

Date of Last Update: 25 June 2020

Topic: How to Become a Dental Public Health Specialist

Background:

- Dental Public Health (DPH) is currently one of twelve dental [specialties](#).
 - The [American Board of Dental Public Health](#) incorporated in 1950
- There are several accredited [Dental Public Health Residencies](#)
- There are two options for dentists to become [board eligible](#) in DPH – 1) MPH then DPH residency or 2) Combined MPH/DPH Program
- To become board certified in DPH the candidate must pass a four-section evaluation consisting of a written report, oral examination, written examination, and an assigned problem

Part-time Education Process:

1. Identify an education program that offers part-time training option:

MPH	DPH Only	Combined MPH/DPH
Multiple colleges and universities	Texas A&M University* Boston University* UT Health – San Antonio*	A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies*
For a complete list of all DPH residencies – including full-time only programs – visit the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) website .		

*Part-time program completed by active duty USPHS officer

2. Complete HHS Form 520 – Outside Work Activity and submit it for Agency approval
3. Consider using the [GI Bill](#) for tuition and fees
4. Create a memo stating that the federal government is not sponsoring you. Specifically note that you are self-paying tuition/fees and you are not using official duty time to complete coursework. This should be signed by the immediate supervisor and preferably the next level supervisor as well. For a Commissioned Officer, this should be sent to the payroll technician at CC HQ.

Benefits and Career Opportunities:

- DPH training broadens your perspective on how to approach oral health topics at the local, regional, and national level
- There are multiple opportunities to apply your new knowledge - e.g. clinical quality improvement programs, oral health surveillance, and health promotion/disease prevention programs
- As a DPH specialist you can continue in the clinical track while pursuing projects to improve oral health in the community (e.g. access to dental care) or pursue DPH-specific career opportunities.
- Board eligible DPH specialists qualify for the [Public Health Dentistry Retention Bonus Rate](#); Board certified DPH specialist also qualify for [Board Certified Incentive Pay](#)