

# Master of Public Health and Physician Assistant Dual Degree at Arcadia University

*Global Perspectives...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences*

## Coordinators

Andrea Crivelli-Kovach, Ph.D., M.A.,  
MCHES, Professor and Director of  
Community and Global Public Health  
Programs, College of Health Sciences

Michael Dryer, Dr.P.H., PA-C, Chair and  
Director of Medical Science Department,  
College of Health Sciences

## Dual Degree Program

**Master of Public Health and Master of  
Medical Science (Physician Assistant)**

## About Arcadia's Dual Degree Program in Public Health and Physician Assistant

With dual degrees, students gain knowledge in two fields as they prepare for their professional careers.

Arcadia's College of Health Sciences has nationally recognized healthcare, science programs that make the world a laboratory by providing real-world, integrative learning experiences. Graduate programs use evidence-based research and project-based learning to prepare healthcare professionals for a rapidly changing global environment. Applied and pro bono clinical research, clinical rotations, public health internships, international fieldwork, and multicultural assessment are threaded through the curricula. Graduate students also conduct research and publish with expert faculty in many fields.

Dual-degree candidates must be accepted into each of the programs in order to pursue dual degrees: *Master of Medical Science (M.M.S.)* and *Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)*.

This dual-degree program prepares graduates for leadership roles in meeting community health care needs in today's rapidly changing medical environment. The master's degree program in Medical Science (M.M.S.) is

designed to produce graduates who are well-equipped to deliver high-quality, cost-effective primary healthcare in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices and other community settings. The Master of Public Health degree focuses on population health and includes the disciplines of epidemiology and biostatistics with an in-depth fieldwork thesis project oriented toward a student's primary area of research interest

This dual-degree option in Public Health and Medical Science prepares students to integrate their knowledge of public health, along with program development, implementation and evaluation skills, to their training as Physician Assistants for work in medical settings and within community centers.

Arcadia has one of the largest Physician Assistant programs in the nation, with campuses in Glenside, Pa., and Christiana, Del. Arcadia utilizes the region's medical communities for diverse clinical experiences and offers opportunities for service learning in international settings.

Course requirements and sequencing are available by contacting the Director of the program. The three-year program encompasses 154 total credits, and students study year-round, including summer terms and clinical rotations. Three four-week clinical rotations are elected from among cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, dermatology, forensic medicine, neonatology, neurology, orthopedics, radiology, rehabilitation, and trauma surgery.

## Admission to the Master of Public Health Program

In addition to the general admission requirements for graduate students, the following program-specific requirements must be met:

1. A completed graduate application including personal statements, to be

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- completed online at [www.arcadia.edu/gradapp](http://www.arcadia.edu/gradapp).
2. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better in the major course of study.
  3. One official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the appropriate signatures and seals to be considered official.
  4. Three letters of recommendation, at least one from a professor (if a recent graduate) and one from a health professional.
  5. Test scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), taken within the last five years. Test scores are not required for students with an earned graduate degree in a related field.
  6. Knowledge of the profession through work or volunteer experience.
  7. International applicants should visit [www.arcadia.edu/international](http://www.arcadia.edu/international) for detailed information on admission requirements and application procedures. TOEFL/IELTS results are required for all students for whom English is a second language or who have not earned degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.
- [www.caspaonline.org](http://www.caspaonline.org).
2. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better.
  3. One official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the appropriate signatures and official seals. **Please send transcripts directly to CASPA.**
  4. Students must have completed the following prerequisites:
    - a. Biological Sciences—five lab/lecture courses from a biology department, to include Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology. Biochemistry is recommended.
    - b. Chemistry—four lab/lecture courses from a chemistry department, to include Organic Chemistry.
    - c. Psychology—one course; Developmental or Abnormal Psychology is highly recommended.
    - d. Statistics—one course.
    - e. Humanities—five courses; a course in Ethics or Medical Ethics is highly recommended.
  5. Three letters of recommendation. Ideally, one from a professor and one from a practicing licensed physician or physician assistant.
  6. Test scores from either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), taken within the last five years. (Arcadia's GRE code is 2039.) These tests are required for all applicants, including those who already have a graduate degree.

## Admission to the Physician Assistant Program

1. A Physician Assistant application to be completed through CASPA at

8. Students must meet the minimal technical requirements for admission, continuation and graduation The technical standards are posted on the program Web page at [www.arcadia.edu/pa](http://www.arcadia.edu/pa).

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9. An interview is required and is by invitation only.

10. International applicants should visit [www.arcadia.edu/international](http://www.arcadia.edu/international) for detailed information on admissions requirements and application procedures. Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for all students for whom English is a second language except for non-native speakers of English who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.

11. Arcadia performs a holistic review of each student's application. Students with exceptional clinical experience may have one or more prerequisites waived. The program does not allow students to waive courses, nor does it admit students with advanced standing. However, students who have withdrawn or who have been dismissed from the program can be readmitted and granted credit for courses they have completed successfully.

## Expenses

Tuition and fees for the dual-degree program are billed in equal increments over the program's nine semesters. Information on current costs is available at [www.arcadia.edu/finaid](http://www.arcadia.edu/finaid). Financial aid is available to assist qualified students in covering tuition and related expenses, as well as living costs. Upon review for admission, students automatically will be reviewed by the academic department for a limited number of merit scholarships. Additionally, students can apply to receive up to \$20,500 annually through the Federal Direct Stafford Loan at a fixed interest. In addition to the Stafford Loan, students can choose to borrow either a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan or a private alternative student loan to cover remaining expenses. Graduate assistantships also may be available to those who qualify. For more information on available financial aid and

how to apply, visit [www.arcadia.edu/finaid](http://www.arcadia.edu/finaid) and click on Graduate.

## Requirements for the Dual Degrees in Public Health and Physician Assistant

(154 total credits, with 6 shared credits)  
**Master of Medical Science** (Physician Assistant) (118 credits)  
**Master of Science in Public Health** (42)

### First Year

#### Summer (12 credits)

PBH 501	Social Determinants of Health and Disease (3 credits)
PBH 510	Health Care Systems (3 credits)
PBH 530	Theories of Health Behavior and Health Education (3 credits)
PBH 640	Research Methods and Design in Public Health (3 credits)

### First Year

#### Fall (12 credits)

PBH 560	Issues in Community and Environmental Health (3 credits)
PBH 600	Introduction to Epidemiology (3 credits)
PBH 630	Program Planning and Evaluation for Health Professionals (3 credits)
PBH Elective	Elective Course in Public Health

### First Year

#### Spring (12 credits)

PBH 620	Introduction to Biostatistics (3 credits)
PBH 645	Program Evaluation in Public Health (3 credits)
PBH 689	Public Health Internship (3 credits)

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PBH 694 Pre-Public Health  
Capstone Research  
Project Seminar I (3  
credits)

PA 563 Geriatrics/Psychiatry (4  
credits)  
PA 564 Internal Medicine (4  
credits)  
PA 565 Women's Health (4  
credits)  
PA 566 Pediatrics (4 credits)  
PA 567 Surgery (4 credits)

**Second Year  
Summer ( 16 credits)**

Professional Practice (1)  
Human Gross Anatomy (5)  
Microbiology and Immunology (3)  
Mechanisms of Disease (6)  
Pharmacology & Therapeutics I (1)

PA 577-579 Electives (total of 12  
weeks)

Three elective four-week clinical rotations from  
the following (12 credits):

Cardiology  
Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Dermatology  
Forensic Medicine  
Neonatology  
Neurology  
Orthopedics  
Radiology  
Rehabilitation  
Trauma surgery

**Second Year  
Fall Semester ( 28 credits)**

Evidence Based Practice (2)  
Professional Practice II (1)  
Physical Diagnosis I (5)  
Pharmacology and Therapeutics II (3)  
Clinical Diagnostics (4)  
Medicine (8)  
Community Health and Wellness (2)  
*PBH 695 Public Health capstone  
Research Project Seminar I  
(3 credits)*

PBH 689 MPH Internship (3 credits)  
this is a required MPH  
internship done in  
conjunction with a PA  
Elective Rotation. MPH  
Internship is completed at  
this time if not done during  
Year 1 in the MPH  
Program.

**Second Year ( 30 credits)  
Spring Semester**

Mental Health (3)  
Professional Practice III (1)  
Pharmacology and Therapeutics III (3)  
Physical Diagnosis II (5)  
Medicine II (2)  
Obstetrics/Gynecology & Pediatrics (4)  
Emergency Medicine (3)  
Surgery (3)  
Clinical Decision Making (3)  
*PBH 696 Public Health Capstone  
Research Project Seminar II  
(3 credits)*

**Third Year**

(Summer, Fall and Spring, 48 weeks)

Core Rotations: (1 week = 1 credit)

PA 561 Emergency Medicine (8  
credits)  
PA 562 Family Practice (8 credits)