Doctor of Pharmacy/Master of Public Health (PharmD/MPH) Dual Degree
Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you offer the PharmD/MPH Dual Degree?

Increasingly, our understanding of health status encompasses factors that significantly impact the health of population groups. These include management and screening for infectious disease, epidemics, emerging diseases like H1N1 and SARS, environmental hazards, mobilizing governmental or community efforts to promote healthy behaviors and prevent diseases. Touro University California believes that by offering a degree in public health to future clinicians (physicians, pharmacists, physician assistants, etc.), individuals can play a critical role as leaders and practitioners in an era of rapid change and health care reform, addressing clinical and systemic health and public health issues in the United States and internationally.

Why should I be interested in obtaining the dual degrees?

In addition to enhancing your professional skills, the PharmD/MPH provides you with marketable skills desired by potential future employers. In a job market that is growing ever more competitive, augmenting clinical skills with a grounding in public health practices provides a definite advantage. Many of our most critical problems in the delivery of health care, e.g. health disparities, require interdisciplinary solutions and specially trained professionals.

The MPH is a 42-unit degree program. As a student in the College of Pharmacy, am I required to complete 42 units over and above those which I will complete as a pharmacy student?

No. Depending on which track you choose, you will be required to complete 30 units of MPH coursework. The remaining 12 units, which are comprised of relevant cross-over content, will be transferred from the PharmD curriculum towards the 42 units required for the MPH degree. Students will gain depth through coursework in one of two specialized public health tracks: Community Health and Global Health.
If I choose to declare for the dual degree, how should I organize my class schedule?

There are two scheduling options available for PharmD/MPH students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P1=Year 1</th>
<th>Summer Before Entry Into COP P1</th>
<th>Summer Between COP P1 &amp; P2</th>
<th>Summer Between COP P2 &amp; P3</th>
<th>Field Study – Open Block during COP P3 and/or P4</th>
<th>Capstone Course – Open Block during COP P3 and/or P4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 1</td>
<td>12 Units</td>
<td>13 Units</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td>12 Units</td>
<td>13 Units</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
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**Option 1** has been judged by both the College of Pharmacy and the Public Health Program to be the best way for students to earn their MPH while concurrently pursuing their PharmD. In this option, students will complete 12 units during the summer session prior to entry into the College of Pharmacy Year 1 (P1) and 13 units during the summer between the College of Pharmacy P1 and P2. Using open rotation blocks, which are available to all pharmacy students, the 2-unit Public Health Field Study and the 3-unit Capstone Course will be completed during the College of Pharmacy P3 and/or P4.

**Option 2** is offered to students who are unable to begin the Public Health Program during the summer prior to entry into the College of Pharmacy. In this option, students will complete 12 units during the summer session between the College of Pharmacy P1 and P2, and 13 units during the summer between the College of Pharmacy P2 and P3. Using open rotation blocks, which are available to all pharmacy students, the 2-unit Public Health Field Study and the 3-unit Capstone Course will be completed during the College of Pharmacy P3 and/or P4.

Is it possible for me to complete some MPH coursework during the Fall and Spring terms, concurrently with my pharmacy coursework?

No. Completion of the didactic portion for the MPH degree is limited to summer sessions and open blocks only, which ensures that students are able to gain the most benefit from each program.

What do I need to do in order to declare for the PharmD/MPH?

After you have been accepted to the College of Pharmacy and have secured your seat by submitting the required deposit, the process to declare for the PharmD/MPH is simple and only requires that you submit an application. To access the application, simply visit [www.tu.edu/PHadmissions](http://www.tu.edu/PHadmissions) then click on “Application for Admission.” As an incoming student in the College of Pharmacy, no application fee is required, so once you complete the application, you can either mail it to us or fax it to us at 707-638-5250.
You are not required to submit any additional documents at this time nor are you required to attend an additional interview. Your College of Pharmacy primary application and letters of recommendation will be copied into your Public Health Program Applicant file and the Public Health Program Admissions Committee will render a decision regarding your admissions status within seven (7) business days of receipt of your materials.

**I was required to pay a deposit for the College of Pharmacy. Is an additional deposit required for the MPH program?**

No. As an incoming student in the College of Pharmacy, you have already paid a deposit and no additional deposits will be required for the Public Health Program.

**I had planned to apply for financial assistance to cover my tuition and other education related expenses for the pharmacy program. Am I able to do the same for the public health program?**

Yes. Financial assistance up to the budgeted allowance is available for both programs. For assistance with financial aid, please email the Financial Aid Office at tuafinaid@tu.edu.

**Is there someone I can contact to get more information regarding the curriculum?**

For curriculum information, you may contact the Associate Program Director, Ms. Gayle Cummings, via email sent to gayle.cummings@tu.edu. For PharmD curriculum advice, please contact Dr. Patricia Shane (patricia.shane@tu.edu).

**Is there a specific deadline by which I must decide whether or not I want to pursue this option?**

The Public Health Program will accept applications until the classes fill, though it should be noted that there are a limited number of seats for dual degree students and those seats must be divided equally between both the College of Pharmacy and the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Additionally, a substantial number of seats must be reserved for independent MPH Candidates. For these reasons, the summer start tends to fill quickly, which means that if you are interested in declaring for the dual degree, especially for Option 1, it is suggested that you apply sooner rather than later, in order to secure your seat. If you change your mind between the time you declare and before classes begin, there is no penalty. You do, however, need to let us know so that we can give the seat to another student.