Dual Degree Programs – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS:

1. What dual degree programs does UTSPH offer?  
   *(click on link below for more information about each program)*

   - JD/MPH - University of Houston Bates Law School
   - MD/MPH - The University of Texas Medical School at Houston
   - MD/MPH - The University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio
   - MD/MPH - Baylor College of Medicine
   - MD/MPH - Texas Tech University, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, El Paso
   - MGPS/MPH - The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs
   - MPAff/MPH - The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs
   - MS/MPH - The University of Texas School of Biomedical Informatics
   - MSN/MPH - The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston
   - MSW/MPH - University of Houston School of Social Work
   - MSSW/MPH - The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work
   - MSSW/MPH – The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work
   - MBA/MPH – The University of Texas at Brownsville School of Business
   - MBA/MPH – The University of Texas at San Antonio College of Business
   - PhD/MPH – The University of Texas School of Biomedical Informatics
2. **What are the application procedures for the dual degree program(s)?**

   Application to dual degree programs requires separate applications to the partnering school and UTSPH. These will be evaluated by each school separately. It is recommended that students apply to both schools simultaneously. All dual degree applicants who wish to enroll in the UTSPH must use the Schools of Public Health Application Service (www.sophas.org). Deadlines are Feb 1 for Fall admission and August 1 for Spring admission.

3. **If I get accepted at one school does that help me get accepted at the other school?**

   Acceptance at one school does not determine or influence acceptance at the other.

4. **Will I have to take the GRE to apply to the MPH Program?**

   All applicants are required to submit a GRE score in order to be considered for admission. Waivers are provided for those applicants to either the JD/MPH or MD/MPH programs who hold an offer of admission from the partner school at the time of application to the MPH program. We do not substitute LSAT or MCAT scores for the GRE. However, if students wish to be considered for incoming new student scholarship awards and have been granted a GRE waiver, students must submit their LSAT or MCAT scores in order to be considered for these awards.

5. **Who do I contact for questions about dual degree programs?**

   At UTSPH, contact Sylvia Salas, MPH, Director of Academic Affairs, at 713-500-9070 or via e-mail at sylvia.salas@uth.tmc.edu. She can direct you to the appropriate faculty coordinator and/or partner institution for the specific program.

6. **How much of the MPH can a student complete prior to transferring to a dual degree MPH program?**

   Applicants who have completed more than half of either program cannot qualify for dual degree admission. This is a general rule of thumb that applies to most dual degree
programs. If a student has completed most of one program or the other, it defeats the purpose of the dual degree experience. For example, for a student in medical school, they have to be admitted to the MPH no later than the beginning of MSIII year. For an MPH student, they should not have completed more than half (22 credits) of the required 45 credit hours for the MPH.

7. Can credit hours taken at the partner institution as a dual degree student be counted toward financial aid eligibility at UTSPH?

No

8. How do I transfer shared credit courses/hours from partner institution to UTSPH? Are there any forms required?

If a student takes the standard shared credit courses, there is no permission form needed. When the shared courses are complete, the UTHSC-H Registrar’s Office needs to receive a transcript that includes the shared credit courses so that an audit can be completed. In the case of the MD/MPH program in San Antonio, the UTHSC-H Registrar is prompted to request the transcript from the other Registrar’s Office.

9. Can I transfer credit courses/hours from another School of Public Health?

Yes. Up to nine (9) credit hours can be transferred from another School of Public Health. If the courses are replacing core courses, the student will need to complete a transfer of credit form and a waiver form which can be found on the student forms webpage https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/student-forms/.

10. How can I avoid paying for fees that do not apply to me (waiving fees – insurance, shuttle service)?

- **Insurance** – students must provide proof of insurance and submit waiver to the Registrar found at http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/rev_ae_site/stud_insure.html by the 12th class day of the semester. Students are automatically assessed an insurance charge
to their student fee bill for United HealthCare Insurance. To waive this fee you are required to show proof of current health insurance coverage through another provider by completing the information below before the 12th day of class for the Fall/Spring semester and the 4th day of class for the Summer semester of every academic year. Failure to provide this information before the deadline will result in forfeiting your option to waive the health insurance coverage and associated fee. Please note that it is not necessary to submit the waiver every semester, as after submitting the waiver in the fall and/or spring semester, the insurance fee will be removed from your bill for the remaining academic year.

• **Shuttle** – For students at regional campuses who will not use the UT Shuttle Service in Houston, a waiver must be completed and submitted. Where do they get the waiver and must it be submitted each semester?

11. **Will I have e-mail access at UTSPH while not enrolled in MPH courses, but enrolled at the partner institution?**

Dual degree students will be able to maintain their SPH email accounts as long as they provide documentation of their registration with the partnering program for the period of time that they are not enrolled with the UTSPH. This documentation can be in the form of a scanned copy of a tuition & fee bill. Also, students should ensure UTSPH Office of Student Affairs has an alternate email address on file.

**REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT**

12. **How much does the MPH program cost?**

The Tuition and Fee schedule for UTSPH programs can be found on-line at [http://registrar.uth.tmc.edu/](http://registrar.uth.tmc.edu/)

13. **How do I remove a hold on my account so I can register?**
Contact Tiaresa Carter or Kimberly Holmes in the Office of Student Affairs (713-500-9032) to determine what the hold is and how to address it. For further assistance, contact Sylvia A. Salas, MPH, Director of Academic Affairs, at 713-500-9070 or sylvia.salas@uth.tmc.edu.

14. **As a dual degree student, do I qualify for Financial Aid? At both institutions?**
   Yes. Students wishing to apply for financial aid should begin by completing the FAFSA application (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) and list both schools. Students can also apply for scholarships or traineeships, at each school separately.

15. **What scholarships are available to UTSPH dual degree students?**
   Current scholarships, along with application deadlines can be found on the UTSPH website at http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/current_students/financial_assistance/scholarships/. A very limited number of Outstanding New Student Scholarships are available to all incoming new students at the UTSPH. These awards are based on academic merit and the recommendations are made by the Admissions Committee at the time of admission.

16. **Is attending Orientation at UTSPH required?**
   Yes, attending orientation is mandatory. However, for certain groups of dual degree students who have conflicts and are unable to attend the scheduled orientation dates, alternate workshops and one-on-one meetings can be arranged.

17. **What does the MPH program curriculum look like?**
   MPH degree plans for each field of study can be found on the UTSPH website at http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/mph/.

18. **What fields of study are available to me as a dual degree student?**
Recommendations for the field of study / major will be based on the dual degree program (i.e., General MPH for MD students, Community Health Practice for nursing students, etc.). MPH degree majors can be found at http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/mph/ and http://whatispublichealth.org/.

19. Are courses available on-line?
Yes, each term there are core courses and select electives available on-line. New course schedules indicating method of teaching is available at http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/academics/course-information/. The entire degree program, however, cannot be completed via online classes.

20. What is meant by shared credit?
For each dual degree program, both institutions have reviewed and approved select courses from each program that will be counted as credit. For details on a specific program and/or course, please contact Sylvia A. Salas, MPH, Director of Academic Affairs at 713-500-9070 or sylvia.salas@uth.tmc.edu.

21. Is a thesis required for the MPH program?
A thesis is one of five culminating experiences options available. The options are:

a. A written paper that presents an inquiry into a public health issue or problem. This paper may take many forms including, but not limited to:
   - Traditional research thesis
   - Systematic review of the literature
   - Policy analysis or practice issue
   - Practice-based report

b. A capstone course.
Details are available at http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/culminatingexp/.
22. What medical schools does UTSPH partner with to offer the MD/MPH Program?

- The University of Texas Medical School at Houston
- The University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio
- Texas Tech Health Science Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine (El Paso)
- Baylor College of Medicine (Houston).
- A program with UT Southwestern is still in development.

GRADUATION

23. If I graduate from another UTHSC-H school within the same semester of graduating from the School of Public Health, will I be required to pay both graduation fees?

Yes. All UTHSC-H schools’ require that a graduation fee be paid separately to each school.

OTHER INFORMATION:

24. Who should I contact for other questions not on this list?

Linda Lloyd, PhD, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, 713-500-9163
  linda.e.lloyd@uth.tmc.edu

Sylvia A. Salas, MPH, Director of Academic Affairs, 713-500-9070
  sylvia.salas@uth.tmc.edu

25. Where can I get more information about a public health and the MPH degree?

Visit these web sites:
  www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/
  www.asph.org
  www.whatispublichealth.org