



# Rice-UT Public Health Scholars Program

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Fall Info Session  
August 26, 2022



# Overview

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Collaborative initiative between **Rice University** and **UTHealth School of Public Health** (UTSPH) in Houston

- Allows selected undergraduate students to enroll in up to 5 core courses at UTSPH during their senior year at Rice and obtain **dual undergraduate and graduate credit**
- Enables accepted students to complete their Master of Public Health degree (MPH) in **one year** after completing their undergraduate degree

# Core UTSPH MPH Courses

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1. PHM 1110 - Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health
2. PH 1690 - Introduction to Biostatistics in Public Health
3. PHM 2612 - Epidemiology I
4. PHWM 2110 - Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment [online only]
5. PHM 3715 - Management & Policy Concepts in Public Health

# Applying to the Program

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- Start academic planning early (sophomore year)
- Complete most (preferably all) Distribution & major requirements before senior year
- Apply to Rice program in February of junior year
- All majors eligible and welcome to apply
- Signed statement of intent to complete MPH at UTSPH



**RICE – UT PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FORM**

**DEADLINE FOR FALL 2023: FRIDAY, February 24, 2023 by 5 p.m.**

**Send all application materials to: ugdean@rice.edu**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Major/Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Advisor Certification of Good Standing and Approval of Course Plan for Senior Year**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print advisor name and title) \_\_\_\_\_ (department/program)

certify that the student applicant \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) is in

good academic standing and holds a GPA of \_\_\_\_\_ (Major advisor signature and date)

**Student Signature of Intent re Rice graduation and MPH completion at UTSPH**

My signature on this application form indicates my commitment to remain enrolled full time at Rice for my entire senior year and to complete the MPH at UTSPH after graduating from Rice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student signature and date)

**Application checklist:**

- Course plan for senior year, including five core UTSPH courses and remaining degree requirements (major, minor, and general) required for graduation from Rice.
- Certification of good academic standing and approval of course plan from a major advisor (above).
- Student's signature of intent to complete the MPH at UTSPH after graduating from Rice.
- 1-2 page personal statement describing student's interest in public health, reasons for wanting to complete an MPH degree, and plan for completing any remaining Rice requirements while taking courses at UTSPH during senior year.
- Recommendation letter from a Rice University faculty member.
- Student résumé.

**Course Plan for Senior Year**

Course plan for senior year, including the summer prior. Please enter a plan for your senior year that includes the five UTSPH core courses\* and all of your remaining degree requirements (major, minor and distribution) needed for graduation.

**\*Core UTSPH courses:**

- PHM 1690 Introduction to Biostatistics in Public Health
- PHM 2612 Epidemiology I
- PHWM 2110 Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment
- PHM 1110 Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health
- PHM 3715 Management and Policy Concepts in Public Health

Senior Year Course Plan														
Summer _____					Fall _____					Spring _____				
Course	D1/D2/D3	Major	Minor	Hours	Course	D1/D2/D3	Major	Minor	Hours	Course	D1/D2/D3	Major	Minor	Hours
Ex. ANTH 200	D2	X		3										
Total Semester Hours					Total Semester Hours					Total Semester Hours				
Co-Curricular Pursuits:					Co-Curricular Pursuits:					Co-Curricular Pursuits:				

# Selection Criteria

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- 5-7 students admitted per year
- Joint Rice-UTSPH faculty review committee
- Admission based on **quality of application** & student's demonstrated **interest in public health**
  - Good academic standing, minimum GPA 3.0, letter of recommendation, & strong evidence of interest in public health

# After Admission to the Program

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- If admitted through Rice, apply to UTSPH **Certificate Program** through SOPHAS in late spring/early summer of junior year
  - Upon admission, complete immunization, residency, background check, etc. in summer (delay will prevent fall course registration)
- In summer/fall, register for UTSPH courses & Rice placeholder courses (credit at both institutions)
  - Take 2-3 UTSPH courses & 1-2 Rice courses per semester in senior year (grades on Rice transcript)
- **1<sup>st</sup> year tuition (not fees) at UTSPH paid by Rice, but you must be enrolled full-time at Rice for entire year**

# Transition from Certificate to MPH Program

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- In late fall of senior year, apply to transfer from Certificate program to MPH program
- Requires GRE (MCAT okay only if applying to MD/MPH track)
- Plan to complete MPH practicum in summer after senior year
- Complete MPH coursework at UTSPH (any TX campus) in year after graduation



# Deadline: Friday, February 24, 2023 @ 5 pm

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- Application form (to be released)
- Course plan for senior year
- Certification of good academic standing by major advisor
- Intent to complete MPH at UTSPH
- 1-2 page personal statement
- Faculty recommendation letter
- Résumé
- Submit to: [ugdean@rice.edu](mailto:ugdean@rice.edu)



Frequently Asked Questions

# Rice-UT Public Health Scholars FAQs

[DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATES](#) > [STUDENT RESOURCES](#) > [PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM](#) > [RICE UT PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS FAQs](#)

## Applying to the Rice-UT Program

**New for 2023 application: applicants will now need to complete a course plan for senior year and obtain a signature from their major advisor, not an academic advisor from OAA. Be sure to complete the course planning table before you ask for your advisor's signature**

- ✓ I am in my sophomore year at Rice, but with AP credits I am technically a junior. Can I apply to the Rice-UT program even though I plan on staying at Rice for two more years?
- ✓ I'm currently in my second year at Rice, but I have enough credits to graduate in three years, so next academic year will be my last year at Rice. Am I therefore eligible to apply for this program?
- ✓ I'm an international student. Am I eligible to apply?



- ∨ Do I only need one letter for this program, or can I submit more than one?
- ∨ Does admission to the Rice-UT Public Health Scholars Program guarantee that I will receive an MPH?

## Applying to Year Two of the Program/Transition from Certificate Program to MPH Program

- ∨ Can I start this program at Rice and then wait to finish the MPH at a later date (or at a different school of public health), so I can go straight to medical school after I graduate?
- ∨ Can I complete my final year (the MPH year) of the program at whichever UTSPH campus I choose, or do I have to stay in Houston?
- ∨ Will UTSPH accept the MCAT as a substitute for the GRE?

## How the Program Works

- ∧ Can I take UTSPH classes online?

No. This program is designed for in-person class attendance with one current exception. PHWM 2110 Public Health Ecology & the Human Environment is only offered online and therefore will be accepted. However, only in exceptional circumstances and with the advance, written permission of one of the Rice-UT program directors, will students be permitted to take other classes online.

- ∨ Does this program cost extra, or is it included in my tuition?
- ∨ Do any of the MPH programs have prerequisites?
- ∨ Do the courses taken at UTSPH count towards graduation at Rice?
- ∨ Will the classes we take at UTSPH be counted as upper-level credit courses at Rice?



## How the Program Works

- ∨ Can I take UTSPH classes online?
- ∨ Does this program cost extra, or is it included in my tuition?
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- ∨ Will the classes we take at UTSPH be counted as upper-level credit courses at Rice?
- ∧ Do the Rice and UTSPH academic calendars align? If not, what do I do?

Sometimes. Since both are independent institutions there may be instances when the different academic calendars are not in synch. In reality, this usually means they may be “off” by a week either on the front or back end of the semester. When this occurs it is up to the individual student to make arrangements to begin classes at both institutions according to each academic calendar. Further, Rice does not offer or provide living accommodations to affected students during these instances and it is up to students to make alternative arrangements until both institutions are in full session.

- ∨ How do I register for courses at UTSPH?
- ∨ How do I get Rice credit for UTSPH courses?
- ∨ Do you know the UTSPH course schedule yet? How can I find out when the courses will meet?

*UPDATED January 2020*

<https://dou.rice.edu/student-resources/public-health-scholars-program>



A screenshot of the website for the Rice-UT Public Health Scholars Program. The header features the Rice University logo and the text "RICE UNIVERSITY Office of the Dean of Undergraduates" on the left, and social media icons and a "Menu" button on the right. The main content area shows an aerial view of a large, historic building with the text "Rice-UT Public Health Scholars Program" overlaid. Below this is a blue navigation bar with the text "DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATES &gt; STUDENT RESOURCES &gt; PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM". A white navigation bar below that contains links: "STUDENT HANDBOOK | PETITIONS &amp; SPECIAL REQUESTS | RICE-UT PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM". The footer area is white and contains five links: "ABOUT THE PROGRAM &gt;", "ABOUT THE PROCESS &gt;", "CORE UTSPH COURSES &gt;", "RICE-UT PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS FAQS &gt;", and "PROGRAM APPLICATION &gt;".

Co-Directors:

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