

Academic Programs and Planning (APP) Committee
Feedback and Response Form

Thank you for your submission of the proposal titled BS in Health Science/Master of Public Health accelerated dual-degree program.

The APP committee reviewed the proposal on December 14, 2023 and requests the proposal authors use this form to respond to the following questions and or suggestions. Please submit your responses by January 11, 2024 to be considered in the next APP meeting.

Committee Suggestion/Clarification	Author Response
<p>The overlap between this and PUBH/MPH is high, with many of the curricular differences being non-substantive differences such as the HLTH version of a writing class rather than the PUBH writing class. Why then does this pathway make sense for students rather than encouraging students interested in the MPH to change their major to PUBH? In order to be ready for the accelerated degree, students need to be planning this pathway early enough that switching majors would appear to be feasible.</p>	<p>Thank you for this question. It gave us an opportunity to think about substantive reasons for doing this work.</p> <p>Public health has a long tradition of enlisting professionals from many different fields, so there is value in graduating MPH trained professionals who come from different undergraduate majors.</p> <p>Having the option on both programs honors the preference of students who may prefer one major over the other. Further, one of the purposes of this new concentration is to serve as a recruitment tool for both the BSHS and MPH programs.</p> <p>Another reason for keeping the concentration on both undergraduate programs is that it offers some more flexibility to Health Science students. For example, students who originally wanted to go to a clinical health profession (e.g., OT, PT), but who do not meet the requirements for those graduate programs</p>

	<p>or who otherwise change their minds, may want to switch to this accelerated dual degree. For those students, if they must change majors to Public Health first, switching to the accelerated dual degree option will add more time than switching to this concentration directly from the Health Science program.</p> <p>While it is true that transfer students may not be able to finish in 5 years, transfer students are made aware of the extra time it will require them to complete the program when their transfer credits are assessed. In general, transfer students agree to the delay when they agree to transfer to a different school or program.</p>
<p>The language of the proposal does not make clear that students have to formally apply to the master's degree. As written, students could simply declare the accelerated track, with automatic acceptance if they meet all of the requirements prior to starting their senior year. Please clarify whether or not the graduate school application process is needed.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. This gave us the opportunity to clarify the process with Graduate Admissions, which is helpful for everyone involved.</p> <p>The process for matriculation into the MPH is as follows: When dual degree students apply for graduation from their bachelor's degree (spring of year 4), they apply to the MPH using the "Direct Entry" application option. Working with preceptors, the MPH chair will provide Graduate Admissions with a list of students who meet the requirements for the dual degree to avoid any missteps in the process. The MPH chair will review the Direct Entry applications, and assuming the students meet the requirements laid out in the proposal, they will be admitted into the program to start in summer of year 4, in time to register for the MPH summer leadership course. To ensure a smooth transition, the MPH chair can also pre-register dual degree students for the summer class(es) to ensure they stay on track.</p>

<p>In part D of the proposal, a possible curriculum map and course sequence is outlined which involves summer courses. Is there a way to complete the degree within 5 years without summer courses? If not, will students be permitted to complete both degrees within 6 years?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question and for the opportunity to provide clarification.</p> <p>The MPH curriculum includes one required summer semester. Per the Bulletin and MPH program website: “Portions of the hybrid course, <i>Public Health Practice: Leadership and Personal Mastery</i>, are offered in-person over two weekends during the summer semester at Stockton’s Atlantic City campus.” If a student cannot complete this course in the summer of year 4, they could potentially complete it in summer of year 5 and could then graduate that August.</p> <p>The other course that is listed over the summer in year 4 is PUBH 5900: Applied Practice Experience (“internship”). This is the MPH internship experience, and completion over the summer of year 4 is an option for students. Another option that is described in the updated curriculum map is for students to complete the internship in the fall of year 5. In truth, MPH students may enroll for the internship credits any time after they complete 18 credits of MPH course credits, so the timing of this internship should not prevent them from completing the dual degree in the proposed five years.</p>
<p>Make sure to include what GPA must be maintained for both undergraduate and graduate courses (on p. 2).</p>	<p>Thank you for this question. It gave us the opportunity to review this section of the proposal and realized that the inconsistency in GPA requirements was confusing. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA is now required throughout the duration of the accelerated dual degree program.</p>

	<p>This section now reads: <i>Once enrolled, to maintain accepted status in the dual degree program, all students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in their undergraduate and graduate courses. However, students must also earn a minimum of a "C" for all BSHS core and cognate courses.</i></p>
<p>Does it make sense to have both the 3000 and 5000-level epidemiology courses required? The BSPH/MPH does not require students to take the 3000-level course.</p>	<p>Thank you for pointing out this error. You are correct, and the PUBH 3420 course has been removed. In its place, the curricular sheet now calls for any 3000-level cognate the student chooses to take. Students who complete PUBH 5102 will still be able to graduate with a Minor in Public Health.</p>
<p>Typo in curriculum worksheet for year 5 - PUBH5100 is listed twice</p>	<p>Thank you for pointing out this mistake. One of the PUBH 5100 listed in the Fall semester of the fifth year was deleted. It was a duplicate, so another course is not needed in its place.</p>