

FAST FACTS: MD/MPH Dual Degree



Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Public Health (MPH) Dual Degree Program

Overview: The University of Toledo (UT) Health Science Campus College of Medicine and the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (NOCPH) offer a Doctor of Medicine/Master of Public Health (MD/MPH) dual degree option. This option is intended for individuals who desire to combine MD education and training with a specific major in the MPH degree program.

Medical doctors (physicians) are educated and trained how to diagnose and treat various human diseases. Public Health professionals assess factors affecting health, critique and apply research findings and, in turn, develop strategies and implement various measures to promote health and prevent disease. Thus, integrated education and training toward the combined MD and MPH degrees complement and enhance each other and provide health care professionals with greater understanding of health issues and better tools to understand and prevent human diseases. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) published a recommendation that there be an increase in physicians with both MD and MPH degrees (Gebbie et al. 2003. *Who Will Keep the Public Healthy? Educating Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century*. IOM National Academies Press Washington, DC).

About the MD/MPH Dual Degree Program: The UT College of Medicine provides an outstanding education and training experience for students interested in becoming physicians. The four-year integrated curriculum in the College of Medicine prepares students with the knowledge, skill, and attitude to practice medicine in the supervised settings of post-graduate residency programs.

The MPH degree is offered by UT jointly with Bowling Green State University under the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (NOCPH). The 45-semester credit MPH degree prepares students to enhance public health in the community and to become advocates for disease prevention and health promotion. Health departments and other governmental agencies, consulting firms, public agencies and organizations, health care organizations, and industry employ Public Health graduates. The MPH program is accredited by Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH) and consists of five majors to choose from:

- **Epidemiology** – Graduates are prepared to quantify the distribution and establish the determinants of health problems by describing and analyzing the biological, environmental, social, and behavioral factors affecting health, illness, and premature death.
- **Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Science** – Graduates are prepared to address environmental and occupational health and safety issues from scientific, technical, regulatory and administrative perspectives to assist in the prevention and remediation (control) of human diseases resulting from exposures to hazardous agents.
- **Health Promotion and Education** – Graduates are prepared to assist communities, organizations and individuals in working towards a healthier society by using appropriate educational, behavioral, and social change strategies.
- **Public Health Administration** – Graduates are prepared to assume administrative roles in government and community agencies, health care facilities, and private industry.
- **Nutrition** – Graduates are prepared to advance knowledge regarding the role of nutrition in disease prevention and health promotion and the application of this knowledge to planning, managing, delivering, and evaluating nutrition services and programs.

Program Delivery: Courses for the MD curriculum are offered typically during daytime hours during years one and two. Hours for clinical rotations vary during years three and four. MPH courses are offered during evenings and on Saturdays. Medical students interested in pursuing the dual MD/MPH degree programs are encouraged to begin taking MPH courses part-time the Summer term between years one and two. They may continue simultaneously as full-time MD and part-time MPH students through year two. Year three of medical school should be delayed one year to permit full-time enrollment in the MPH program during the year between years two and three. Accordingly, the time commitment required to earn both degrees is typically five years.

For More Information Regarding the Dual Degree Option: Contact Dr. Brian Fink, Assistant Professor, UT College of Medicine Department of Public Health & Preventive Medicine, Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (419-383-4817, brian.fink2@utoledo.edu) and/or visit the MPH website at or www.nocphmph.org