

Juris Doctor/Master of Public Health (JD/MPH) Joint Degree

Students with an interest in public health law and policy may choose to pursue a joint JD/MPH degree offered collaboratively by the College of Law and the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Under the joint degree program, a student can obtain both degrees in approximately two semesters less than it would take to obtain them if pursued consecutively.

Program description

The JD/MPH joint degree program adds about one academic year to the time required to complete the JD degree. The MPH, a 48 credit program, usually takes 2 years to complete. The timeframe is shorter for the joint degree because the two programs share 12 credits of required coursework and up to 15 credits of MPH core courses may be taken online. Students may choose to devote the entire first year of study either to the JD degree or to the MPH degree. During the subsequent 2-3 years, they complete remaining course work, writing, and experiential training for both degrees.

Admission criteria and process

Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements and procedures for admission to both the Juris Doctor and the Master of Public Health degree programs. Both programs must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second program, that he/she intends to pursue the joint JD/MPH program. Because the time span from application to admission is more extended in the College of Law than for the Master of Public Health, it is generally recommended that students seek and gain admission to the College of Law first and make the MPH the second program. The joint degree program is not open to students who have already earned either the JD or the MPH degree. Additional information regarding admission to each program may be found at <http://www.law.ufl.edu/admissions/> and (**link to MPH admissions page**).

Timing of application/admission

Students are encouraged to announce their intent to seek a joint degree as soon as possible after admission to the first program. Admission to the second program is required no later than the end of the fourth consecutive semester after beginning one degree of the joint degree program. A summer term is counted as half a single semester.

Students admitted to one program but electing to spend the first academic year in the second program under the joint degree program may enter the first program thereafter without once again qualifying for admission so long as they have notified the first program before the end of the first week of the first semester in the joint degree program and are in good academic standing when studies commence in the first program.

Eligible grades

Master of Public Health courses, which are to be credited toward the J.D. degree, must carry a grade of B or higher but will not be counted in the College of Law grade point average. College of Law courses that are to be credited toward the MPH degree must carry a grade of C or higher but will not be counted in the grade point average for the MPH degree program

Writing requirement

Students enrolled in the joint degree program must complete the College of Law's advanced writing requirement.

Program completion requirements

A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The MPH, a 48-credit program, will allow 12 credits of appropriate law courses to be credited toward both MPH and JD degrees. Reciprocally, law students may receive toward the satisfaction of the JD degree 12-semester credits for courses taken in the graduate curriculum for the MPH degree. Two of these

courses, not more than a total of 6 semester credits, will be treated as the two graduate courses ordinarily allowed to be taken outside of the College of Law for credit toward Law School graduation. Students must carry the minimum number of credits required by either college.

Award of degree

A student enrolled in the joint degree program will not receive either degree until he/she has satisfied all of the requirements for both degrees, or until he/she has satisfied the requirements of one of the degrees as if he/she had not been a joint degree candidate.

Program withdrawal

Withdrawal from the MPH Program: Students who enroll in the joint degree program but do not complete the program may receive credit toward the College of Law degree under the graduate level course option for a maximum of two courses, not to exceed 6 semester credits, taken from the graduate curriculum of the MPH program of the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Although the grade is not computed in the student's grade point average, a grade of B or higher must be earned to receive credit hours for the course(s).

Withdrawal from the JD Program: Students who enroll in the joint degree program but do not complete the program may receive credit toward the MPH, not to exceed 6 semester credits, taken from the curriculum of the College of Law. Although the grade is not computed in the student's grade point average, a grade of C or higher must be earned to receive credit hours for the course(s). These 6 hours will only satisfy the elective hours in the MPH program unless otherwise approved by the MPH program director.

Teaching assistantships

Students in the joint program are eligible for graduate teaching assistantships and research assistantships in the College of Public Health and Health Professions on the same basis as other graduate students, subject to the guidelines and restrictions set by the MPH Program.

Supervisory committee

To facilitate student progress in the joint program, the MPH supervisory committee should be comprised of one MPH faculty member and one faculty member from the College of Law.

MPH culminating experience

Consistent with University of Florida Graduate School requirements, the MPH program requires a comprehensive examination which is in the form of oral and written presentations of each student's special project (internship or research project). The written and oral presentations are designed to assess understanding of the basic principles and theories underpinning the five core areas of public health and to assess the student's ability to apply this knowledge to contemporary issues. This experience provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate broad-based knowledge in the field of public health and represents the culmination of the academic experience in the program.

Sample MPH curriculum

Below is a sample of the MPH curriculum JD students will follow during the year devoted to MPH studies (either year 1 or 2). Most JD students choose Public Health Management and Policy for their concentrations, although they are eligible to choose any of the other concentration options. A complete list of the courses required for the JD may be found at www.law.ufl.edu/programs/jd/selection.shtml.

Joint JD/MPH, Public Health Management and Policy Concentration, 48 credits

I. Public Health Core: 16 credits		Credits	*Semester Offered
PHC 6050	Statistical Methods for Health Sciences I (CLP 6527C Measurement, Research Design, and Statistics I)	3	F
PHC 6001	Principles of Epidemiology	3	F (ss)
PHC 6313	Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health	3	S (F)
PHC 6102	Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems	3	S (F)
PHC 6406	Psychological, Behavioral, and Social Issues in Public Health	3	F (F)
PHC 6XXX	Seminar in Contemporary Public Health Issues	1	F,S
II. Concentration Core: 15 credits			
HSA 5103	Introduction to U.S. Health Care System	3	F
HSA 5177	Fundamentals of Health Care Finance	3	S
HAS 6118	Health Services Management	3	F
HSA 6152	Overview of U.S. Health Policy (<i>pre-req: prior health related coursework</i>)	3	S
PHC 61xx	Evidence-Based Management of Public Health Programs	3	F
III. Courses Accepted from JD Curriculum: 12 credits			
LAW 5000	Contracts	4	
LAW 5501	Constitutional Law	4	
LAW 5700	Torts	4	
IV. Special Project: 5 credits			
PHC 6912 or 6946	Special Project: Research or Internship	5	

* F=Fall; S=Spring; ss=Summer. () denote semester offered online.
 Class schedules are subject to change each semester. Students should verify course offerings and contact appropriate department for permission to register prior to registration.

Contact us

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