
Who should apply for the Bachelor's/MPH dual degree?

Students from any undergraduate major are eligible to apply to the Bachelor’s/MPH program. Typically, students are in their sophomore or junior years when they apply. Students who apply must be ready to undertake graduate level work and be interested in pursuing a career in public health (or one with a strong public health component). Possible careers in public health are quite varied and interested students are strongly encouraged to seek advice from the Bachelor’s/MPH Dual Degree Program Director.

What are the academic requirements to complete the Bachelor's/MPH degree?

Complete requirements are summarized below:

- Complete all usual undergraduate requirements.
- While undergraduates, complete four graduate-level courses that will count towards the MPH degree. Two of these courses may also count for undergraduate course credit while two can be used only for MPH degree requirements.
- Complete a public health-related field experience. Possibilities for qualifying field experiences are very diverse and students should seek advice from the program director. This requirement may be fulfilled by students who have done previous work in a public health setting either internationally or in the U.S.
- Demonstrate basic competence in public health biology. Students should consult with the program director concerning acceptable courses as there are many choices both within and outside of the Biology Department. Alternative paths to satisfying this requirement, such as online learning tools, are also possible.
- Complete nine additional courses to finish the 13 credit MPH degree. MPH course credits are similar to Medford’s with 1 course = 1 credit.

Who is the Bachelor’s/MPH Director and how can I contact him?

Senior Lecturer Mark A. Woodin (Civil and Environmental Engineering) is the BMPH Program Director. Dr. Woodin was also the Director of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Concentration in the MPH Program from 2005-2012 and teaches courses on both the Boston and Medford campuses. Dr. Woodin’s office is at 113C Anderson Hall and he can be reached by email at Mark.Woodin@tufts.edu and by phone at 617-627-3640 or 781-454-7625.
What are the advantages of enrolling in the Dual Degree program?

Students save both time and money enrolling in the Bachelor’s/MPH track. Completion of both the Bachelor’s and MPH degrees in five academic years is the norm for dual degree students as opposed to six years (or longer) for students who complete their Bachelor’s and MPH degrees separately. In addition, by completing four courses towards their MPH degree while undergraduates, students save the tuition that would be associated with those courses if not taken in the dual degree program.

Will I earn the Bachelor’s degree and then the MPH or are both awarded after I’ve completed the requirements for both degrees?

As a dual-degree program, students first earn their Bachelor’s degree and only then are allowed to matriculate into the MPH Program on the Boston Campus.

If I am accepted into the BMPH Program and decide later that I want to withdraw, can I do so?

Students are allowed to withdraw from the program without penalty anytime in their undergraduate years. Students considering doing so must begin the process by seeking the guidance of the program director.

Is the Tufts MPH an accredited degree?

Yes. All of the MPH Programs at Tufts University (including the Bachelor’s/MPH) are fully accredited by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH), the official accreditation agency for all MPH degrees awarded in the United States. You can learn about CEPH, its accreditation procedures, and view all accredited MPH degrees here: http://www.ceph.org/

What does the field experience requirement involve?

The objective of the Bachelor’s/MPH field experience is to allow students to experience public health-related work prior to matriculating in the MPH Program. The field experience normally involves a position in a governmental, non-profit, human services, educational, or public health agency. A minimum of 120 hours of service is required. Since there are so many possible choices for the field experience, students should work closely with the program director when choosing a placement. In addition, students with previous significant public health field experience may be deemed to have fulfilled this requirement. Finally, all Community Health majors automatically fulfill this requirement by completing CH 180/181.
Do I have to come to Boston as an undergraduate to take MPH courses?

While there are many graduate-level Medford-based courses that can be used to count towards the MPH, Bachelor's/MPH students are expected to take at least one course in Boston while an undergraduate.

How do I cross-register for Boston courses and how many can I take each semester?

Usually, undergraduate students take no more than one MPH course in Boston each semester (up to the total of four allowed). To cross-register, Bachelor’s/MPH students should decide, in consultation with the program director and their academic advisor, which course they will take. A cross-registration form is available at: http://students.tufts.edu/student-forms

Exceptions to the one course per semester rule are possible. To take more than one course on the Boston Campus in any given semester, students should begin by seeking the advice of the program director as soon as possible.

How do I indicate which courses will count towards both my MPH and undergraduate degrees?

During the senior year, all Bachelor’s/MPH students fill out a form that is used by both the Boston and Medford Registrars. The form indicates which two courses the student will be reserving just for MPH credit. The student simply fills-in the two courses that will count only towards their MPH degree and the two courses that will count for both degrees. Students should complete this form in close consultation with both their academic advisor and the BMPH Program Director. The form is available here: http://students.tufts.edu/student-forms

Can I take summer courses that count toward the MPH degree?

Students in the Bachelor’s/MPH Program are not encouraged to take MPH summer courses while still undergraduates. There are both financial and academic reasons for this. Students considering taking an MPH summer course should consult with the program director before doing so. Important note: During the summer between completion of the Bachelor’s degree and the beginning of the formal MPH Program in Boston, students are highly encouraged to take MPH summer courses after consulting with the program director.

Is there any specific order in which I have to take MPH courses while still an undergraduate?

Most Bachelor’s/MPH students complete CEE-154 (or CEE/CH/ENV-54) as their first MPH course but there is no rigid order of courses that Bachelor’s/MPH students must follow. Instead, Bachelor’s/MPH students should select their four graduate courses after consultation with both the program director and their undergraduate major advisor.
What concentration areas are available and when do I choose my MPH concentration area? What happens if I want to change my concentration?

The Tufts MPH Program currently offers four areas of concentration: Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Nutrition, Behavioral Science and Health Communication, and Health Services, Management, and Policy. Students in the Bachelor’s/MPH Program can choose their MPH concentration area at any time. Further, students can change their MPH concentrations even as late as the final (fifth) year of the program. However, depending upon the concentration chosen and the courses already taken, it may be more difficult to complete the Bachelor’s/MPH Program in five years after a late change in concentration. Students uncertain of which concentration area they want and desiring maximum flexibility while in the program should note that there are courses that are required of all MPH students (called the Core Courses) regardless of concentration area. In all cases, the program director should be consulted whenever a student has questions about the concentration areas and their requirements. In addition, it is often very helpful to communicate directly with the Concentration Director in the area that the student is interested. For completeness, the names and email addresses of all four Concentration Directors are listed at the end of this document, along with other individuals, their roles in the MPH Program, and their contact information.

I would like to have more international-oriented MPH experience. Can I do this in MPH Program?

Yes. A Global Health focus is available for any Concentration. The focus requires the student to take one of two courses specifically designed to teach Global Health principles and to attend two Global Health focus workshops. Careful planning is always required for a student to work internationally under the authority of Tufts so students interested in the Global Health focus should identify themselves as early as possible so they can be assigned an appropriate mentor. Go here for more information:

https://publichealth.tufts.edu/graduate-programs/public-health/master-public-health/global-health-focus

I am interested in applying to the BMPH Program but would like to defer my last year of study in order to do something after graduation. Does this disqualify me from the BMPH?

Absolutely not. Students who finish their undergraduate degrees and wish to defer finishing the MPH need only notify the MPH Registrar of their intention to defer as soon as possible. Obviously, students who defer will not finish the program in the usual five years but this is not an issue from the point-of-view of the Program Director or MPH Program.

What factors are considered for admission?

The MPH program seeks students with a sincere interest in public health and readiness for graduate work. These attributes will be demonstrated by grades, extracurricular activities, the student’s personal statement, and recommendations. A discussion with the program director is also required as part of the application process.
Do I need to have completed any specific undergraduate courses before I can apply?

No.

How do I apply?

Tufts undergraduate students begin the application process by meeting with the program director. Students are encouraged to apply to the Bachelor’s/MPH program no earlier than October 25th of their sophomore year, but no later than March 20th of their junior year. First semester seniors wishing to apply to the program are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Bachelor’s/MPH application requirements:

- 3 letters of recommendation (two can be from non-academic sources)
- Personal statement (no specific length requirement)
- Tufts undergraduate transcript

Tufts students are not required to submit an application fee or any test scores. An Apply Now link with easy-to-follow instructions can be found at:

https://publichealth.tufts.edu/graduate-programs/dual-degrees/bachelormph

Contact the program director and/or Hannah Gesen (see below) if you have any problems/questions completing or submitting your application.

Important contact information:

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