

MOVING FEARLESSLY FORWARD

Accelerating
Progress
Toward Our
Strategic
Plan Goals

2025 - 2026





OUR SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEADS MARYLAND AND PARTNERS ACROSS THE GLOBE IN EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND ACHIEVING OPTIMAL AND EQUITABLE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL.

WE REIMAGINE LEARNING

Our UMD School of Public Health (SPH) is transforming how we teach and help our students experience the world of public health. Through new teaching topics, programs and methods that reflect today's career possibilities and new outlets for experiential learning, we're always moving forward for student success. Just a few examples:

- Reflecting our complex world, we've added a doctoral program in biostatistics, an interdisciplinary major in global health and environmental justice and courses on using AI for public health. And we've renamed our family health undergraduate major. (EPIB, FMSC, GEOH)
- Every week, students in a kinesiology class coach youth with disabilities through a variety of fun physical activities in partnership with the nonprofit KEEN Greater DC - Baltimore. The UMD students gain hands-on experience and many come back to volunteer year after year. (KNES)



- We've established a formal Academic Health Department with St. Mary's County, aimed at strengthening the public health workforce pipeline and joint education, research and practice opportunities. (OPHPCE, SPH)
- We've reimaged how we teach anatomy and physiology to under-

graduates, framing the topics with a public health perspective and adding multifaceted coursework on disease development. (BCH)

- Our public health science program launched its first global learning workshop, bringing together UMD students with peers in El Salvador to explore successful health initiatives that empowered local communities. (PHSC)



WE TAKE ON HUMANITY'S GRAND CHALLENGES

Health challenges evolve, and so do we. With global partners, our research turns discovery into action. We're developing ways to better prevent diseases, ensure clean water systems, build community resilience and beyond. SPH blends disciplines and expert use of tools like AI in human-centered research that informs practical solutions.

- We're at the forefront of infectious disease prevention, from understanding which masks are most effective for blocking COVID-19 to protecting pets - and their people - from avian influenza. (GEOH)
- Our new NIH-funded Center for SUNSHINE launches an interdisciplinary collaboration between UMD and external partners. The center will be a national hub for research, training, policy development and real-world innovation to strengthen resilience across the lifespan, especially among older people. (HPM)
- A multinational team led by SPH will develop an AI-powered warning system to predict disease tied to extreme weather, with funding from NSF and others. (EPIB)
- Our research explores human-robot interaction using machine learning to improve lives for people with disabilities. (KNES)
- Our faculty work to improve prenatal and maternal health care by improving understanding of contemporary needs and barriers to accessing care. (FMSC, HPM)
- Our field study in Baltimore City demonstrated the power of rainwater harvesting to bolster food and water security in urban farms, training contractors to construct these systems in more than 40 farms. (GEOH)

WE INVEST IN PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

We know that people who feel good can go out and do good. Throughout SPH, we work to ensure that students, faculty and staff all know they belong, that their voices matter and that they have the tools to do their best work - for themselves, their community and the wider world.

- This year, SPH launched its biggest-ever Welcome Week, where our largest-ever freshman class - and our whole community - came together to meet faculty and staff, take part in wellness activities,



join clubs, make new friends and eat some of the famous Maryland Dairy ice cream. The week brought fun, engagement and a warm way to welcome the school year. (SPH)

- We developed a faculty toolkit to complement campus

resources to support student mental health, a project we aim to roll out nationally. The kit shows how to structure the educational environment and facilitate student help-seeking. (BCH)

- We launched an initiative designed to develop the next generation of academic leaders - the SPH Dean's Faculty Affairs and Research Leadership Fellows. With three fellows in the inaugural year, the program provides direct experience in school-wide leadership initiatives. (SPH)

UMD SPH UNIT KEY

Department of Behavioral and Community Health (BCH)	Department of Health Policy and Management (HPM)
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EPIB)	Department of Kinesiology (KNES)
Department of Family Science (FMSC)	Public Health Science program (PHSC)
Department of Global, Environmental, and Occupational Health (GEOH)	Horowitz Center for Health Literacy (Horowitz)
	Office of Public Health Practice & Community Engagement (OPHPCE)

WE PARTNER TO ADVANCE THE PUBLIC GOOD

A strong community is a healthy one, and the best way to strengthen communities is to work together. SPH has forged highly successful collaborations with local, national and global partners to build impactful solutions, grounded in the culture and needs of the communities they serve.

- Nearly two dozen of our faculty, staff and students completed two years of rigorous work on behalf of the state's Maryland Commission on Public Health, led by Commission co-chair Dean Boris Lushniak. Working with health departments, nonprofits and other institutions across the state, we built a road-map for better health and better health systems throughout Maryland. (SPH)
- We're working to reduce adolescent substance use in rural Maryland by developing evidence-based prevention and interventions, a project built in partnership with Caroline County public schools, health system and community members. (BCH)
- We're translating health literacy research to action through the Maryland Consumer Health Information Hub, funded by the Maryland General Assembly to provide education, templates and guidance to implement local health literacy insights statewide. (Horowitz)
- SPH is doing good for the medical community - and the people they care for - with NIH-funded research using AI to better integrate electronic health records to help physicians make more informed treatment plans for patients. (HPM)
- We're expanding our Global FEWture Alliance, engaging more community, university and government partners in Maryland, Tanzania, Israel and Nepal to alleviate food, energy and water insecurity, improve health and bolster community resilience in a changing climate. (GEOH)



UMD SPH FAST FACTS

TOP-TIER ACADEMICS

#22

National Ranking for
Schools of Public Health

#13

Among publicly funded
Schools of Public Health

Source: U.S. News and World Report, 2025

CUTTING-EDGE LEARNING ACROSS PUBLIC HEALTH

5

Undergraduate
majors

26

Graduate degrees
and certificates

159

Externally funded research projects
in FY25

STUDENTS & FACULTY

~2,100

Undergraduates

~475

Graduate students

250+

Faculty and staff

WELCOMING AND EXPANSIVE COMMUNITY

66%

Students of color

28%

First-generation college students

5 miles

to Washington, D.C., with research,
learning and collaboration opportunities
around the region and the world

HELP US FURTHER OUR MISSION. Contact Associate
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