

**2.13 Joint Degrees. If the school offers joint degree programs, the required curriculum for the professional public health degree shall be equivalent to that required for a separate public health degree.**

### **Required Documentation**

**2.13.a Identification of joint degree programs offered by the school. The instructional matrix in Criterion 2.1.a may be referenced for this purpose.**

The University of Florida has several categories of collaborative programs:

- Joint: professional and graduate programs
- Non-traditional: PhD and master's programs
- Concurrent: two master's programs
- Combined: bachelor's to master's programs

Joint degree programs are formally approved by the Graduate Council of the University for all students who are accepted into them. As indicated in the Instructional Matrix, five joint degree programs that include the MPH are offered: Juris Doctor (JD)/MPH, Doctor of Medicine (MD)/MPH, Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)/MPH, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)/MPH. PhD/MPH and other master's/MPH programs are developed on an individual basis with interested students and their advisors. The bachelor's/MPH program is a five-year program that permits undergraduate students to take up to 15 credits of graduate coursework during the senior year.

**2.13.b A list and description of how each joint degree program differs from the standard degree program. The school must explain the rationale for any credit sharing or substitution as well as the process for validating that the joint degree curriculum is equivalent.**

UF requirements for collaborative graduate programs are specified in the University of Florida Graduate Catalog, which may be found at <http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/>.

In each joint program with the MPH, the professional students pursue a 48-credit MPH course of study. Students must take all MPH core and concentration core courses, and complete their internships in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. The University allows up to 12 credits of coursework to be shared between the programs. The PharmD/MPH and the JD/MPH share 12 credits. In the DVM/MPH, the MPH accepts 12 credits of DVM coursework and the DVM accepts six credits of MPH coursework. The MD/MPH was approved for the same credit-sharing arrangement. In the DPT/MPH, the professional program accepts six MPH credits and the MPH accepts 11 DPT credits. A joint DMD/MPH program is currently under development. Professional courses that are shared with the MPH satisfy elective requirements. 2012-2013 syllabi for these courses are in the Resource File.

Students in joint programs must meet the admission requirements of, and be admitted to, both programs. Their applications are reviewed in the same manner as all MPH applicants, with

special attention to their personal statements, which are helpful in assessing whether their interests are consistent with the goals of the MPH program.

The amount of time required for joint degrees is less than it would be if the two programs were pursued separately. However, the manner in which courses from the two degrees participating in each joint program are interspersed varies. Each joint program, with admission criteria, curricula and courses approved for sharing, is described on the College website at <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/programs/collaborative/>. Syllabi of shared courses and joint program curricula are also in the Resource File.

Courses accepted from professional programs to satisfy elective requirements in the MPH are reviewed and approved by the Public Health Executive Committee. Syllabi are reviewed annually to assure they continue to be appropriate electives in the MPH program. Approval of courses from other programs is based on assessment of the relevance of each course to public health and to the competencies of the student's chosen concentration – the same criteria used to review elective courses outside public health for MPH students who are not in collaborative programs.

Non-traditional and concurrent programs are developed on an individual basis. The University allows no more than nine credits of coursework to be applied to a second graduate degree. When the MPH is the second degree, students work with their advisors to identify courses that will be acceptable as electives in the MPH program. As in the case of joint programs, students pursue the 48-credit MPH and are required to complete MPH and concentration core courses, as well as a public health internship. Programs in this category have been shared with Psychology (<http://mph.ufl.edu/programs/collaborative-degree-programs/psychology/>), Rehabilitation Science (<http://mph.ufl.edu/programs/collaborative-degree-programs/rehabsci/>), Nursing, Journalism, Anthropology and Sociology (<http://mph.ufl.edu/programs/collaborative-degree-programs/other/>).

The bachelor's to master's combined degree program is offered to eligible seniors at the University of Florida. Students admitted to this program may take the five MPH core courses while completing their bachelor's degrees. This allows them to complete the remaining requirements for the 48-credit MPH program in three or four, rather than the typical five, semesters in graduate school. A description of the combined degree program is at <http://mph.ufl.edu/programs/oncampusprograms/combinedegree/>.

Table 2.13.b.1 shows new enrollments in each type of collaborative program in each of the past three academic years and summer/fall 2013.

**Table 2.13.b.1 New Enrollment in Collaborative Instructional Programs**

Type of Program	Academic Year			
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 <sup>1</sup>
Joint	4	4	3	8
Non-traditional (PhD/MPH)	3	1	2	2
Concurrent (Master's/MPH)	1	0	1	3
Combined (Bachelor's/MPH)	3	9	11	7

<sup>1</sup>Summer and fall 2013 only

**2.13.c Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the school's strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion.**

This criterion is met.

**Strengths:**

1. The College offers several options for completing collaborative degree programs within the guidelines of the University's Graduate School.
2. The curriculum of each MPH collaborative program includes all required coursework for the MPH. Shared courses are approved by the Public Health Executive Committee, and they are accepted for elective requirements only.
3. Students in collaborative programs are admitted only if they meet all requirements for the MPH and have well-considered statements of intent regarding their interest in pursuing an MPH degree.

**Weaknesses:**

1. None identified.

**Plans:**

1. Develop and implement a DMD/MPH joint program in 2013-14.
2. Continue to monitor syllabi of shared courses annually to assure that they meet criteria for elective courses in the MPH.