

UAMS College of Public Health
and
UAMS College of Medicine
Combined Degree Program for MD and MPH Degrees

I. Curricular Requirements

A student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences may pursue the MD and MPH degrees under a combined degree program that allows cross-credit for certain specified courses. The combined degree program offers a potential savings of credit hours in the total credit hours otherwise required for both degrees. A student in the combined degree program must complete all the requirements for the MD degree as specified by the College of Medicine, and all requirements for the MPH as specified by the College of Public Health. The combined degree program is subject to the following conditions:

- A. In order to receive cross-credit, credit must be earned for the course in the degree program in which the course is offered. For instance, courses in the MPH program listed in Section IV below will receive credit in the MD program only if the student received credit for the course in the MPH program.
- B. In the MPH program, a student may receive elective credits for 15 semester hours of approved courses in the MD program completed with a minimum grade of **C**. A list of the approved MD elective courses is set out below.
- C. In the MD program, a student may receive elective credits for 12 semester hours of approved courses in the MPH program completed with a minimum grade of **B**. A list of approved MPH courses is set out below.
- D. The required PBHL 5993 Integration Project and the PBHL 5983 Preceptorship may be counted as Senior Electives in the COM only if the activities in these courses meet the requirements of both the COM and the COPH. Students should consult with the College of Public Health Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the College of Medicine Executive Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to approve these courses.

II. Administrative Policies and Procedures

- A. The College of Public Health Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the College of Medicine Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall meet biannually, or more often as needed, to evaluate the combined degree program. They shall consider matters such as current course offerings and coordination of course sequences, and make recommendations for amendments of the program to their respective faculties.
- B. A student enrolled in the combined degree program is subject to all administrative policies and procedures of each program during the period of enrollment in the combined degree program.
- C. A student must obtain admission separately to the MD program and the MPH program. Once admitted to both programs, a student enters the combined degree program by filing the attached Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees.
- D. A student currently enrolled in one program may enter the combined degree program by obtaining admission to the other program and filing the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees.

- E. A student is not enrolled in the combined program until copies of the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees are filed with the Office of the Executive Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of the College of Medicine and with the Office of the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Public Health.
- F. A student who has completed one degree may not enter the combined degree program to complete the other degree.
- G. After filing the Declaration of Intent to Pursue Combined Degrees, the student shall schedule a joint meeting with the College of Public Health Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and the College of Medicine Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Times of enrollment in each program, preliminary course selection, and potential conflicts shall be discussed.
- H. Students enrolled in the combined program must be prepared to follow the course scheduling to avoid concurrent enrollment in classes in both programs during the first, second or third years of the full-time MD program. Any deviation from this schedule requires the written permission of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Public Health.
- I. Grade point averages and class standings in each program are determined without consideration of the credit hours accepted from the other programs.
- J. Except as modified by Sections I and II of this statement of the Combined Degree MD/MPH Degrees, a student must comply with all degree requirements established for each program. For instance, the College of Public Health has a requirement that all degree requirements be completed not more than six years after enrollment in the degree program. A student enrolled in the combined degree program must earn any credit hours in the MD program to be applied to the MPH degree within six years of enrolling in the College of Public Health.

III. The suggested course plan for a student in the MD/MPH program is described in Section IV, below. Following this plan would result in a student's receiving a Generalist MPH degree. Students who wish to receive an MPH degree with a specialization in one of the COPH's available specialties must develop their course plan in collaboration with the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Public Health. Pursuing an MPH degree with a specialization instead of a Generalist MPH may result in additional course requirements within the COPH, compared to the Generalist Plan outlined in Section IV below.

IV. Generalist MD/MPH Track Course Planner:

COPH CORE¹:

(18 credit hours) (Grade earned in blanks to left of course name)

Fulfilled:

(Indicate semester of completion in blanks below)

___ 5003: Intro to Public Health	___ Fall	___ Spring	___ Summer
___ 5013: Biometrical Methods I	___ Fall	___ Spring	___ Summer
___ 5173: Quantitative Epidemiology I	___ Fall	___ Spring	___ Summer
___ 5133: Health Behavior Research	___ Fall	___ Spring	___ Summer
___ 5113: Environmental & Occupational Health	___ Fall	___ Spring	___ Summer
___ 5123: The Health Care System	___ Fall	___ Spring	___ Summer

COM CORE²:

(12 credit hours) (Grade earned in blank)

___	Introduction to Clinical Medicine I & II	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Behavioral Sciences	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Pathology	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Pharmacology	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Genetics	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Ethics	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Family Medicine	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Psychiatry	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Pediatrics	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	Geriatrics	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer

COPH SELECTIVES³:

(6 credit hours)

___	PBHL _____	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
___	PBHL _____	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer

(Grade) (Public Health course number and name)

PRECEPTORSHIP⁴:

(3 credit hours) (Grade earned in blank)

___	_____	___	Fall	___	Spring	___	Summer
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(Grade) (COM or PBHL number and name – may be either)

INTEGRATION PROJECT (PBHL 5993)⁵:

(3 credit hours)

Project Title: _____

IPAC Members: _____

Completed: (Date & Grade earned): _____

NOTES:

¹ Required of all MPH students in any track or combined degree program. Plan A for MD/MPH students would be to take half of these courses in the summer prior to M1 and half in the summer prior to M2. Plan B would be to take all eighteen of these hours in a deferment year prior to M1 or a leave year between M2 and M3.

² The public health content in these COM core courses was evaluated by Racquel Livoni, MD, MPH (inaugural graduate of the UAMS MD/MPH program). Dr. Livoni’s conclusions were reviewed by the COPH Academic Standards Committee, and these courses were determined to include public health content appropriate for the awarding of twelve (12) semester credit hours towards a generalist MPH degree in the UAMS COPH.

³ To complete the COPH requirements for a generalist MPH, the MD/MPH student must successfully complete two (2) additional COPH courses totaling six (6) semester credit hours. These courses may be taken from any of the COPH departments or a combination thereof. Plan A for MD/MPH students would be to incorporate one of these courses into one of the summers (prior to M1 or M2) and another as a senior elective within COM. Plan B would be to include these six hours in the deferment or leave year, as described in Note (1), above.

⁴ To meet the COPH requirements for an MPH degree, students must complete a preceptorship (aka practicum) that includes substantial public health content. This may be combined with a COM rotation experience or other COM elective, or may be taken within the COPH. Whether the student enrolls in this preceptorship experience through the COM or the COPH, the COPH preceptorship plan requirements MUST BE MET. Additional details about the requirements for a COPH preceptorship plan are available at

<http://www.uams.edu/coph/students/preceptorship.asp>. The CPH Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs are available to advise MD/MPH students in this regard, and strongly encourage students to work proactively with them prior to initiating a preceptorship plan.

⁵ The integration project is a required capstone activity for all MPH degree candidates. Students should register for PBHL 5993 (Integration Project) in keeping with the requirements for a CPH integration project, available at <http://www.uams.edu/coph/students/preceptorship.asp>. MD/MPH students are encouraged to plan for efficiency of effort by developing a plan for writing a product that evolves naturally from preceptorship activities and that also fulfills the CPH Integration Project requirements. The CPH Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs are available to advise MD/MPH students in this regard, and strongly encourage students to work proactively with them prior to initiating a plan for an Integration Project.

Approved by the Faculty, College of Medicine
Approved by the Faculty, College of Public Health: