

### **General Information on the Dual AuD/MPH Program**

The University of Memphis School of Communication Sciences and Disorders has partnered with the School of Public Health to offer a dual Doctor of Audiology (AuD) and Masters in Public Health (MPH) graduate degree program for highly motivated students with special interests in population-level approaches to healthcare.

#### **What is public health? Why public health and audiology?**

Public health offers a population perspective on healthcare issues which largely focus on promotion of health and wellness, and the prevention of disease. While traditional audiological care primarily uses an individualized approach to treating hearing-related problems, a public health approach provides a broader perspective in that it considers multiple levels of influence (individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, and policy).

#### **What are the benefits of dual AuD/MPH degrees?**

Incorporating public health into a students' audiology education will provide them with a broader approach to hearing healthcare and healthcare in general. This program would be of interest to students who have interests in pursuing audiological career paths with any of the following focuses:

- healthcare leadership, management, and policy
- healthcare access (including telehealth, rural populations, and minority health)
- clinical program development and evaluation
- community health
- population health or epidemiological research
- humanitarian efforts

#### **How would adding the MPH alter my AuD plan?**

The program is for AuD students to supplement their education with a Master's in Public Health (MPH). It is designed for both degrees to be completed within four years by choosing electives from the School of Public Health, coordinating your AuD research project with researchers in public health, and taking supplemental courses in addition to the standard AuD curriculum. However, it is not required that the students complete the MPH on the same timeline as the AuD and students will have up to 7 years after initiating the MPH to complete coursework.

The University of Memphis School of Public Health offers a range of courses that can be selected based on each student's interest. While many MPH requirements overlap with the courses offered through the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, public health

coursework will be required in addition to AuD coursework. A customized degree plan will be designed to meet each enrolled students' interests and availability.

### **What other information do I need to know?**

The dual AuD/MPH at the University of Memphis is the first of its kind and has been in existence since 2019. Please read the below considerations carefully.

- The dual degree program is a unique and valuable opportunity for future audiologists who have an interest in implementing public health competencies into their careers in audiology. It should be considered that these are two graduate degrees, with the AuD being the primary degree. The gravity of this commitment is not appropriate for all students and should be thoughtfully considered. For students interested in supplemental education but cannot commit to an additional graduate degree or are not interested in public health, we encourage them to explore the many graduate certificates offered at the University of Memphis:  
<https://www.memphis.edu/gradschool/programs/graduatecertificates.php>
- Students must apply and be accepted to both programs independently of each other. It is recommended that the students refrain from applying to the MPH program until they have been accepted into the AuD program and have had a discussion with their adviser regarding the dual degrees.
- Students who enroll in the dual degree will be assigned an academic adviser in both the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the School of Public Health. While the adviser is committed to advising the student on the completion of the respective degrees, it is the sole responsibility of each student to coordinate the degrees, including assessing their course load and communicating their progress through each program with both advisers. It is the responsibility of each student to inform their adviser of their progress each semester as well as course plans in upcoming semesters.
- There may be costs associated with additional coursework taken in the School of Public Health. Graduate assistantship support through the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders does not apply to courses taken through the School of Public Health, with the exception of courses specifically taken to fulfill the elective requirement for the AuD.
- While the program is designed to be completed in four years, students have up to 7 years after beginning the MPH to complete coursework toward the degree. Students should understand that there is no guarantee that they will be able to complete both degrees within 4 years and their rate of completion will be dependent on the courses they take.

Students who are interesting in learning more information about the dual AuD/MPH program should contact Sarah Warren, Au.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at [sarah.warren@memphis.edu](mailto:sarah.warren@memphis.edu) or Dr. Marian Levy, DrPH, RD, FAND, Associate Dean, School of Public Health at [mlevy@memphis.edu](mailto:mlevy@memphis.edu).