

November 30, 2005

David W. Pershing
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
205 Park
Campus

RE: Proposal to Create a Joint MPA-MSW Degree

Dear Vice President Pershing:

At its meeting of November 28, 2005, the Graduate Council voted to approve a proposal to create a joint Master of Public Administration (MPA)/Master of Social Work (MSW) degree, to be offered through the Department of Political Science and the College of Social Work.

The proposed joint degree program will allow students to save up to 21 semester hours by pursuing both degrees simultaneously. The agreement complies with Graduate School requirements that graduate students complete a minimum of 30 hours in each program.

A copy of the proposal is attached for your approval and transmittal to the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,

David S. Chapman
Assoc. V.P. for Graduate Studies
Dean, The Graduate School

XC: J. Steven Ott, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Science
Jannah H. Mather, Dean, College of Social Work
Ronald J. Hrebenar, Chair, Department of Political Science
Rick Green, MPA Director, Center for Public Policy and Administration
Larry Smith, MSW Director, College of Social Work

November 18, 2005

Dean David Chapman
Graduate School, University of Utah
310 Park Bldg.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

RE: Proposed MPA/MSW Joint-Degree Program

Dear Dean Chapman:

Please find attached a proposal to establish an MPA/MSW joint-degree program. A full description of the program is provided as an attachment, as are letters of support from the Dean of each college. The Board of Trustees template request form is also included. The faculty of both programs, and our respective Deans, heartily endorse this proposal as way of providing graduate students the opportunity to complete both degrees in an expedited manner. A joint-degree program fashioned from existing degrees in these fields offers significant advantages to students, without having to create a new degree or to modify existing curricula. Moreover, it will greatly enhance their career prospects in many public agencies and nonprofit organizations.

The joint-degree program enables students to benefit from complementary intellectual and professional elements in the two degree programs, and to earn both degrees in a shorter timeframe with streamlined credit requirements. The program would allow students to complete requirements for both degrees in six semesters, saving as many as 21 credit hours. Students must still seek admission to each program separately, and will graduate with separate degrees, but must complete the requirements for both programs before either degree is awarded. As such, this new program adds very little to the administrative burdens of either college or existing programs. The budgetary impact is also minimal.

We appreciate your advice and assistance in carrying this request forward. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

Rick Green
MPA Director

Larry Smith
MSW Director

10.4. Template for Submission to the Information Calendar of the Academic, Career and Technical Education, and Student Success Committee and Board Action - 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 Board of Regents as an information item.)
Request to establish MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program from existing degrees.

SECTION I: The Request (Briefly describe the change. Include a listing of courses and credits as appropriate.)

The University of Utah's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the College of Social Work request permission to establish a joint degree program that enables students to pursue the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree and the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree simultaneously. If approved, the joint-degree program would be available beginning Fall Semester 2006.

This is NOT a request to establish a new degree program. Rather, the intent is to take advantage of complementary intellectual and professional elements in the two existing degree programs so that students may earn both degrees in a shorter timeframe, and with streamlined credit requirements.

Students enrolled in the joint degree program may apply up to 12 credit hours of coursework completed in the MSW curriculum towards fulfillment of the 42 credit-hour requirement for the MPA degree. Likewise, they may count up to 9 credit hours of MPA coursework towards fulfilling the 60 credit-hour requirement of the MSW degree. This option eliminates up to 21 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 fulltime in the joint degree program can expect to complete the two degrees in approximately six semesters of full-time study. A student enrolled in the joint degree program must complete all MPA and all MSW requirements before either degree will be awarded.

Upon completion of both programs, the student earns two separate degrees, an MSW degree awarded by the College of Social Work, and an MPA degree awarded by the Department of Political Science within the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.

The full details of this joint-degree arrangement are provided in the attachment to this request.

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

The MPA/MSW program is based on the assumption that, because there is complementary intellectual and professional benefit from studying social work and public administration 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 program independently.

Many MPA/MSW students plan to work, or are already working, in government agencies and nonprofit organizations that perform public services. Courses in the MPA curriculum will benefit these students immensely, especially concerning subjects covered in the MPA core courses. These include public personnel management, constitutional and administrative law, administrative theory and behavior, public ethics, and public budgeting. Likewise, some MPA students work in social services at local, state, and federal levels, and would benefit greatly by learning more about the standards and practices covered in the MSW curriculum.

Between the two programs, we expect that as many as 5-10 graduate students may wish to take advantage of the joint-degree program each year. We believe the numbers will substantially exceed those encountered in some existing joint-degree programs. For example, the UofU MPA Program currently maintains joint-degree programs with the UofU Law School (2-3 students/yr), the Education, Leadership & Policy PhD program in the College of Education (one student/yr), and the College of Social Work PhD program (one student/yr).

SECTION III: Institutional Impact:

Will the proposed recommendation affect enrollments in instructional programs of affiliated departments or programs? **No**

How will the proposed recommendations affect existing administrative structures? **No affect anticipated.**

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

SECTION IV: Finances

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

Cost and budgetary impact will be minimal. The number of students likely to enroll in the joint-degree program is very small relative to the overall enrollment in each program.

MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program

(2005)

The University of Utah's Department of Political Science and the College of Social Work have adopted the following program to enable students to pursue both an MPA degree and an MSW degree simultaneously.

1. Reduction in Overall Credit Requirement

The MPA/MSW program is based on the assumption that, because there is complementary intellectual and professional benefit from studying social work and public administration 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 enrolled in the joint degree program may apply up to 12 credit hours of coursework completed in the College of Social Work (CSW) towards fulfillment of the 42 credit-hour requirement for the MPA degree. Likewise, they may count up to 9 credit hours of MPA coursework towards fulfilling the 60 credit-hour requirement of the MSW degree. This option eliminates up to 21 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 fulltime in the joint degree program can expect to complete the two degrees in approximately six semesters of full-time study. However, as noted in § 2.7 below, a student enrolled in the Joint Degree Program must complete all MSW and all MPA requirements before either degree will be awarded.

Upon completion of both programs, the student earns two separate degrees, an MSW degree awarded by the College of Social Work, and an MPA degree awarded by the Department of Political Science.

2. Regulations Governing the MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program

2.1 Application to Joint Degree Program

Applicants interested in this program must submit separate admission applications to the College of Social Work and to the MPA Program. Each program has its own independent admissions standards, and admission to one program does not ensure admission to the other. In order to achieve the maximum benefit (saving 21 credit hours) in the joint degree program, applicants should apply to both programs in the same year for fall admission.

2.2 Enrollment in the MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program and Notice to Faculty Advisors in Both Programs

A student who has been admitted to both the MPA and MSW programs, and who wishes to pursue the joint degree program opportunity, must file a Joint Degree Enrollment Form (a copy of which is attached) with the MPA and MSW program offices. The student should consult with faculty advisors in each program to assist with planning an overall program of study that takes advantage of the goals of the joint degree program.

2.3 Requirements for Cross-Over Course Credit

To earn academic credit towards an MSW degree for coursework completed in the MPA program:

- 1) An MPA course must be pre-approved by the College of Social Work; and
- 2) The course must be a graduate level course; and 3) the student must receive a grade of “C” or higher in the course, while maintaining at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average in the MSW program

To earn academic credit towards the MPA degree for coursework completed in the College of Social Work:

- 1) The student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in the MPA Program. The lowest acceptable grade for any course is a “C.”
- 2) Social Work courses must address topics generally related to public administration or public policy. Most courses offered through the College of Social Work will meet this criterion. The student should consult with the MPA Director or MPA Program Manager for approval.

2.4(a) Notification to College of Social Work of Enrollment Only in MPA Courses

A student in the MSW/MPA Joint Degree Program who during any semester is enrolled only in MPA courses shall notify the Director of the MSW Program of that fact.

2.4(b) Notification to MPA Program Manager of Enrollment Only in College of Social Work Courses

A student in the MSW/MPA Program who during any semester is enrolled only in CSW courses shall notify the MPA Program Manager of that fact.

2.5 MPA Major Research Paper or Thesis

The MPA program requires that a student complete a major research paper. A research paper completed in a College of Social Work (CSW) course may satisfy the MPA major research paper requirement if the student’s MPA Faculty Advisor determines that the paper meets the following requirements:

- A) The paper written in the CSW course meets all criteria for a major

research paper set by the MPA program in terms of length and significance;

B) The CSW paper receives a grade of “B” or better; and

C) The subject matter of the paper has significance in the fields of both Social Work and Public Administration.

In the event that a student in the MPA program chooses to write the optional master’s thesis instead of a major research paper, the MPA program will appoint the student’s CSW Advisor as a member of the thesis committee.

2.6 Work in the College of Social Work Meeting Other MPA Requirements

MPA students who have not had adequate practical experience in public administration are required to complete an internship. Students in the joint degree program who are required to complete such an internship may fulfill the requirement in any of the following ways with the prior approval of the MPA Program Director:

(1) Completion of the MSW Practicum requirements.

(2) Completion of a full-time internship (three months), or part-time internship (6 months), with a governmental agency or non-profit organization.

2.7 Completion of Both Programs Required for Award of Degrees

A student enrolled in the MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program, who wishes to count credits taken in one program toward fulfilling the degree in the other program, must complete all requirements of both programs before either degree will be awarded.

MPA/MSW Joint Degree Curriculum Scenario

Under the schema illustrated below, a joint-degree student would complete 51 hours in the MSW program, and 30 hours (9 core courses, 1 elective course) in the MPA program. If needed, joint degree students may complete their internship requirement through the MSW Practicum requirement. The MPA major research paper requirement can be met through the MSW project requirement.

MSW-MPA Joint Degree

Hours: S.W.- 51

P.A.- 30

Total- 81 (Saves 21 Semester Credit hours)

Fall	Spring
Practice I: Individuals & Groups (3)	Practice II: Couples & Families (3)
HBSE I: (3)	Practice: Organizations & Community (3)
Social Welfare & Policy (3)	HBSE: II (3)
Practicum (3)	Practicum (3)
<i>P.A. Core Course</i> (3)	<i>P.A. Core Course</i> (3)
Total: 15	Total: 15
Fall	Spring
Advanced Practice I: Domain (3)	Advanced Practice II: Domain (3)
Advanced Policy: Domain (3)	Advanced ADM/SUP: Domain (3)
Diversity & S.J. (3)	Practicum (4)
Practicum (4)	<i>P.A. Core Class</i> (3)
<i>P.A. Research Design</i> (3)	
Total: 16	Total: 13
Fall	Spring
Advanced R I: Domain (2)	Advanced R II: Domain (2)
<i>P.A. Core Course</i> (3)	<i>P.A. Core Course</i> (3)
<i>P.A. Core Course</i> (3)	<i>P.A. Core Course</i> (3)
<i>P.A. Elective Course</i> (3)	<i>P.A. Capstone Course</i> (3)
Total: 11	Total: 11

University of Utah
MPA/MSW Joint Degree Enrollment Form
(Submit copies to MPA and MSW Program Offices)

Student Name: _____ . Student ID# _____ .

Expected date of completion of requirements for both MPA and MSW degrees: _____ .

Notice of Joint Degree Program Enrollment:

I have been accepted into both the MPA and MSW programs at the University of Utah, and have attached a copy of the letters of acceptance. I wish to enroll in the MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program. I understand that up to 12 hours of MSW credits may be applied to the 42 credit-hour requirement of the MPA degree, and up to 9 hours of MPA credits may be applied to the 60 credit-hour requirement of the MSW degree.

I have notified my MSW Advisor or Director of enrollment in the MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program. Date: _____ .

I have notified my MPA Advisor or Director of enrollment in the MPA/MSW Joint Degree Program. Date: _____ .

Student Signature: _____ . Date: _____ .