

Master in Public Health Doctor of Dental Medicine Dual Degree Program

MPH/DMD dual degree program guide



A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF GRADUATE HEALTH STUDIES

ATSU

ATSU Mission Statement

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences serves as a learning-centered university dedicated to preparing highly competent professionals through innovative academic programs with a commitment to continue its osteopathic heritage and focus on whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, interprofessional education, diversity, and underserved populations.

College of Graduate Health Studies Mission

The College of Graduate Health Studies is a student-centered online school, focused on academic excellence and innovation. We are dedicated to preparing leaders in the health professions for socially responsible practice, policy, and research to improve prevention, wellness, and access to care.

College of Graduate Health Studies Vision

The College will be the preeminent online school for leaders in the health professions. We will provide a contemporary and flexible curriculum that empowers our students to translate knowledge to meet the growing needs of domestic and global health and wellness.

College of Graduate Health Studies Values

Leadership: We value leadership development for our students, faculty, and staff and encourage participation in community and professional service.

Integrity: We value the highest ethical principles of fairness and honesty in all of our interactions.

Scholarship: We value critical thinking and the generation of ideas through innovation and analysis.

Diversity: We value differences among people and their personal and professional perspectives.

Interprofessional education: We value the combined contributions of our educational community and work to achieve an environment of teamwork and collaboration.

Innovation: We value a continual and aggressive push to develop new and efficient mechanisms for learning, teaching, and technological delivery.

Department of Public Health Mission

The MPH program's mission is to prepare public health professionals for leadership to advance public health, promote individual and community health and well-being, and decrease health disparities locally, nationally, and globally.

Department of Public Health Vision

The MPH program will be the preeminent online program for leaders in the public health profession. We will provide a contemporary and flexible curriculum that empowers our students to translate knowledge to meet the growing needs of domestic and global health and wellness.

Department of Public Health Values

Leadership: We value leadership development for our students, faculty, and staff and encourage participation in community and professional service.

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From the Chair



Thank you for considering CGHS's MPH program. Our courses use real-life examples and contemporary literature to immerse you in public health. To borrow from the ATSU Mission Statement, the MPH program is innovative and focuses on public health education for and about the whole person, and how that person fits within their community. Whether you work in a community health center, health department, educational facility or non-profit organization – or desire to work in any of these settings – what you learn will be of practical value in your work place or in your career. The skills you learn can be applied now to help you make a better tomorrow for the community in which you live.

You will complete your entire curriculum from your hometown – no travel is required at any time during your coursework. All courses are online, enabling you to balance your professional and personal life with your education.

Please join us as you interact with other students and faculty members, exploring public health concepts and issues based in contemporary and past research and practice. Learn also from the experiences of an institution with a 119-year history of whole-person healthcare.

Mike Jackson, PhD, MPH

Professor and Chair, Public Health

A.T. Still University

Established in 1892 by the founder of osteopathy, A.T. Still, MD, DO, ATSU began as the nation's first college of osteopathic medicine and has evolved into a leading university of health sciences. Today, ATSU is comprised of six schools: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona, Arizona School of Health Sciences, Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, College of Graduate Health Studies, and Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health.

ATSU offers more than 20 master's degrees across allied healthcare disciplines; doctorates in health administration, health education, physical therapy, health sciences, and audiology; the doctor of dental medicine (DMD); and the doctor of osteopathy (DO).

College of Graduate Health Studies

The College of Graduate Health Studies (CGHS) offers master's degrees in health administration and public health; and doctoral degrees in health administration and health education. CGHS educates and prepares current and future professionals for management positions in a variety of healthcare settings via comprehensive online programs.

Curriculum

CGHS's online master's degree in public health with a dental emphasis prepares students who have an interest in the dental industry for leadership in the field of public health. This online, 64-credit-hour program, in conjunction with ATSU-Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health's innovative DMD curriculum, meets the needs of the busy dental student wishing to expand their education beyond private dental practice. Three of the 15 courses required for a MPH are shared with the ASDOH curriculum, leaving only 12 courses to be completed online through CGHS. This program integrates web-based instruction, directed readings, email, and chat room interactions among students and faculty. The School uses mission-driven, context-based curriculum design and assesses student learning through authentic embedded assessments

Requirements for Admission

1. Admission and enrollment at ASDOH
2. Completion of the required public health certificate program at ASDOH with a minimum of 3.0 GPA
3. Completed admissions application

Program Statistics

Classroom Size..... 15
Average Student Age..... 32
Average Cumulative Graduate GPA... 3.71
Length of program14 core courses, 1 elective course, 64 credit hours

Application Information

Applications are available online at www.atsu.edu/application/cghs, or you may contact an online enrollment counselor at 866.331.8444 or onlineinquiry@atsu.edu.

Tuition and Expenses

Tuition \$371 per credit hour*
Technology and Resource Fee \$150 per quarter*

Tuition reflects a 20% dual degree student discount consistent with University policy.

CGHS tuition rates are competitive. Tuition is to be paid using the appropriate payment option (or all financial aid award letter steps completed for the appropriate term) 14 calendar days prior to the first day of class. Students are responsible for the purchase of their Internet service fees and computer hardware and software fees. Contact your admissions representative at 877.626.5577 or onlineinquiry@atsu.edu for more information. *All fees are subject to change.

Financial Assistance

Federal Financial Aid is available to students who qualify. Scholarship and financial assistance opportunities are listed on the CGHS web page at www.atstu.edu/college-of-graduate-health-studies. Veterans Administration (VA) benefits may also be used.

Accreditation

A.T. Still University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), 230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604, phone 800.621.7440.

Master of Public Health – Dental Emphasis Curriculum

Online Learning

Course Descriptions

Course descriptions, course durations, and related information are subject to change. All courses are four credit hours unless otherwise specified.

Introduction to Dental Public Health: This course is a comprehensive introduction to public health and dental public health within the context of the U.S. healthcare system. Course content includes basic organizational arrangements of health services in the United States; the concept of public health, its problems in the context of social and community factors, its development from a historical perspective, and the role and mission of public health organizations, science, philosophy, and practice of dental public health.

Practical Dental Research, Planning, and Design: Students develop and implement a dental public health research project, enhancing their skills related to search strategies, problem statements, literature review, protocol preparation, and how they relate to their research projects.

Behavior Sciences and Educational Concepts: An overview of the theoretical model and research methodologies used in health education research/programs is provided. This course explores the integration of culture, language, and literacy when designing, implementing, and evaluating dental public health programs.

Biostatistics for Dental Research: Key statistical tools and concepts used by managers in dental public health are examined. Concepts covered include descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, probability, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis.

Financing Dental Care: This course examines the various ways in which dental care is financed, including mechanisms of payment for providers, third-party plans, salaried and public-financed programs, and federal systems such as Medicare and Medicaid.

Public Health Biology: This course explains the role of biology in the ecological model of population-based health. This course integrates the general biological and molecular concepts into public health and looks at how biological, chemical, and physical agents affect human health.

Dental Epidemiology: General principles of epidemiology, including research methods, study designs, sampling, data analysis, interpretation of data, and application of findings to dental public health policy, are explained. This course closely examines distribution and determinants of oral disease such as caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer.

Environmental Health Sciences: This course introduces ecology and ecological principles and examines how human population pressures affect them. Man's impact on biotic and abiotic components of the earth is examined, as well as environmental factors affecting public health. Particular emphasis is placed on the impact of anthropogenic, chemical, and physical stressors, and their impact on various ecosystem components and man.

Dental Healthcare Policy and Management: This course focuses on the application of general management concepts including management process, descriptions of management functions, managerial roles, and organizational culture. It includes practical aspects of planning, staffing, financing, implanting, evaluating, and

communicating dental public health programs at the local, state, and federal levels. A practical look at dental public health policy-making and how best to translate policy into practice is provided.

Administration of Healthcare Organizations: This course focuses on health service managers, the management process, descriptions of management functions, managerial roles, organizational culture and philosophy, leadership, motivation, and communication. Quality management is featured, as well as a practical approach to service, process, function, roles, culture, philosophy, leadership, motivation, and communication.

Public Health Practicum: Completion of a project in an approved supervised public health setting emphasizing evaluation and service delivery, planning, or operations resolving a management problem or evaluating a program component is required. This is an eight-quarter credit hour practicum requiring 240 contact hours in a supervised public health environment. (8 *credit hours*)

Program Electives

A.T. Still University's College of Graduate Health Studies requires students to complete their program of study by selecting one elective course that is of interest to them or meets their career needs. Electives are grouped by areas of focus.

Health Program Planning

Community Health Assessment: Needs and capacity assessment strategies are designed for people planning to practice within the fields of public health, health promotion, or health education. Students take an in-depth look at individual, group, and self-directed assessment strategies. This course gives students an opportunity to practice learned skills, decipher what assessments are best for a given situation, and learn how to implement their new skills within their professional environments.

State and Local Health Planning: This course reviews the role of social and community factors in both the onset and solution of public health problems. It also identifies critical stakeholders for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs, policies, and interventions. This course shows students how to interpret results of statistical analyses found in public health studies and to recognize the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic, and political discussions of health issues.

Evaluation of Community Health Services: Evaluation of health promotion programs in a variety of settings serve as a guide for the development and evaluation of health promotion programs that give students an opportunity for practical application in their work environment. Analysis and evaluation of a health program and its success after implementation are the focus of this course.

Health Policy

Public Health Finance and Policy: This course is an application of policy analysis to the financing of public health in the United States. It examines healthcare from a public policy perspective to understand the underlying social and economic issues that frame the political finance debates.

International Health Policy: This program provides an overview of international public health issues with an emphasis on economically less developed countries in the areas of diseases, programs, health systems, and health policies and the various approaches nations adopt to deal with them. It explores the public health problems facing low- and middle-income countries today and identifies their three greatest global challenges: reproductive health, infectious disease, and nutrition.

Public Health History: This course examines the health of human populations from a historical perspective and will investigate the science of improving human health. Case studies are provided that will focus on the roots of contemporary public health knowledge and health policy. Topics include responses to epidemics, racial and economic disparities in healthcare services, the development of policy infrastructures, and global health.

Geriatric Health

Community-based Healthcare: The development and maintenance of a community-based healthcare model are the focus of this course. Administering programs to sustain and promote a state of healthy well-being in the community and activate community resources are discussed as well as the impact of emerging models of community-based healthcare programs.

Cultural Change in Geriatrics: Cultural changes have affected the perceptions of aging and its impact on intergenerational relationships. This course examines the impact those cultural changes may have on the future direction of the healthcare industry.

Death and Dying, Life and Living: Learners review death, dying, and bereavement. During the exploration of these topics, this course also covers the developmental perspective, legal and moral issues, and current events.

Leadership Development and the Role of Coaching

An Introduction to Professional Coaching: Skills, Knowledge, and Ethics for Leaders: Students learn what coaching is and is not, the construct of an elective coaching alliance, the use of intuition, listening, and powerful inquiry in moving through resistance to engendering goal attainment and accountability. Students will also understand the ethics of coaching. In addition to traditional discussion forums and papers, coaching practice as part of exercises is expected, and a live oral coaching experience with the instructor is required. The objective is for students to have coach-like skills to use in leadership and management situations to improve collaboration, connection, and community within or outside a public health organization.

Leadership, Coaching, and Interpersonal Communication Skills: This course provides the student with an understanding of personal behavioral and communication styles and how to apply the principles of leadership and management coaching in a public health organization. The skills learned will improve active listening and dialogue that is elective in any situation. Students are provided the opportunity to review real-life coaching situations in leadership, develop a life purpose journal, and their own coaching journal.

Global Health

Global Health Issues: Global healthcare is an emerging priority for organizations and governments worldwide because of the impact on international economic stability. Technology, research, and the advancement of healthcare interventions have produced improvements in health outcomes for many. Unfortunately, these

advancements have also led to inequalities in health status within and between countries. The world is faced with new challenges such as the potential for pandemics, an aging population, a diminishing healthcare workforce, and the stresses of determining resource allocation. This course explores the many facets of global health to expose the student to the complexity of the concepts that impact healthcare in developing and developed countries.

Administration



Don Altman, DDS, DHSc, MPH, MBA, MA

Dean, College of Graduate Health Studies

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Don Altman, DDS, DHSc, MPH, MBA, MA holds a dental degree as well as master's degrees in public health, business administration, and bioethics. He also has a doctorate in Health Sciences. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Dental Public Health and has worked in the dental public health field for more than 29 years.

Dr. Altman has taught dentists and dental hygienists in the classroom for many years and has been teaching online since 2006. He has taken a general MPH curriculum and developed a program for individuals interested in dental public health. Dr. Altman is not only the Chair, Department of Public Health and program chair for the dental MPH program, but is also an associate professor and Director of Public Health and Research at ATSU's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health.

He previously worked for local and state governments as well as private industry. His areas of interest include professionalism and ethics, community-based dental programs, leadership for the dental professional, and quality assurance.



Katherine M. Adler, DHA, FACHE

Associate Professor

Associate Dean of Academic Success and Assessment

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Katherine Adler, DHA, FACHE, is the Associate Dean for Assessment and Student Success at the College of Graduate Health Studies. She began teaching for SHM in 2006, became the program chair for Health Administration in 2009, program chair for Public Health in 2010, and became Associate Dean in 2012.

Doctor Adler holds a Doctorate in Healthcare Administration and Leadership from the Medical University of South Carolina. She has over 25 years of varied experience in the not-for-profit health care industry, spending the bulk of her career working at safety-net hospitals in urban Detroit.

During her tenure in administrative roles, Dr. Adler worked closely with physicians in medicine and surgery, having direct oversight over those departments and subspecialties, and gained extensive knowledge in public health, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences and environmental health sciences. Through her formal training and work, Dr. Adler has a strong background in health services administration as well as public health. She is a patient advocate, understands the plight of the underserved and underinsured and has worked to incorporate patient centered care into the curriculum with the understanding that prevention and whole person care are the key to a healthy community and society.



Michael Jackson, PhD, MPH

Professor and Chair, Public Health

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Mike Jackson, PhD, MPH, is professor and department chair of public health for A.T. Still University's College of Graduate Health Studies.

He earned his BS in public health education from Central Michigan University, MPH in health behavior and health education from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and PhD in community health education from Southern Illinois University.

Prior to joining ATSU, he served as professor of public health and program director for the American Public University System (APUS), where he directed the online programs and faculty and students in associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs. Previous to that position, he served for nearly five years as dean of APUS' School of Public Service and Health.

Dr. Jackson's other teaching and administration experience includes serving as assistant professor of health sciences at Western Illinois University, state specialist for health education at the University of Missouri Extension, associate professor and vice chair at the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health, associate professor and director of health and exercise science at Truman State University, and associate professor and graduate coordinator at Western Illinois University. He also served as a health educator for a local health department in Michigan, a public health educator for the Illinois Department of Public Health, and executive director for the Hult Health Education Center in Illinois.

Dr. Jackson has a record of accomplishments in research, publishing, grant writing, and project administration. He has been involved in strategic planning and visioning activities and is familiar with university and professional accreditation activities. His topics of interests are health services and the underserved, as well as public health education and training for community health.