HOW TO REACH US

We welcome you to contact us in any of the following ways:

- Mail: UW School of Medicine and Public Health
  MD Program Admissions
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  750 Highland Ave.
  Madison, WI 53705

- Phone: (608) 263-4925

- Web: med.wisc.edu/admissions

- E-mail: medadmissions@med.wisc.edu

To begin your medical school application process, please contact your college's pre-medical advisor or register with the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), which is the central application service for most medical schools in the United States.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Defining Characteristics ......................... 2
Curriculum for Doctor of Medicine Program .......... 5
Service to the Community ................................ 6
Facilities for Learning, Research and Patient Care .... 8
Research Opportunities .................................. 9
SMPH Faculty .............................................. 10
Life Beyond the Classroom .............................. 12

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We want to hear from you:
WELCOME!

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) is recognized as a statewide, national and international leader in innovative education, cutting-edge research, high-quality clinical care, compassionate community service and sustainable global outreach.

We are the nation’s first school to formally integrate the traditional principles of medicine and public health. Our vision is to leverage this revolutionary synthesis to improve the health of both individuals and populations.

Through our Statewide Campus, students gain broad exposure to health care. Those considering careers in underserved areas can participate in specially designed programs that target rural, urban and global health settings.

We have a long tradition of excellence in basic, clinical and population health research, with an emphasis on the rapid translation of discovery into practice. UW-Madison and the SMPH consistently rank among the top U.S. research institutions.

The SMPH academic group practice, UW Medical Foundation, is one of the country’s 10 largest physician practice groups. We enjoy an outstanding partnership with UW Hospital and Clinics, our major teaching hospital, as well as with the Middleton Veterans Administration Hospital and several community teaching hospitals in Madison and across Wisconsin.

Situated on an isthmus between the area’s two largest lakes, Madison offers impressive natural beauty and the vitality of a cosmopolitan, medium-sized city. We invite you to become part of this vibrant community!

Elizabeth Petty, MD,
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Dr. Petty is a physician scientist and educator whose current primary focus is on the development and oversight of educational and support programs for a diverse group of learners, including medical students. She oversees curricular and student service activities for medical, genetic counseling, physician assistant, physical therapy, and public health students. In addition, the Area Health Education Centers, Office of Continuing Professional Development, Office of Graduate Medical Education, and the Office of Rural Health report to her office. Working with her team of faculty and staff leaders in education as well as with students, she is committed to developing high quality patient and public health centered educational programs that help students become outstanding health care professionals.
Asked why they selected UW School of Medicine and Public Health, students commonly cite our friendly learning environment; innovative curriculum and instruction; teachers who care about students; access to world-class researchers; and outstanding educational and clinical facilities.

We are recognized nationally and internationally for our:

• **Unbeatable student experience**: Led by a diverse 1,300-member faculty in 26 basic science and clinical departments, SMPH students explore all areas of medicine and related health sciences. The school’s innovative curriculum integrates medicine and public health in all aspects of the student experience.

• **Top-tier national rankings**: U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks SMPH research and primary care education in the upper echelon of U.S. medical schools, and UW-Madison as one of the top 10 public universities. By many metrics—including the performance of SMPH graduates in residencies and the number of doctoral degrees awarded—the school excels. Many of our graduates become national leaders in research, academics and public service.

• **Dedication to socially responsible missions**: SMPH ranks among the nation’s top medical schools in percentage of graduates who practice primary care and work in health-professional shortage areas. To prepare students for practice in underserved settings, the SMPH offers innovative programs in both rural and urban locales. Extracurricular community service activities, such as student-run free health care clinics, also reach out to underserved populations.

• **Friendly, collegial learning environment**: SMPH faculty foster a supportive, nurturing environment that enhances learning. Students benefit from a collaborative team approach that starts in the classroom and transfers to clinical settings.

• **Unparalleled international health opportunities**: About 25 percent of SMPH students participate in international health experiences, laying the foundation for lifelong contributions to global health. UW-Madison’s Global Health Institute helps prepare students to address health disparities in a context of cultural diversity.

• **Top-notch training for physician-scientists**: Our Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD Program) is among the best in the nation for preparing physician-scientists. The majority of the students in our MD program take advantage of opportunities to participate in research that spans the continuum of basic, clinical and population health sciences.

• **Expansive and diverse Statewide Campus**: UW-Madison’s hallmark is the Wisconsin Idea: education should improve lives far beyond the campus. The SMPH stretches its boundaries statewide with academic campuses in Madison, La Crosse, Marshfield and Milwaukee, as well as affiliated training sites across the state. In addition, more than 1,000 practicing physicians throughout Wisconsin generously provide their time and expertise as mentors to SMPH students.

Visit med.wisc.edu/admissions for more information
The Doctor of Medicine Program engages students in a learner-centered, patient-focused environment to help them become highly competent, compassionate physicians with a lifelong thirst for learning.

Within the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC), the SMPH is organized around five Learning Communities in which first-year students are welcomed as individuals and encouraged to unite as a group. Students participate in the communities until graduation to facilitate coaching and small-group problem solving among new and experienced students. Each Learning Community has dedicated faculty and staff mentors.

The first- and second-year blocks—which integrate topics best taught together, such as anatomy, physiology and the neurosciences—feature stimulating cycles of teaching and learning, followed by blocks of assessment and clinically relevant integration activities. This model helps students make key connections across courses and integrate important themes such as public health, ethics and professionalism.

Students begin to work with their most important teachers—their patients—on day one of medical school. In years one and two, they are assigned to clinics where they observe doctors and interact with patients to develop communication and physical examination skills. In the third and fourth years, students rotate through clinical clerkships across Wisconsin, gaining firsthand understanding of diverse health care delivery systems. The third and fourth years are tailored to each student’s career goals and interests, including time for electives and research.

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CURRICULUM FOR DOCTOR OF MEDICINE PROGRAM

Options candidates may choose when applying to SMPH:
- Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM): This is a four-year MD learning track for students who want to practice medicine in rural areas. The highly regarded program aims to alleviate physician shortages in these areas and improve the health of individuals in rural communities. WARM is a partnership that includes UW-Madison, Marshfield Clinic, Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse, and Aurora Health Care in Green Bay, plus rural satellite locations. WARM students spend the last two years of medical school at one of these locations.
- Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP, also called MD/PhD degree): MSTP candidates spend two years in medical school, then obtain their PhD degree prior to completing the last two years of medical school. Commended by the National Institutes of Health for its broad range of research opportunities, enthusiastic faculty support, and success in attracting diverse students, the MSTP is among the nation’s top programs for producing physician-scientists who combine excellent medical training with a rigorous graduate-level dissertation. Co-sponsored by the SMPH and UW-Madison Graduate School, the program’s graduates are highly skilled in clinical care and basic science.

After enrollment, our medical students may select other specialized options and training tracks. Examples include:
- Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH): TRIUMPH aims to prepare third- and fourth-year medical students to become physician leaders with skills to address health disparities and promote health in disadvantaged urban communities. The program complements required clerkships that provide clinical training in Milwaukee. Students enhance their cultural skills and engage with communities as they develop and implement population-based health projects.
- Master of Public Health (MPH): This multidisciplinary degree program teaches students the principles and practice of public health, with a unique focus on service learning and solutions for urgent public health problems. Students combine MD training with a one-year MPH program and participate in community-based health improvement efforts.

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Despite rigorous hours of class work and study, most SMPH students become actively involved in service and volunteer opportunities with people who have similar interests to help tackle pressing community health needs. Some of their many activities include:

• conducting health clinics for the uninsured;
• joining a professional or health-related organization;
• visiting local schools to teach children about healthy lifestyles; and
• participating in medical specialty interest groups.

Students also participate in student government and serve on curricular and admissions committees.

A SAMPLING OF MEDICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
• Advocacy and Intervention for Medical Students
• American Medical Association, Medical Student Section
• American Medical Student Association
• Medical Students for Minority Concerns
• Organization of Student Representatives
• State Medical Society of Wisconsin

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
• DOC (Doctors Ought to Care; an outreach program to local schools)
• MEDiC Student-Run Free Clinics (health care for underserved and homeless people, and health professions student education)
• Mentorship Achievement Program (matches at-risk middle school students with medical student mentors)
• MoAS (Mothers and Maternal Support): medical students provide support services and community education to pregnant women in Madison.

Sarah says she felt well prepared to begin her obstetrics and gynecology residency at UW Hospital and Clinics. “My SMPH training provided a strong foundation of medical knowledge and clinical experience,” she says. “I aspire to be a compassionate clinician and skilled surgeon, and to continue my efforts as an advocate and activist on behalf of women throughout my career.”

Sarah chose the SMPH due to its strong public health focus, abundant research opportunities and early clinical exposure for students. “The SMPH is very connected to the community locally and statewide,” she explains. “Additionally, I love living in Madison! It offers something for everyone—from the Dane County Farmer’s Market and delicious restaurants to the bike trails, UW Arboretum, arts and shopping.”

Activities while at SMPH:
• member, American Medical Student Association; attended regional and national conferences and lobbied politicians;
• volunteer, MEDiC Student-run Free Clinics;
• member, Medical Students for Choice, OB/GYN Interest Group and Public Health Interest Group;
• co-facilitator, Student Diversity seminar for health sciences students; and
• volunteer, Dane County Rape Crisis Center.

Dental health is a problem in many resource-challenged populations. Here, an SMPH medical student and fellow field course participants interview rural schoolchildren in Ban Khan, Thailand, about their oral hygiene practices.

An SMPH student enrolled in the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine MD program shares information about health care careers with secondary school students.

The center of UW-Madison on Bascom Hill offers this view of the nearby State Capitol.
The Chronicle of Higher Education consistently ranks UW-Madison among the nation’s top 12 recipients of federal research and development funds and top three recipients of overall research and development funds.

UW School of Medicine and Public Health is internationally recognized for the quality and scope of its basic and clinical research. Our Institute for Clinical and Translational Research spans the continuum from basic discoveries to clinical/translational research, and represents a partnership between the SMPH, other UW-Madison schools (e.g., Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine) and the Marshfield Clinic.

SMPH students capitalize on this research excellence in many ways:

- Those interested in pursuing research-related careers may pursue both MD and PhD degrees through the Medical Scientist Training Program, jointly managed by the SMPH and the UW-Madison Graduate School.
- Between their first and second years, about half of our students participate in summer research in basic or clinical sciences, health services, public health or global health. Student researchers receive a stipend, and some receive matching funds from a variety of sources.
- Second-year medical students who meet requirements may apply to a research Honors Program.
- Third- and fourth-year students may take research electives for credit or participate in external fellowships.
- Students may participate in a research seminar series, clinical research course, grand rounds and journal clubs.

Reflecting on his interview at the SMPH, Patrick says, “I remember the students and administrators who were interested in having me attend the UW. The administrators were helpful during my decision process. I saw that the positive attitude and environment continued when I entered the school.”

Activities while at SMPH:

- chair, Student National Medical Association national board, 2013-14;
- co-president, UW SNMA chapter, 2008-2009;
- member, SMPH Medical Students for Minority Concerns, which is dedicated to serving the needs of under-represented minorities in the school and Madison; and
- student representative, SMPH Admissions Committee, 2008-2009, through which he helped select the school’s new class.

While working on a PhD in cellular and molecular biology, Patrick’s research focuses on signaling pathways related to cartilage development in cells derived from stem cells. “I hope to go into orthopedic surgery and continue pursuing translational and clinical research to develop better treatments for my patients,” he notes.

The SMPH’s flagship Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC) and Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR) are among the nation’s premier health sciences learning and research facilities. The HSLC features classrooms with the most advanced instructional technology available and ample collaborative learning spaces. It also is home to the spectacular Edling Library, UW School of Nursing and Physician Assistant graduate program. In the state-of-the-art Clinical Teaching and Assessment Center, students practice taking patient histories and conducting physical exams in a setting that closely imitates the real world. Video-equipped rooms enable students and teachers to review these sessions together for maximum learning.

The technology-rich WIMR embraces a new way of approaching scientific research. Its unique design allows researchers to collaborate easily across disciplines and to work closely with colleagues in adjacent clinical facilities.

The HSLC and WIMR are connected to the UW School of Pharmacy and the Clinical Sciences Center, which houses UW Hospital and Clinics (the primary clinical training site at UW-Madison), American Family Children’s Hospital and the UW Carbone Cancer Center (one of about 40 federally designated centers for cancer treatment and research). The Clinical Sciences Center also is connected to the William S. Middleton Veterans Memorial Hospital.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (right) and Health Sciences Learning Center (left) house the bulk of the SMPH’s vibrant research, education and administrative programs.

The SMPH’s flagship Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC) and Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR) are among the nation’s premier health sciences learning and research facilities.

FACILITIES FOR LEARNING, RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE

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Over the years, SMPH faculty members have been pioneers in forging new territory through stem cell research, organ transplantation, gene therapy, computerized X-ray images of blood vessels, brain plasticity research, head injury treatment and asthma research. The faculty includes National Medal of Science recipients, National Academy of Sciences honorees, internationally recognized researchers and clinicians, and physicians dedicated to improving the delivery of primary care medicine.

Teaching at SMPH integrates basic knowledge and clinical applications in a curriculum that fosters problem solving and establishes a pattern of lifelong, self-directed learning. Integration of science and clinical care also permeates research. The unique design of the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research allows basic scientists and clinicians to collaborate in unprecedented ways as they strive to improve the health of residents of Wisconsin and beyond. Students—as well as patients—profit from this close collaboration to rapidly translate laboratory advances to clinical care.

Unique faculty mentoring programs benefit SMPH students. Each Learning Community at the HSLC includes dedicated faculty and staff mentors who advise and counsel students throughout their medical education. Additionally, each student is linked with a faculty or community physician mentor who assists with education, life and career choices. SMPH clinical faculty are members of the UW Medical Foundation, one of the 10 largest medical groups in the nation. Together with SMPH researchers, they have changed lives and improved health for generations, from the discovery of vitamin D to the establishment of the Sun Protection Factor rating, and from pioneering techniques for micrographic surgery to processes for improving the viability of organs used for transplants.

Faculty UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Paul Sondel, MD, PhD, professor of pediatrics, human oncology and genetics, and head of the SMPH Division of Pediatric Oncology, provides state-of-the-art treatment for childhood cancer and hematology patients. He pursues basic, preclinical and clinical research aimed at curing childhood cancer.

Shubhima Chheda, MPH, MD (right), associate professor of medicine and co-director of the Department of Medicine third- and fourth-year student programs, works with medical students in the Clinical Teaching and Assessment Center, where they practice clinical skills in a setting that mimics the real world, with trained “mock” patients.

Nestor Rodriguez, MD, demonstrates how to intubate a patient in the UW Hospital Emergency Department. The El Salvadorian immigrated to Los Angeles, and chose the SMPH for medical school. Quality experiences there inspired him to seek a UW Hospital residency and emergency medicine career to help critical patients and train residents.

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The UW-Madison Library Mall, near the Memorial Union, is a common gathering spot to enjoy musical and dance performances.

Faculty UW School of Medicine and Public Health

joel and jesse CHARLES

SMPH Class of 2014

Home town: Green Bay, Wisconsin

Undergraduate degree: UW-Madison; Joel: Spanish and Latin American Studies; Jesse: Zoology

Before medical school, twins Joel and Jesse participated in AmeriCorps, a federal program that promotes volunteerism for community development. Joel was a coordinator in Mississippi for Habitat for Humanity, which builds affordable homes for low-income families. Jesse got involved in Pittsburgh’s Public Allies, which focuses on civic leadership training for nonprofit groups.

They note that many SMPH peers are involved in community service. “I am amazed by the unique talents through which my classmates serve others,” says Joel. “That makes being part of this medical school community satisfying and inspiring.”

Activities while at SMPH:
• organizing programs aimed at healthy lifestyles for school children;
• lobbying state legislators for public health and environmental issues; and
• dancing with the African Student Association.

Joel and Jesse are grateful for the opportunity to become doctors and contribute to society. “We’ve always looked at the bigger picture—how to make positive changes,” says Jesse.

“We wouldn’t be here without good teachers, amazing parents and financial support from grants. We’re giving back to show appreciation for what we have.”

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LIVING IN MADISON

A medium-sized, vibrant city of more than 200,000 and the capital of Wisconsin, Madison is situated on an isthmus between the area's two largest lakes, Mendota and Monona. This beautiful setting offers a compact and vital metropolitan area with a wide range of recreational activities and cultural opportunities. In national polls, Madison is consistently ranked among the top cities in which to live and work.

Located in the heart of town, the UW-Madison campus includes nine schools, three colleges and nearly 42,000 students. It hosts one of the largest populations of international students in the United States, exposing residents to many different cultures and rich traditions.

Madison, Dane County and the surrounding area boast many sparkling lakes and beaches, some of the state's best parks, bike paths, cross-country ski trails and scenic rolling countryside.

Whether you're shopping on State Street, exploring museums and galleries, enjoying a free concert at the Memorial Union Terrace, attending a live stage performance, strolling through the Dane County Farmer's Market along the Capitol Square, sailing on one of the lakes, or hiking in the UW Arboretum, there's much to do and see in Madison. Learn more by visiting the Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau at visitmadison.com.

LIFE AFTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

Our students are highly desired candidates for postgraduate training in residency programs, across all specialties and throughout the country. A few students choose to delay residency to pursue research, complete a graduate degree in a related field (e.g., public health), fulfill military obligations or practice medicine in a developing country.

After they complete residency training, our graduates have successfully pursued a wide variety of careers. Many provide care for patients across Wisconsin, the nation and the world. They practice in rural community clinics, urban hospitals and everywhere in between, with many specifically choosing areas facing physician shortages. Some take their skills to far-away places: the banks of the Amazon or a rural hospital in Vietnam. Other graduates become leaders in academic medicine and research, training the next generation of physicians and advancing our understanding of human disease, including its prevention and treatment.

No matter where the practice of medicine takes them, SMPH graduates are connected to a worldwide alumni network. Established in 1956, the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association facilitates communication between alumni and students; promotes social and professional relationships among alumni, students and faculty; and provides financial support to students. Thanks to this active alumni association, ties with our SMPH family of physicians remain strong far beyond graduation.

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