

UC 12270 135

Memorandum

Approved by COE
Undergraduate Studies Committee
M. Pierson 2/21/13
Dr. Melissa Pierson Date

To: Dr. Melissa Pierson
From: Dr. Norma Olvera, Health Program Coordinator
Date: February 26, 2013

Re: Proposal for a University of Houston (UH) Bachelor of Science in Health (BSH) with a Public Health Specialization and University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH), Master of Public Health (MPH) Dual Degree Program

Item: It is proposed to create a "BSH/MPH Dual Degree Program" in the College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology UH and UTSPH to offer eligible students a Dual Degree program, and to be housed under the purview of the Health Program, Educational Psychology Department for purposes of academic advising and faculty mentoring for the UH Bachelor's Degree in Health with Specialization in Public Health.

Rationale: The Dual Degree between UH and UTSPH offers outstanding students the benefit of pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Health at UH and beginning their graduate studies toward a MPH at UTSPH during their senior year completing both degrees in a five-year period of study. The Agreement imposes certain additional requirements on participating students while at UH.

Students will require advising concerning this BSH/MPH Dual Degree Program, faculty mentoring on their course of studies for the UH B.S., and need to be evaluated periodically for on-going program eligibility. The College of Education, Educational Psychology, Health Program staff members are ideally suited to help these students be successful.

Conclusion: Currently, the University of Houston's Department of Educational Psychology, Health Program provides a BSH with a Public Health Specialization. Through a joint venture with University of Texas School of Public Health, the UH Health Program will provide eligible students the opportunity to obtain their BSH while simultaneously working towards their MPH. The advantages to eligible students are clear: 1) careful advising while at UH, and 2) the ability to earn an expedited dual Bachelor's Degree in Health with a Public Health Specialization from the University of Houston, and Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health.

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APPROVED MAR 27 2013

Program Details

(Items affecting degree requirements in bold and italics)

- 1) Interested UH students will complete ***at least 120 credit hours towards a UH Bachelor of Science in Health with a Public Health Specialization and*** meet the requirements for the BSH with a Public Health Specialization at the College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology. Students must complete 45 credit hours at the UTSPH. Of those 45 credit hours, up to 21 credit hours of UTSPH courses taken during the student's four year of study at the University of Houston will be counted toward meeting the requirements for the BSH/MPH degree. **A total of 145-146 credit hours are required to complete the BSH/MPH dual degree program.**
- 2) Students admitted to the UH BSH program must complete four semesters of the BSH degree program and obtain an overall UH **3.5 cumulative GPA** or greater to be eligible to apply to the dual degree program.. This requirement will be confirmed after the fourth semester or 63 credit hours.

Starting with the review for eligibility after 63 hours and continuing so long as eligibility is maintained, participants in the program will have priority registration privileges.
- 3) Students who are not eligible at any point for the Dual Degree Program for failure to maintain GPA requirements may continue and complete a UH Bachelor's Degree in Health.
- 4) Based on continuing eligibility and successful admission to UTSPH under this Program, up to 21 credit hours of approved coursework from their UH Bachelor's degree in Health with a Public Health Specialization can apply to the awarding of their UTSPH MPH.
- 5) After the fourth semester or 63 credit hours, eligible students will be advised to take the designated Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores and to apply for admission to UTSPH MPH as a dual-degree applicant.

Students not eligible or not admitted through this program will have the option of applying through the general applicant pool at UTSPH or of completing a single UH degree (BSH or Master).

Catalogue Language

BSH/MPH Dual Degree Program

The Dual Degree Agreement between UH and UTSPH offers outstanding students the benefit of pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Health at UH and beginning their graduate studies toward a MPH at UTSPH during their senior year completing both degrees in a five-year period of study. The Agreement imposes certain additional requirements on participating students while at UH. Students will require advising concerning this BSH/MPH Dual Degree Program, faculty mentoring on their course of studies for the UH B.S., and need to be evaluated periodically for on-going program eligibility. The College of Education, Educational Psychology, Health Program staff members are ideally suited to help these students be successful.

Students must meet the following requirements for participation in the BSH/MPH Dual Degree Program:

- 1) Interested UH students will complete ***at least 120 credit hours towards a UH Bachelor of Science in Health with a Public Health Specialization and*** meet the requirements for the BSH with a Public Health Specialization at the College of Education, Department of Educational Psychology. Students must complete 45 credit hours at the UTSPH. Of those 45 credit hours, up to 21 credit hours of UTSPH courses taken during the student's four year of study at the University of Houston will be counted toward meeting the requirements for the BSH/MPH degree. **A total of 145-146 credit hours are required to complete the BSH/MPH dual degree program.**
- 2) Students admitted to the UH BSH program must complete four semesters of the BSH degree program and obtain an overall UH **3.5 cumulative GPA** or greater to be eligible to apply to the dual degree program.. This requirement will be confirmed after the fourth semester or 63 credit hours.

Starting with the review for eligibility after 63 hours and continuing so long as eligibility is maintained, participants in the program will have priority registration privileges.
- 3) Students who are not eligible at any point for the Dual Degree Program for failure to maintain GPA requirements may continue and complete a UH Bachelor's Degree in Health.
- 4) Based on continuing eligibility and successful admission to UTSPH under this Program, up to 21 credit hours of approved coursework from their UH Bachelor's degree in Health with a Public Health Specialization can apply to the awarding of their UTSPH MPH.
- 5) After the fourth semester or 63 credit hours, eligible students will be advised to take the designated Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores and to apply for admission to UTSPH MPH as a dual-degree applicant.

Students not eligible or not admitted through this program will have the option of applying through the general applicant pool at UTSPH or of completing a single UH degree (BSH or Master).

Due to the unique nature of this Dual Degree Program, interested students are recommended to stay in regular contact with their Academic Advisor.

The University of Texas School of Public Health
and
University of Houston College of Education Undergraduate Studies

4 + 1 Program
Bachelor of Science in Health and Master of Public Health

The Health Programs in the College of Education at The University of Houston (UH) and the University of Texas School of Public Health¹ (UTSPH) propose to offer a dual degree accelerated program leading to two degrees, the UH Bachelor of Science in Health (BSH) with a Public Health Specialization and the UTSPH Master of Public Health (MPH) degree.

The growing field of public health will require an expanded and better prepared workforce to address complex and emerging public health problems. There is an increased need in both the public and private sectors for specialists in public health to develop, implement, and evaluate programs and policies for improved health care and disease prevention. To address this demand the dual BSH/MPH program is proposed, so that students can earn both degrees in approximately five academic years. The BSH degree will be awarded when the required course work is completed in the BSH with a specialization in Public Health at the end of the fourth year. The MPH degree will be awarded when the UTSPH degree requirements have been completed. The dual degree program will enable outstanding students in the UH BSH with a specialization in public health to begin their graduate studies toward a MPH during their senior year and complete both degrees in a five year period of study. Admission to the UTSPH MPH program will be competitive for students in the UH BSH with Public Health Specialization program.

The demand for graduates of such a dual degree program is likely to expand rapidly in the future. The BSH provides the appropriate education for entry-level positions in public health. However, with an aging public health workforce and an expanding need for advanced training, the MPH degree is a next step to ensure qualified leadership for public health programs. This BSH/MPH program will provide students with a foundation in the public health and advanced specialist training in preparation for a leadership position in public health practice.

Students completing their MPH at the UTSPH will be able to specialize in either Health Promotion and Health Education or Community Health Practice major.

¹ The University of Texas School of Public Health is part of the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston. The UT School of Public Health has five regional campuses in Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, and San Antonio. It is anticipated that the vast majority of Public Health students who opt for the dual degree will be from the Houston Campus; however, students completing their BSH and the first year of the MPH, may request a transfer to one of the other regional campuses.

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1) Application to the Dual Degree Program

A prospective student must first apply and be accepted to the UH BSH program with a specialization in Public Health in the College of Education. As prerequisites to the BSH program, students must complete HLT 1353 (Personal Health), HLT 2320 (Introduction to Public Health), and one of the following two courses: HLT 3301 (Health Behavior Theory & Practice) OR HLT 3381 (Health Promotion and Disease Prevention). Each course must be completed with a “C” or better before the student will be eligible to declare a major in Health.

Students admitted to the BSH program must complete four semesters of the BSH degree program and obtain an overall UH grade point average of 3.5 or greater to be eligible to apply to the dual degree program. Eligible BSH students may apply to the UT School of Public Health MPH program following the application and admission schedule and policies found on-line at <https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/mph-ms-drph-phd-programs/> and include the submission of GRE scores. Typically students are expected to apply during their 5th semester of the BSH degree program. Students will apply through SOPHAS.org and submit all supporting materials on-line.

2) Admission to the Dual Degree Program

Applicants will be considered for admission to each program individually. Final admission to the dual BSH/MPH program will require approval by the UT School of Public Health Houston Campus and the UH, Health Program, College of Education.

ADMINISTRATION

The day-to-day supervision and guidance of students in the program will be performed by the Undergraduate Health Advisor from the UH College of Education and the Graduate Advisor of the UT School of Public Health.

For larger programmatic and policy issues, a Coordinating Committee for the dual degree program will be formed. The committee will consist of one health faculty representative from each University along with the Associate Dean of Public Health Practice at the UT School of Public Health Houston Campus and the Associate Dean of the College of Education at the University of Houston. The committee will select a Chair annually.

The Coordinating Committee will be charged with the tasks of ensuring that:

1. policies established for the dual degree program will retain the academic integrity of both degrees,

2. problems or issues related to the program will be addressed, and any ensuing recommended changes will be requested,
3. an annual evaluation of the program will be conducted at the end of each academic year, and
4. a report will be submitted to the Deans in each School who, in turn, will report to the University of Houston or School of Public Health respective Administrators.

The Deans will work with the Coordinating Committee to enhance the interactions for the parties by encouraging and promoting a variety of inter-institutional exchanges, including adjunct faculty appointments, shared teaching, collaborative research, and faculty enrichment.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1) Credit for Program Work

The BSH/MPH dual degree program will be designed so that students can earn a BSH and MPH degree in five years rather than the six or more years generally required to complete the two degrees independently. To satisfy the program requirements, students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours and meet the requirements for the BSH with a Public Health Specialization at the College of Education and 45 credit hours at the UT School of Public Health. Of those 45 credit hours, 20-21 credit hours of UTSPH courses taken during the student's fourth year of study at the University of Houston will be counted toward meeting the requirements for the BSH/MPH degree. This means that a total of 145-146 credit hours are required to complete the BSH/MPH dual degree program.

Bachelor of Science in Health (Public Health Specialization)

The general requirements for the BSH are as follows:

| Category | Semester Credit Hours |
|---|-----------------------|
| General Education Core Curriculum (Bachelor's degree only) | 48 |
| Required BSH Undergraduate Public Health Courses (not counted toward UT Core) | 27 |
| Minor | 15-18 |
| Health Electives | 15 |
| Approved Electives from Related Area | 15-17 |
| TOTAL | 120-125 |

NOTE: Students must complete a minimum of *120 hours* to receive a degree from the UH. In the dual BSH/MPH degree programs, the UTSPH courses taken during the fourth year of the BSH specialization in Public Health degree curriculum would fit into the categories of "Health" and/or "Approved" electives.

Required Undergraduate Public Health Courses for the BSH are as follows:

| | Required Courses | SCH |
|----------|--|-----|
| HLT 2320 | Introduction to Public Health | 3 |
| HLT 3301 | Health Behavior Theory and Practice | 3 |
| HLT 3306 | Environmental Health | 3 |
| HLT 3380 | Culture and Health | 3 |
| HLT 3381 | Health Promotion and Disease Prevention | 3 |
| HLT 4307 | Measurement in Health | 3 |
| HLT 4317 | Foundations of Epidemiology in Public Health | 3 |
| HLT 4320 | Administration of Health Services | 3 |
| HLT 4393 | Internship | 3 |

The Masters in Public Health

A minimum of forty-five (45) semester credit hours are required to earn the MPH degree, including the completion of a practicum/internship experience and a culminating experience/thesis on a topic related to public health. The MPH degree program requires that students acquire skills and knowledge in five core public health disciplines: social and behavioral sciences, biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, and health services management, policy administration. The remaining courses are chosen to meet the requirements for majors within the MPH degree and electives to reflect the career interests of the student. Students completing the MPH at the UTSPH Houston Campus can choose completing course requirements for a major Community Health Practice or Health Promotion and Health Education. Students seeking a major in other areas may request a transfer to other UTSPH campuses to complete required course work, where additional major options are available.

2) Completion of the Dual Program

The student will be responsible for completing the work in both degree programs. The BSH degree must be completed prior to completion of the MPH degree. The MPH degree will be awarded following completion of the BSH and completion of all the requirements for the MPH.

ADVISING

Advising in the dual BSH/MPH degree accelerated program will be structured to allow students flexibility and guidance within a well defined program. Students during their four years in the BSH program will be advised by an undergraduate health advisor from UH. After admission into the MPH program an Academic Advisor in the School of Public Health will be assigned to the student. During the fourth year of study, the undergraduate UH advisor and the UTSPH advisor will work together with the student to prepare a plan of course work suitable to her/his needs and objectives and to meet the

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requirements for both degrees. This initial plan of study may undergo some revision as the student progresses and career interests develop. After admission into the dual BSH/MPH degree program, the student must submit an official plan of study for approval by both advisors. Each student should stay in regular contact with both of his/her advisors during the course of study, consulting with them on course selections prior to registration each semester or session. Each student is held personally responsible for knowing both degree requirements and meeting deadlines.

Sample Curriculum for the Dual Degree Program
 (Subject to Change)

| YEAR 1 of BSH | | |
|--|---|--|
| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
| HLT ELECTIVE ENGL 1303 HIST 1377 MATH 1310 MINOR | HLT 2320 ENGL 1304 HIST 1378 MATH REASONING MINOR | MINOR <i>Apply to Pre-Health program with grade of 2.5</i> |
| TOTAL UH Hours=15 | TOTAL UH Hours=15 | TOTAL UH Hours=3 |
| YEAR 2 of BSH | | |
| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
| HLT 3301 POLS 1336 NAT SCIENCE MATH REASONING HLT 3306 | HLT 3381 HLT ELECTIVE NAT SCIENCE MATH REASONING HLT 3380 | POLS 1337 <i>Apply to the Dual Degree program with an overall GPA of 3.5.</i> |
| TOTAL UH Hours=15 | TOTAL UH Hours=15 | TOTAL UH Hours=3 |
| YEAR 3 BSH | | |
| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
| HLT 4307 HLT 4320 VISUAL/PERF ARTS HDFS 1300 (WID) MINOR | HLT 4317 SOCIAL SCIENCE HUMANITIES HLT ELECTIVE MINOR | HLT ELECTIVE MINOR (If needed) |
| TOTAL UH Hours=15 | TOTAL UH Hours=15 | TOTAL UH Hours=3-6 |

CHOOSE

OPTION A: BSH/MPH Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences Major OR
OPTION B: BSH/MPH Community Health Practice Major

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OPTION A: BSH/MPH Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences Major

| YEAR 4 of BSH and Year 1 of MPH | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
| PH 1690 Foundations to Biostatistics (4) PHM 2610 Fundamentals to Epidemiology (3) PHM 1111 Health Promotion Theory and Methods I (3) PHM 1433 Health Promotion and Behavioral Science Seminar (1) PHM 5010 Ethics in Public Health (1) | PHM 3715 Intro to Management and Policy Sciences (3) PHM 1112 Health Promotion Theory and Methods II (3) PHW 2120 Man's Impact on the Environment or PHM 2110 Overview of Environmental Health (3) HLT 4393 Internship HLT ELECTIVE | |
| TOTAL UH Hours=0 TOTAL MPH Hours=12 | TOTAL UH Hours=6 TOTAL MPH Hours=9 | |
| YEAR 2 of MPH | | |
| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
| PHM 1120 Introduction to Program Evaluation (3) PHM 1112 Health Promotion Theory and Methods II (3) PH Electives (3) PH Electives (3) | PHM 1113 Advanced Methods in Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs (4) PH 9997 Practicum (3) PH 5998 or 9998 Thesis Research (3) PH Elective (3) | |
| TOTAL UH Hours= 0 TOTAL MPH Hours=13 | TOTAL UH Hours= 0 TOTAL MPH Hours=13 | |

OPTION B: BSH/MPH Community Health Practice Major

| YEAR 4 of BSH and Year 1 of MPH | | |
|--|---|---|
| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
| PH 1690 Foundations to Biostatistics (4) PHM 2610 Fundamentals to Epidemiology (3) PHM 1110 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Community Health (3) PHW 2120 Man's Impact on the Environment or PHM 2110 Overview of Environmental Health (3) | PHM 5010 Ethics in Public Health (1) PH Major Core Course (3) PH Electives (3) PH Electives (3) HLT 4393 Internship (3) HLT ELECTIVE (3) | PHM 3715 Intro to Management and Policy Sciences (3) |
| TOTAL UH Hours=0 TOTAL MPH Hours=13 | TOTAL UH Hours=6 TOTAL MPH Hours=10 | TOTAL MPH Hours=3 |
| YEAR 2 of MPH | | |
| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
| PH Major Core Course (3) PH Major Core Course (3) PH Electives (3) PH Electives (3) | PH 9997 Practicum (3) PH 9996 or 9998 (3) PH Elective (3) | |
| TOTAL UH Hours= 0 | TOTAL UH Hours= 0 | |

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| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| TOTAL MPH Hours=12 | TOTAL MPH Hours=9 | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|

NOTE:

Courses starting with PH are School of Public Health Courses. Those starting with HLT are to be taken through the UH health program, along with the requisite courses in our University Core Curriculum.

Elective courses or additional courses beyond degree requirements can be taken as a “concentration” to prepare for a special area of public health practice. Courses are currently offered at UTSPH for concentrations in the following areas: Global health, Health Disparities, Leadership, and Maternal and Child Health.