

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
PharmD/MPH Program
Guidelines, Procedures, and Contact Individuals
Rev. 09/2023

Participation in the PharmD/MPH Program requires a systematic process and communication with a variety of key individuals within both the Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine. The following guidelines and procedures attempt to identify the important steps to follow and key individuals to contact to assure a successful matriculation through the program.

Program Administration

The PharmD/MPH Program is operationally administered by the MPH Program Director within the School of Medicine (see contact list below), although several School of Pharmacy faculty can provide guidance in certain areas. Students should contact these individuals based on responsibilities outlined in the contact list as necessary.

Initial Exploration

PharmD students interested in pursuing the MPH degree should contact a variety of individuals to discuss the value, content, and policies regarding the PharmD/MPH dual degree program, as well as pharmacists working in public health areas, recent graduates of the PharmD/MPH program, and PharmD students who are currently in the program. Students can also review literature about the role of pharmacists in public health and about topics of interest.

Integration with the PharmD Program

Because of the academic rigor and structure of both the PharmD and MPH Programs, students should not expect to complete both degrees within 4 years. MPH courses are completed during a step-out year, where the pharmacy student becomes a full-time MPH student just prior to their third year in the PharmD program, resuming full-time PharmD course work the following year (this 2-1-2 approach delays PharmD graduation by one year). Students should discuss advantages and disadvantages with both advisors.

Tuition

PharmD students pay for a total of 30 credits of MPH tuition to the School of Medicine during the step-out year.

Admission to the MPH program

PharmD students are encouraged to discuss their plans to apply with their PharmD academic advisors and SOP faculty listed below. PharmD students must meet the requirements articulated in the MPH Program's Handbook. Students typically apply to the MPH program during their second year. Application to the MPH Program is a separate process outside the School of Pharmacy. The admissions process is typically as follows:

1. Student reviews admission criteria and procedures on MPH program website
2. Student meets with SOP advisor to discuss plans to apply to the MPH program
3. Student meets with the MPH Academic Program Coordinator about the admissions process
4. Student retrieves application via MPH website, completes application and submits as per instructions
5. If admitted, student must notify SOP advisor and Student Affairs

Advising

In addition to having an academic advisor within the School of Pharmacy, PharmD students participating in the PharmD/MPH Program will also have an academic advisor within the MPH Program (typically a faculty member in the student's MPH Concentration). Students must meet with both their PharmD and MPH advisors at least once a semester to review their progress, discuss program issues, discuss career options, and develop their plans of study for both programs.

Registration for MPH Courses

Registration occurs separately in each school and is the responsibility of the student. To register, students must work with the MPH Academic Program Coordinator to register for the MPH courses. Students must also seek approval from their PharmD advisors before officially registering for the classes. Following standard School of Pharmacy registration

procedures, students must also complete the SOP Plan of Study and have it approved by their pharmacy academic advisor before registering online via SURFS. Note that PharmD students may not register for courses in other schools that are offered at the same time as their pharmacy courses.

1. Student meets with both PharmD and MPH advisors to discuss MPH Plan of Study
2. Student must list MPH course work on the PharmD Plan of Study
3. Student must turn submit PharmD Plan of study for approval to PharmD academic advisor via Portal
4. Student registers for PharmD course via SURFS
5. Student registers for MPH courses via the MPH Program Academic Coordinator

Public Health Practicum Experience

The public health practicum experience is a critical component to the PharmD/MPH Program. The practicum is a unique program tailored to the student’s interest and learning objectives. Thus, students are encouraged to start the planning process as soon as possible. Although the practicum is fulfilled following the completion of all MPH required course work, planning should start earlier in the program. The practicum may be integrated into PharmD student APPE rotations.

Students should first brainstorm possible ideas with faculty in both PharmD and MPH programs. Once an idea is conceptualized, students need to contact the MPH Practicum Director to make sure that the idea meets the requirements of the MPH practicum. At the same time, students should contact the School of Pharmacy’s Experiential Learning Office to make sure that their idea meets the requirements of the School’s Experiential Learning Program.

Pharmacy students can use one experiential elective to complete the capstone (likely APEX 424 Research or APEX 403 practice-based research), plus the pinnacle project (APPE 499).

The final learning objectives, activities, and experiences must receive approval in advance from both the MPH and PharmD programs for academic credit to be given. Students must remain in contact with both PharmD and MPH faculty as they refine the project and eventually complete the experience (report, presentation, etc.).

Contact Individuals for PharmD Students Participating in the PharmD/MPH Program

Role/Responsibility	Faculty/Administrator	School	Phone
MPH Program Director (for MPH program questions)	Dr. Diane Marie St. George	SOM	6-0206
MPH Director, Collaborative Initiatives (for MPH dual degree questions)	Ms. Kara Longo	SOM	6-7210
MPH Program Manager (for MPH admission & registration questions)	Ms. Andrea Manning	SOM	6-0539
PharmD/MPH Advisor (for career guidance)	Dr. Fadia Shaya	SOP	6-5392
Associate Dean for Student Affairs (for PharmD registration questions)	Dr. Cherokee Layson-Wolf	SOP	6-1067
Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning (for capstone coordination)	Dr. Agnes Ann Feemster	SOP	6-1495
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (for broad dual degree coordination issues)	Dr. Andy Coop	SOP	6-2029