

The Illinois DVM-MPH:

Two Degrees, Five Years,
Endless Career Options



WHY CONSIDER THE JOINT VETERINARY-PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM?

- **Superb Career Preparation:** By augmenting your excellent veterinary education with a grounding in public health and specific competence in epidemiology, biostatistics, and health policy, you expand your career options far beyond traditional clinical practice.
- **Saving Time and Money:** Through the joint degree program, the master's in public health can be obtained with just one additional year of study. You can be earning money as a veterinarian while completing the MPH, and you'll qualify for in-state tuition for the MPH.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES FOR THE MPH DEGREE

- Determinants of Public Health (4 hours)*
 - Analytic and Research Methods in Public Health Part 1 (3 hours) *
 - Analytic and Research Methods in Public Health Part 2 (3 hours) *
 - Public Health Systems, Policy, and Management (4 hours) *
 - Applied Practice Experience (3-5 hours)
 - Integrative Learning Experience (1 hours)
- * Denotes ability to complete online

Additional course requirements for the MPH include 6 semester hours of elective courses and 14 to 18 semester hours of required courses that vary according to the division chosen by the students for their MPH degree.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The joint DVM-MPH degree program allows Illinois veterinary students to complete, within five years, the requirements for both the professional veterinary medicine degree and the master in public health degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health.

Some of the MPH coursework (42 to 46 semester hours, depending on the division) will be completed during the DVM program, including through online courses. The fifth year of the program typically involves on-site courses in Chicago and concludes with a research-based capstone project (integrated learning experience). The year in Chicago provides a unique perspective surrounded by public health students in an urban environment with excellent support and mentorship.

Remote completion of the fifth year may be possible, depending on the division chosen and with approval of the program directors.

The default division for the MPH degree is Epidemiology and Biostatistics; other options include Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Health Policy and Administration.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERINARIANS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Health challenges posed by domestic and global zoonotic disease emergencies, climate change, environmental toxicants, threats to food safety, and the specter of bioterrorism demand a cross-disciplinary, collaborative approach.

Public health veterinarians are uniquely positioned to solve complex problems that demand effective policy development affecting multiple stakeholders.

Veterinarians trained in both medical and public policy fields have the skills necessary to analyze and integrate information, manage diverse teams, and implement solutions to public health problems.



How to Apply

First- and second-year Illinois veterinary students may apply by February 1 of the year they plan to enroll. For details, visit: vetmed.illinois.edu/dvm-mp/



► What Are They Doing Now?

“The DVM-MPH dual degree program built the foundation for my current career as state public health veterinarian in Arizona. Having an MPH opened so many doors and allowed me to pursue a fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I now investigate zoonotic and vector-borne disease outbreaks, analyze data, and participate in emergency preparedness and response activities.”



– Heather Venkat (IL DVM 2013)

“This program combined my interests in veterinary medicine and epidemiology at the human, animal, and environmental interface. The training has prepared me for my two-year experiential and service fellowship in the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

– Michelle Waltenberg (IL DVM 2018)

CAREERS

The joint DVM-MPH degree program prepares you for careers in:

- public health practice at local, state, and federal levels
- research in the private or public sectors
- a combination of private veterinary medical practice and consultative work at a local health department
- fields such as agriculture, food systems, emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness, and behavioral, community, and global health

POSITIONS HELD BY OTHER ILLINOIS DVM-MPH GRADUATES

Biosafety Manager

Food and Drug Administration

Chief of Staff

Banfield

Clinical veterinarian, Laboratory Animal Resource Center

Indiana University School of Medicine

Emergency Management Coordinator for Animal Health

Iowa Department of Agriculture

Health Services Manager of the Communicable Disease Unit

County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division



Questions?

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