Doctor of Physical Therapy /Master of Public Health (DPT/MPH) Joint Degree

Students with an interest in public health and physical therapy may choose to pursue a joint DPT/MPH degree offered in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Under the joint degree program, a student can obtain both degrees in approximately one year less than it would take to obtain them if pursued consecutively.

Program description
The DPT/MPH joint degree program adds about one academic year to the time required to complete the DPT degree. The MPH, a 48 credit program, usually takes 2 years to complete. The timeframe is shorter for the joint degree because the MPH program accepts 12 credits from required DPT coursework, and the DPT program allows 6 credits from the MPH coursework. Most students will complete the first 2 years of the PT program and then they will complete the majority of their MPH coursework over the next year, followed by a final year of PT classes. However, it is also possible for students to complete the majority of course requirements for the MPH prior to beginning the DPT program curriculum and then complete the final MPH internship in their last semester of work for the DPT program. Below is a link to a sample sequencing for both scenarios for students who choose the Public Health Practice concentration selecting from coursework in Public Health Management and Policy and Epidemiology.

Example DPT/MPH 48-credit Curriculum

Admission criteria and process
Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements and procedures for admission to both the Doctor of Physical Therapy and the Master of Public Health degree programs. Most students will have already been admitted to the PT program before applying for the joint program. DPT students should apply to the joint program before the start of the 3rd year of the PT program. The joint degree program is not open to students who have already earned either the DPT or the MPH degree. For more information on the admission to the DPT program, please visit:

Timing of application/admission
Students are encouraged to begin discussions about the combined degree at any time after admission to the DPT program. The actual time of application will typically be during the Spring or early Summer of the student's 2nd DPT year. Students will typically begin their MPH coursework in the fall semester after their 2nd DPT year, and continue to take a full-time course load before returning to the DPT curriculum.

Eligible grades
Master of Public Health courses, which are to be credited toward the DPT degree, must carry a grade of B or higher, or S, but will not be counted in the Physical Therapy grade point average. Physical Therapy courses that are to be credited toward the MPH degree must carry a grade of B or higher but will not be counted in the grade point average for the MPH degree program.
Program completion requirements
A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The MPH, a 48-credit program, will allow 11 credits of appropriate Physical Therapy courses to be credited toward both MPH and DPT degrees. Reciprocally, physical therapy students may receive 6-semester credits for courses taken in the graduate curriculum for the MPH degree toward the DPT. Students must carry the minimum number of credits required by either college.

Program withdrawal
Withdrawal from the MPH Program: Students who enroll in the joint degree program but do not complete the program may receive credit toward the DPT degree under the graduate level course option for a maximum of two courses, not to exceed 6 semester credits, taken from the graduate curriculum of the MPH program of the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Although the grade is not computed in the student’s grade point average, a grade of B or higher must be earned to receive credit hours for the course(s).
Withdrawal from the DPT Program: Students who enroll in the joint degree program but do not complete the program may receive credit toward the MPH, not to exceed 11 semester credits, taken from the curriculum of the DPT program. Although the grade is not computed in the student’s grade point average, a grade of B or higher must be earned to receive credit hours for the course(s). These 11 hours will only satisfy the elective hours in the MPH program unless otherwise approved by the MPH program director.

Teaching assistantships
Students in the joint program are eligible for graduate teaching assistantships and research assistantships in the College of Public Health and Health Professions on the same basis as other graduate students, subject to the guidelines and restrictions set by the MPH Program. If awarded, graduate assistantships will cover only semesters in which students are enrolled in MPH courses.

MPH Concentrations
Students choose from one of the six MPH concentrations: Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Public Health Management and Policy, Public Health Practice, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Please visit http://www.mph.ufl.edu/concentrations/ for a description of each concentration. Students may also choose Public Health Practice, because of its broad flexibility, although they are free to choose from any of the other concentration options.

Faculty Advisors
To facilitate student progress in the joint program one MPH faculty member and one faculty member from the Department of Physical Therapy will be assigned as advisors to each joint program student.

MPH internship requirement
The concepts presented via coursework are integrated and assimilated through an internship, which provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in a practice setting. A wide range of settings and opportunities may be suitable for an internship. Each internship is individually tailored to assure competence in general MPH and concentration-specific skills and to meet student goals, concentration criteria, and the needs of the agencies involved. The internship is usually completed in the final (5th) year in the program, and always includes a special project that serves as the basis for a final written and oral/poster report. The internship and the special project must be approved by the student’s faculty advisors.
**MPH culminating experience**

Students attain a depth in public health knowledge and skills by selecting one core area for their concentrations. They obtain a broad knowledge base of public health issues and perspectives through the MPH core courses and electives. The concepts presented in these courses are integrated and assimilated through the internship, which provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in the real world of public health. Students may engage in many activities during an internship. However, each student must have one special project which serves as the basis for a major paper and a presentation. These final activities of the MPH program are intended to encourage students to understand their projects in the larger context of public health as a cross-disciplinary field and in relation to the competencies expected of all MPH graduates. Student presentations are scheduled on one or two Public Health Days near the end of fall, spring and summer semesters. The written paper and oral presentation/poster constitute a culminating experience for the MPH.

**For more information on the DPT/MPH program, please contact:**

**Master of Public Health Program**

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**Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

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