Overview of the DO/MPH Dual Degree
WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

• Public health focuses on populations: Assessing and monitoring health problems and/or implementing strategies to promote health and prevent disease in groups of people.

• Public health is an interdisciplinary field and professionals in many disciplines such as nursing, medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy routinely deal with public health issues. A degree in public health practice enables clinicians to apply public health principles to improve their practice. [www.asph.org](http://www.asph.org)

- A discipline that is less than a century old
- Over 40 accredited schools of public health and over 50 accredited public health programs today.
Historical Background

• Joint MSPAS/MPH
  o Began in 2002; 1st of its kind
  o Successful - Accredited by ARC-PA (2006)
  o Independent MPH began in 2007

• Why the Joint Degree?
  o Touro’s motto of “Social Justice”
  o Link between health and disease in populations as well as individuals
  o Community-based clinical training complemented by public health curriculum
  o Attracts 1000 applicants per 45 slots annually
  o Graduates earn on average $13K more than PAs without the MPH
Other Degree & Study Options

- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- PharmD/MPH Dual Degree
Advantages of a Dual DO/MPH Degree

- Increased knowledge of and sensitivity to the political, historical, economic and social environments of health promotion and health services delivery
- Assess health characteristics and risk factors in populations
- Plan, implement, and evaluate an intervention to improve the health of a population
- Incorporate preventive practices into care of individual patients
- Investigate an outbreak of disease or symptoms in a population
- Use appropriate data to formulate public health policy
- Conduct research and evaluate health outcomes
Advantages of a Dual DO/MPH Degree

- Greater knowledge in the area of health service administration provides opportunities for physicians to initiate change in managed health care, hospitals, and acute care centers.
- Focus on biostatistics and epidemiology provides skills for clinical as well as health services and public health research.
- Opportunity to broaden career options with valuable training in public health prior to residency and future practice.
Job Opportunities for Physicians with MPH degrees

- Planning and managing health systems, performing clinical research, determining the causes of disease, planning and implementing disease prevention and control strategies, and developing policy

- Leadership positions with health departments, federal and international agencies, managed care and other health provider organizations, schools of public health and medicine, and in the private practice arena

- Short-term global health projects as consultants and volunteers
DO/MPH Curriculum

Core courses: 15 units
Track Courses: 10 units
Field study: 2 units
Capstone: 3 units

30 units

*12 units transferred from DO curriculum

Total=42 Units
# Courses

## Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Beh &amp; Soc Aspects of PH</td>
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**TOTAL: 15 UNITS**

## Community Health Track (CHT)

<table>
<thead>
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<td>1. Health Ed &amp; Promotion</td>
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<td>2. Prog Eval &amp; Needs Assmt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Research Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Health Disparities</td>
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**TOTAL: 10 UNITS**

## Global Health Track (GHT)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>1. Essentials in Global Hlth</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Emerging Health Threats</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Research Methodology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Global Reproductive Health</td>
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**TOTAL: 10 UNITS**

## Culminating Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Field Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Capstone</td>
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**TOTAL: 5 UNITS**
**Recommended Course of Study**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Summer Y1</th>
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<th>Spring Y1</th>
<th>Summer Y2</th>
<th>Fall Y2</th>
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</table>
Community Health Track

- Prepare individuals for careers in community and public health organizations, within the framework of legal, ethical, moral and professional standards.

- Prepare students to identify the environmental, psychological, social, biological, and public policy factors that shape the health of individuals and populations.

- Prepare students to take action to ameliorate the factors that negatively influence health status and promote those that are health-enhancing.
Community Health Track

- Prepare students to respond to the health needs of communities, especially those communities that face unique vulnerabilities.

- Encourage the development of a life-long commitment to intellectual inquiry, self-directed learning, and professional growth.
Global Health Track

- Build capacity by ensuring that students who graduate from the global health concentration have the understanding, knowledge and ability to work on global health issues.

- Enable students to produce high quality collaborative research with partners in middle and low income countries to identify possible solutions to health problems in these settings.

- Study the international community, local government and civil society contribution in addressing global health issues and contribute in dealing with raising awareness and promoting global health perspectives.
Culminating Experience

Public Health Field Study:

- The Field Study provides students with practical experience in a public health setting.

- Overall Objective: Students will participate in the application and integration of the skills and knowledge acquired during their graduate didactic coursework.

- Only 200 contact hours required (vs. 400) - conducted over 6 weeks

- Satisfies COM Elective Rotation
Culminating Experience (cont.)

Over 60 CHT Field Study Sites:
- Located primarily in the SF Bay Area, some in Central & Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, and Washington State
- Northern California county health services and public health and departments
- Local hospitals, community health organizations, and research groups
- Non-profit and volunteer agencies

CHT Field Study Project Topics:
- Pediatric obesity management
- Health emergency preparedness and disaster planning for the internet
- Interventions on preventing the spread of the seasonal and novel influenza virus and general hygiene
Culminating Experience (cont.)

CHT Field Study Project Topics (cont.):

- Culturally based advocacy health policy change
- Planning for county-wide dental access for uninsured low income children with evaluation component
- Curriculum development for HIV/STD education for individuals enrolled in outpatient drug treatment programs aged 13-24
- Reporting Beta testing for national voluntary public health accreditation
- Vaccine program assessment and evaluation
- Zip code mapping of health indicators
- Organization and implementation of prevention campaigns, including media campaign, health promotion activity, and/or provider education
- Data analysis projects around breast cancer issues in Marin County
- Evaluation of issues affecting access to physicians (demographic characteristics, specialty distribution, mode of practice, etc.)
Culminating Experience (cont.)

Locations of GHT Field Study Linkage Institutions:

- BOLIVIA
- ETHIOPIA
- CAMBODIA

Selection of linkage institutions is based on:

- Need
- Safety
- Access
- At least 3 continents
Culminating Experience (cont.)

GHT Field Study Project Topics:

- Immunizations
- Nutrition
- Maternal & Child Health
- HIV/AIDS Control
- TB Control
- Malaria Control
- Health Education
- Obesity
- Environmental Health
Culminating Experience (cont.)

GHT Field Study Project Topics (cont.):

- Survey analysis of drug delivery system
- Epidemiological studies
- Control measures of infectious diseases
- In/outpatient services
Culminating Experience (cont.)

Program Partnership with Linkage Institutions in Ethiopia:

- Collaboration with Jimma University (2007)
- 10 rounds of students so far - over 40 students total
- Sites: AIDS Resource Center (Addis Ababa), Asendabo Health Center, Debre-Markos University and Health Center, Jimma University
- New site in progress at Jimma Health Center
Culminating Experience (cont.)

Program Partnership with Linkage Institutions in Bolivia:
- Partnership established in 2007
- Delay due to warning from the U.S. State Dept; warning cancelled by current administration in 2009
- In 2009 first group of students traveled to La Paz; three rounds so far - over 13 students
- Sites: United Nations Agencies - WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA; Non-governmental Agencies (NGOs) - OXFAM, CARE, Save the Children, Ayuda en Accion; Hospitals & Community Health Clinics
Culminating Experience (cont.)

- **Program Partnership with Linkage Institutions in Cambodia:**

- One of the poorest nations in Southeast Asia with high rates of morbidity and mortality and a history of genocide.

- Disparities and persistent health issues ranging from undernutrition to clean water to HIV.

- Students work with the Reproductive and Child Health Alliance (RACHA), a Cambodian non-governmental organization in the capital city Phnom Penh on local health projects related to water and sanitation, health care quality improvement, maternal, child and reproductive health, or other topics depending on the student's interests and the priorities of the organization.
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- Cambodia is one of the poorest nations in Southeast Asia with high rates of morbidity and mortality and a history of genocide. Though great strides have been made towards improving the nation's health and infrastructure, important work remains to be done to address disparities and persistent health issues ranging from undernutrition to clean water to HIV.
Culminating Experience (cont.)

Capstone Course:
- The field study is followed by the Capstone Course, which represents the integration of coursework and field experience via one of two options: (1) A singular applied project, consisting of a formal written manuscript and public presentation; (2) a comprehensive exam that demonstrates the student's mastery of and ability to integrate the core public health principles acquired and to apply this understanding to issues that may confront public health professionals.

- Projects are to be completed under the guidance of a faculty advisor and the course coordinator.

- Students are required to defend their projects before an advising and evaluation team of public health faculty.

- Examples of student capstones are available at the Public Health Program Offices.
Accreditation

- TUC: Regionally accredited by WASC
- MPH Program: Fully accredited for 5 years by CEPH effective 10/2009

Benefits of CEPH Accreditation:

- Assurance that the Program has been evaluated and meets accepted standards established by and within the profession.
- Assurance that our curriculum covers essential skills and knowledge needed for today's jobs.
- Promotes professional mobility and enhances employment and training opportunities for students in positions that base eligibility upon graduation from an accredited school or program, e.g., military health services, federal jobs, doctoral degree programs in public health.
Tuition

- $700.00 per unit (x 30 units=$21,000.00) - In the lowest 25\textsuperscript{th} percentile of cost per unit among accredited public health programs in the U.S.

- Advantages at TUC
  - Small class sizes
  - Mentoring programs
  - Flexible course scheduling
  - Application fee waived for dual degree applicants
  - No State mandate to enroll any particular percentage of in-State residents.
For More Information...

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