

Proposal for a Joint Degree:  
Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Health Degree

Institution Submitting Proposal: The University of Utah

College, School or Division affected: College of Social and Behavioral Science  
Department of Political Science  
College of Health Sciences  
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine  
Division of Public Health

Change Description: Proposal of a Joint Master of Public Administration  
and a Master of Public Health Degree

Proposed Beginning Date: Fall Semester 2009

Institutional Signatures

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Rick Green, MPA Program Director

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Stephen C. Alder, MPH Program Director

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J. Steven Ott, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Science

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Michael K. Magill, Chair, Family and Preventive Medicine

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David Bjorkman, Dean, School of Medicine

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David S. Chapman, Dean, The Graduate School

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David W. Pershing, Chief Academic Officer

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Michael K. Young, President

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Date

**8.4.1 Template for Submission to the Information Calendar of the Academic.** – Items to include transfer, restructuring or consolidation of existing programs or administrative units, stand-alone minors, interdisciplinary minors, emphases, and name changes approved by the Board of Trustees and sent to the Regents as an information item.

**SECTION I: The Action.** Briefly describe the change. Include a listing of courses and credits as appropriate.

The University of Utah's College of Social and Behavioral Science and the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine request permission to establish a joint degree program that enables students to pursue a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree simultaneously. If approved, the joint degree program would be available beginning Fall Semester 2009.

This request is NOT to establish a new degree program. Instead, this is a proposal which seeks to take advantage of complementary intellectual benefit from studying public administration and public health in a coordinated program. A student enrolled in the joint degree program should be allowed to earn both degrees in less time and with a lower overall credit requirement than were that student enrolled in each school or program independently.

Students seeking to take advantage of the MPA/MPH program must meet current University of Utah admission standards and be accepted to both the MPA program and the MPH program. Upon enrollment, students in the joint degree program may then apply up to 12 credit hours of MPH class work towards fulfilling the 42 credit hour requirement of the MPA degree. Likewise, students may count up to 12 credit hours of MPA class work towards fulfilling the 45 credit hour requirement of the MPH degree. This option eliminates up to 24 credit hours that would be required for completing the two programs separately. Because of this overall reduction in credit requirements for both degrees, a student enrolled in the joint MPA/MPH degree program can expect to complete the two degrees in approximately 6-8 semesters of full time study. A student enrolled in the joint degree program must complete all MPA and all MPH requirements before either degree will be awarded.

Upon completion of both programs, the student earns two separate degrees: an MPA degree awarded by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and an MPH degree awarded by the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

An example of sequencing of coursework is provided as an attachment to this request.

**SECTION II: Need.** Indicate why the change is justified. Reference need or demand data if appropriate.

The MPA/MPH program is designed for students who seek advanced training in health policy analysis and program evaluation, as well as public health administration. Health issues are an area of priority within the public, nonprofit and private sectors. Students pursuing the MPA/MPH joint degree will acquire the skills needed to work in all three sectors. These skills include health policy analysis and program evaluation, government contracting with health

agencies and nonprofits, aspects of managing health organizations, and law and ethics of health fields. Students will also be educated in the political and institutional processes of making public health policy.

Many students' careers will benefit from the skills gained from obtaining an MPA/MPH degree. Graduates of the program may pursue administrative positions for public (federal, state and local level), private and nonprofit health agencies. They may also find career work as health advocates, policy and program analysts and health policy consultants. Students with this joint degree, for example, may direct hospital programs and services focused on public health problems, work as lobbyists for nonprofit and health care agencies, work as educators in public health programs, or serve as analysts for public health policy reviews. Other examples would include work in public nutrition campaigns, as well as work with developing public health programs for the homeless population.

Students in the MPA program have expressed an interest in earning an MPH degree simultaneously. Currently there are 12 students pursuing health administration as their area of concentration under the MPA degree. Students in the MPH program have also provided input regarding interest in a joint MPA/MPH degree program. Working through the student advisory committee (SAC), public health students have been expressing an interest in taking more administrative and policy oriented courses for several years. The MPA/MPH program will also offer more training for students wishing to pursue work for the Department of Health and Human Services, Utah Department of Health and local health agencies. Students will be able to get practical experience during the required practicum, which will count for both degrees. Students will also gain research experience with the MPA major research paper and the MPH comprehensive exam, each of which focuses on a public health issue.

### **SECTION III: Institutional Impact**

Will the proposed recommendation affect enrollments in instructional programs of affiliated departments or programs?

No, students from the MPA already take courses in Family and Preventive Medicine and vice versa. The MPA program offers a group of courses which address politics, policy, public law, and public health policy specifically that nicely complement, and help fulfill, curriculum requirements in Family & Preventive Medicine. Likewise, some students in the MPA program seek specific public health courses in Family & Preventive Medicine to fulfill MPA concentration requirements. Students from both programs occasionally seek coursework in the Masters of Health Administration and the Masters of Public Policy Programs as well, and that can continue under this arrangement. These are interdisciplinary programs which include MPA courses in their core and elective curricula. These are the courses that most MPH students need to complete.

How will the proposed recommendations affect existing administrative structures?

No change in administrative structures is anticipated. The MPA program already runs five joint degrees and the MPH program runs two joint degrees.

What (new) faculty, physical facilities or equipment will be impacted?  
None.

The MPA program admits 45-65 evening students and up to 25 executive students each fall based on the quality of the applicant pool. The MPA program anticipates that the addition of the MPA/MPH option could increase enrollment by up to five students each fall. The MPA program offers four of its nine core courses two times per year and the other five on a rotating once-per-year, then twice-per-year format. The needs of extra students would be met under the 30-student enrollment cap for core courses. Elective courses would also be available for students on a regular basis, for example, health policy, policy analysis and managing nonprofit organizations are all taught every spring semester.

The target enrollment of the MPH program is 35-40 students. The MPH program does not envision that the joint degree program will change this target or the ability to meet it.

The MPA and MPH program managers will coordinate admission and academic advising between the two programs. Each program manager will notify the other of an applicant and admit seeking joint status.

**SECTION IV: Finances:** What costs are anticipated? Describe any budgetary impact, including cost savings, on other programs or units within the institution.

The addition of the MPA/MPH option will not impose any new direct financial costs on the institution. However, personnel and faculty in both programs will face a modest increase in administrative tasks related to admissions, tracking, and student counseling.

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
PADMN 6300 – Administrative Theory (3)	PADMN 6289 – Research Design (3)
FPMD 6100 – Biostatistics I (3)	PADMN 6321 – Health Policy (3)
FPMD 6500 – Intro to Public Health (3)	or PADMN 6323 – Policy Analysis (3)
<b>Total: 9</b>	FPMD 6300 – Epidemiology (3)
	<b>Total: 9</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
PADMN 6380 – Public Budget and Finance (3)	PADMN 6220 – Constitutional Law (3)
FPMD 6600 – Social Context of Med & PH (3)	PADMN 6360 – Public Human Res. Mngmt. (3)
<i>FPMD 6610 – Public Health Ethics and Law</i> (3)	FPMD 6700 – Environmental Public Health (3)
FPMD Practicum (6)	PADMN 6330 – Practice of Pub. Mngmt. (3)
<b>Total: 15</b>	<b>Total: 12</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
PADMN 6230 – Administrative Law (3)	PADMN 6890 – Capstone (3)
<i>P.A. Elective Course</i> (3)	<i>FP MD Elective</i> (3)
FMPD 6401 – Public Health Policy (3)	FPMD 6550 – Public Health Pro. Plan & Eval.(3)
<b>Total: 9</b>	<b>Total: 9</b>