MPH/MHA JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM

Background

The academic disciplines of healthcare and population health, which have traditionally been taught and housed in separate sectors, are rapidly converging. The new healthcare models supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation focus explicitly on the essential role of non-clinical inputs to individual and community health. Likewise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Community Transformation Grant program aims to improve population health through the merging of approaches traditionally separated into public health and healthcare silos. In keeping with this nationwide articulation of the need for population health orientation in healthcare, employers in the U.S. healthcare sector are building their institutional competence in public health. These market forces and caregiving paradigms point to the need for an MPH/MHA joint degree option.

The University of Kentucky Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree is a two-year, 54-hour program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) and offered through the College of Public Health. The Master of Public Health follows a two-year, 42-hour curriculum in the College of Public Health and is accredited by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH) as part of the college’s accreditation. Under the MPH-MHA joint degree, 12 credit hours would be recognized as fulfilling degree requirements in both programs, allowing the student to complete both MPH and MHA degrees with a total of 84 credit hours, compared with the 96 credit hours required for both programs separately.

Structure of Program

A. Admissions
Application to both programs is through the Schools of Public Health Application System (SOPHAS). Admission standards for the joint degree are the same as for applications to each of the programs; applicants should note on all application forms that admission is being sought for the MPH/MHA joint degree program. The joint degree program is not suitable for part-time students.

Students who are currently enrolled in either the MPH or the MHA program can be considered for admission to the MPH/MHA joint degree program at the time when they apply or at the end of the first full-time year in either program. Application for admission must be accepted by the program in which the student is not yet enrolled. The MPH/MHA program is not applicable to students who have earned one of the degrees.

B. Advantages
Students can complete this dual program of study in two or three academic years, more than one year less than the combined four years of study required for the separate MPH and MHA degrees.

C. Programs of Study
To earn the MPH/MHA, a student must satisfy the graduation requirements of both degrees. If there is a scheduling problem, representatives of the two programs will resolve conflicts on an ad hoc basis.

The following track applies to all students who enter the program at the beginning of their coursework; individual tracks will be determined for students who enter after completing the first year of either program. Of note, CPH 663, which is required of MHA students to fulfill College of Public Health accreditation requirements, would not be required of joint degree students because they will complete all the core public health courses as part of their MPH curriculum.

See attachment

D. Grade Point Average

MPH/MHA Joint Degree Program Agreement DRAFT 09/17/2014
Grade point average for each program is calculated independently. Joint degree students are required to remain in compliance with the academic standards of each degree-granting unit.

E. Granting of MPH/MHA Degree
Upon satisfactory completion of all degree requirements of both programs, the student is granted both degrees.

G. Fee Payments
The MPH and MHA programs are in the same college, so this issue does not arise.

H. Failure to Complete MHA or MPH Requirement
The MPH/MHA joint degrees will be granted only upon successful completion of all coursework and examinations. If a student is unable to complete the requirements of either degree, the student may complete the requirements for the remaining degree program, including up to six credit hours of coursework completed in the other program with a grade of B or better.

Signatures of Agreement

Lináda Alexander, PhD  11-12-14
Director of Graduate Studies, MPH

Martha C. Riddell, DrPH  11-12-14
Director of Graduate Studies, MHA

Wayne Sanderson, Ph.D.  11-12-14
Dean

John Doe  11-12-14
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Updated 9/26/2014

MPH/MHA Joint Degree Program Agreement DRAFT 09/17/2014
## Example of MPH/MHA Curriculum

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**General Information:**

Proposal Name: MPH-MHA Dual Degree Program

Proposal Contact Person Name: Andrea Perkins  Phone: 218-2021  Email: andrea.perkins@uky.edu

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
Identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal; note the date of approval; offer a contact person for each entry; and obtain signature of person authorized to report approval.

**Internal College Approvals and Course Cross-listing Approvals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewing Group</th>
<th>Date Approved</th>
<th>Contact Person (name/phone/email)</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Affairs Committee</td>
<td>10/9/2014</td>
<td>John Watkins/218-0240/john.watkins@uky.edu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Council</td>
<td>11/4/2014</td>
<td>Steve Fleming/218-2229/steven.fleming@uky.edu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Dean-Public Health</td>
<td>11/7/2014</td>
<td>Kathryn Cardarelli/218-0241/Kathryn.cardarelli@uky.edu</td>
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**External-to-College Approvals:**

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Comments:

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6 Councils use this space to indicate approval of revisions made subsequent to that council's approval, if deemed necessary by the revising council.