

## **Medical Doctor/Master of Public Health (MD/MPH) Joint Degree**

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

### **Program description**

The MD/MPH joint degree program adds about one academic year to the time required to complete the MD degree. The MPH, a 48 credit program, usually takes 2 years to complete. The timeframe is shorter for the joint degree because the MPH program accepts 12 credits from required medical school coursework, and the MD program allows 6 credits from the MPH coursework.

Most students will complete the first 3 years of medical school, and then take 1 or 2 4<sup>th</sup> year electives or requirements. Then, they will complete the majority of their MPH coursework over the next year (4<sup>th</sup> year of combined degree), followed by a final year that will include mostly 4<sup>th</sup> year medical school electives, but also some additional MPH requirements.

### **Admission criteria and process**

Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements and procedures for admission to both the Medical Doctor and the Master of Public Health degree programs. Most students will have already been admitted to medical school before applying for the joint program sometime during the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medical school. The joint degree program is not open to students who have already earned either the MD or the MPH degree. Additional information regarding admission to each program may be found at <http://www.medicine.ufl.edu/admissions/> and <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/admissions/>. Note that the MPH program may accept MCAT scores as a replacement for the GRE, if requested.

### **Timing of application/admission**

Students are encouraged to begin discussions about the combined degree at any time after admission to medical school. The actual time of application will typically be during the fall or early spring of the student's 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medical school (no later than June 1). Students will typically begin their MPH coursework in the fall semester after their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medical school, and continue to take a full-time course load in the spring semester and first summer session, before returning to the medical school.

### **Eligible grades**

Master of Public Health courses, which are to be credited toward the M.D. degree, must carry a grade of B or higher but will not be counted in the College of Medicine grade point average. College of Medicine 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.

### **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 medical school courses to be credited toward both MPH and MD degrees. Reciprocally, medical students may receive toward the satisfaction of the MD degree 6-semester credits for courses taken in the graduate curriculum for the MPH degree. Students must carry the minimum number of credits required by either college.

### **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 Medicine 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 MD 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. If awarded, graduate assistantships will cover only semesters in which students are enrolled in MPH courses: Year 4 (fall, spring summer) and year 5 (fall, spring).

**MPH Concentrations.** Students must choose from one of the six MPH concentrations: Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Public Health Management and Policy, Public Health Practice, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Please visit <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/concentrations/> for a description of each concentration. Many medical students may choose Public Health Practice, because of its broad flexibility, although they are free to choose from any of the other concentration options.

### **Supervisory committee**

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

**Internship requirement.** Students enrolled in the joint degree program must complete a public health internship, as described in the online MPH program description. For most students, the internship will be completed during the final (5<sup>th</sup>) year of the combined degree program.

**MPH culminating experience.** Students attain a depth in public health knowledge and skills by selecting one core area for their concentrations. They obtain a broad knowledge base of public health issues and perspectives through the MPH core courses and electives. The concepts presented in these courses are integrated and assimilated through the internship, which provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in the real world of public health. Students may engage in many activities during an internship. However, each student must have one special project which serves as the basis for a major paper and a presentation. These final activities of the MPH program are intended to encourage students to understand their projects in the larger context of public health as a cross-disciplinary field and in relation to the competencies expected of all MPH graduates. Student presentations are scheduled on one or two *Public Health Days*

near the end of fall, spring and summer semesters. The written paper and oral presentation constitute a culminating experience for the MPH.

**Sample MPH curricula**

Below are samples of the MPH curricula MD/MPH students may follow during the year devoted to MPH studies, including a range of electives that students may choose from. The examples here are for the Public Health Practice and Epidemiology concentrations, although students may choose from any concentration.

**Sample Curriculum for MD/MPH Students  
Public Health Practice Concentration**

<b>I. Public Health Core: 16 credits</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Semester</b>
PHC 6050	Statistical Methods for Health Sciences I	3	F
PHC 6001	Principles of Epidemiology	3	F
PHC 6313	Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health	3	S
PHC 6406	Psychological, Behavioral, and Social Issues in Public Health	3	F
PHC 6102	Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems	3	S
PHC 6931	Seminar in Contemporary Public Health Issues	1	F-S
<b>II. Choose 2-3 courses from each of 2 Concentration Cores: 12 - 15 Credits</b>			
<b>Epidemiology Core:</b>			
PHC 6000	Epidemiology Research Methods I	3	S
PHC 6002	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	3	ss
PHC 6003	Epidemiology of Chronic Disease	3	F
PHC 6011	Epidemiology Research Methods II	3	ss
<b>Biostatistics Core: 3 credits</b>			
PHC 6053	Regression Methods for the Health and Life Sciences	3	S
STA 5715	Survival Analysis	3	F
STA 5325	Fundamentals of Probability	3	
STA 5328	Fundamentals of Statistical Theory	3	
PHC 6000	Epidemiology Research Methods I	3	S
<b>Management and Policy</b>			
PHC 6104	Evidence-Based Management of Public Health Programs	3	F
HSA 5177	Fundamentals of Health Care Finance	3	S
HSA 6114	Introduction to U.S. Health Care System	3	F
HSA 6119	Introduction to Management of Health Services Organizations	3	F
HSA 6152	Overview of U.S. Health Policy	3	S
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences</b>			
PHC 6112	Assessment and Surveillance in Public Health	3	S
PHC 6146	Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3	ss
PHC 6700	Social & Behavioral Research Methods	3	S
PHC 6xxx	Public Health Information for Diverse Populations	3	ss
<b>Environmental Health</b>			
VME 6602	General Toxicology	3	F
VME 6607	Human Health Risk Assessment	4	F
PHC 6702	Exposure Measurement and Assessment	3	ss

<b>IV. Medical School Credits: up to 12 hours</b>			
BMS 6823	Evidence-Based Medicine	3	2 <sup>nd</sup> year MD
BMS 6828 & 6829	Interdisciplinary Family Health	4	F
BMS	Family Medicine Clerkship	5 (of 9)	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
	Other Medical School Electives....	3	S
<b>V. Public Health Electives: Optional</b>			
PHC 6917	Supervised Research	1-3	
PHC 6945	Public Health Practicum	1-3	
PHC courses	Public health coursework offered by the other concentrations	3	
<b>VI. Required Internship: 5-8 credits</b>			
PHC 6946	Public Health Internship	5-8	
<b>TOTAL</b>			48

**Sample Curriculum for MD/MPH Students  
Epidemiology Concentration**

<b>I. Public Health Core: 16 credits</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Semester</b>
PHC 6001	Principles of Epidemiology	3	F
PHC 6313	Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health	3	S
PHC 6102	Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems	3	S
PHC 6406	Psychological, Behavioral, and Social Issues in Public Health	3	F
PHC 6931	Seminar in Contemporary Public Health Issues	1	F,S
STA 6166	Statistical Methods in Research I	3	F,S
<b>II. Concentration Core: 12 credits</b>			
PHC 6000	Epidemiology Research Methods I	3	S
PHC 6002	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	3	ss
PHC 6003	Epidemiology of Chronic Disease	3	F
PHC 6011	Epidemiology Research Methods II	3	ss
<b>III. Biostatistics Core: 3 credits</b>			
PHC 6053	Regression Methods for the Health and Life Sciences	3	S
<b>IV. Medical School Credits: up to 12 hours</b>			
BMS 6823	Evidence-Based Medicine	3	2 <sup>nd</sup> year MD
BMS 6828 & 6829	Interdisciplinary Family Health	4	F
BMS	Family Medicine Clerkship	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
<b>V. Required Internship: 5-8 credits</b>			
PHC 6946	Public Health Internship	5-8	

## Contact Us

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