations with local departments of health, community organizations and non-governmental organizations engaged in public health activities. These partnerships provide our students many sites from which to gain field study experience.

MPH students in the Community Health Track are required to conduct their field studies under the guidance of site preceptors and course coordinators at affiliated organizations. This provides students an enhanced understanding about how ideas concerning the promotion of health and well-being are translated into programs of action that benefit communities.

Students in the Global Health Track are required to conduct their field studies at any of the three international sites under the guidance of site preceptors and course coordinators: Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia.

The Public Health Field Study is followed by the Capstone Course – the integration of coursework and field experience. Students may choose a singular applied project, consisting of a formal written manuscript and public presentation; or a comprehensive exam demonstrating the student’s mastery of and ability to integrate core public health principles and to apply this understanding to issues that may confront public health professionals.

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