



Master of public health (MPH) students coordinate the Market Kids Program, which teaches local youth about healthy food preparation and local food systems.

Public Health Program

Prioritizing the ‘One Health’ model for human, animal, and environmental health

Established in 2010, the Master of Public Health Program’s mission is to protect, improve, and promote population health in Southwest and Southside Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Central Appalachia, the nation, and the world by training future public health leaders through learning, discovery, and engagement in public health. The program is administered by the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in partnership with the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

The Public Health Program is grounded in an interdisciplinary “One Health” approach. One Health recognizes the dynamic interdependence of human health, animal health, and the environment and encompasses the interdisciplinary efforts of medical, veterinary, and public health professionals to protect, promote, and improve health. Students gain the requisite knowledge and skills to examine the human, animal, and environmental factors that contribute to the control and prevention of disease and the promotion, enhancement, and maintenance of health.

“Public health is all about protecting, promoting, and improving the health of populations. Most of the health advancements over the past 50 or so years that have resulted in increased life expectancy for Americans, eradication or reduction of many infectious diseases, and improved health status have been largely due to public health efforts.”

- Kerry Redican, professor of public health administration in the Department of Population Health Sciences



What is public health?

There are three core functions and ten essential services of public health.

1. Assessment

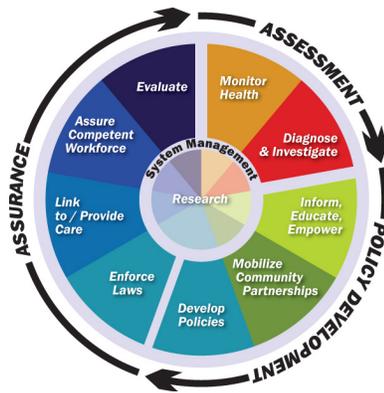
- Monitoring health status to identify and solve community health problems
- Diagnosing and investigating health problems and health hazards in the community

2. Policy Development

- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

3. Assurance

- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of healthcare when otherwise unavailable
- Assure a competent public health and personal health-care workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services



Honoring a public health champion

Born and raised in Blacksburg, Virginia, Susan West Marmagas joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 2008 and played a significant role in the establishment of the university's public health program and Center for Public Health Practice and Research (CPHPR). Marmagas' more than 15 years of experience in the national public health field, most notably addressing how environmental factors affect the health of women and children, provided countless experiences in policy and practice she shared with her students.

Marmagas' incredible influence prompted her colleagues to create the Susan West Marmagas Public Health Scholarship in her memory. This scholarship will support public health students who are committed to improving the health in rural Appalachian communities, with preference to students with financial need from Appalachia. The recipients will demonstrate a commitment to the mantra Susan instilled in her students: "start where the community is."

Join us.

About VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a leading biomedical teaching and research center and the in-state veterinary college for residents of Virginia and Maryland. The college is focused on the development and delivery of a One Health education, integrating multidisciplinary research and educational opportunities that provide health care solutions for animals, people, and communities. Locations include the main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia; the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia; the Gudelsky Veterinary Center in College Park, Maryland; and the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center in Roanoke, Virginia. The college offers a four-year, full-time, professional Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, a graduate degree program in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences, a master of public health, and a bachelor of science in public health.