

Integrated (4-year) MD/MPH Joint Degree Program Description

University of Illinois College of Medicine and UIC School of Public Health

The College of Medicine and School of Public Health collaborate on an Integrated MD/MPH Joint Degree Program granting both the MD and MPH degrees in 4 years. The Joint Degree Program considers applications following admission to the College of Medicine.

Program description: Combining the strengths of the University of Illinois College of Medicine and School of Public Health, the MD/MPH Joint Degree Program addresses skills and knowledge to enhance population health through collaboration among multiple health organizations and health professionals. The program prepares graduates to serve as leaders and consultants, combining clinical and public health expertise, to facilitate achievement of optimal community health outcomes through collaboration among colleagues across medical and public health specialties.

Students entering the Integrated MD/MPH Joint Degree Program in Spring 2025 can expect to pay no more than \$13,100 over the course of the 4-year program in additional tuition beyond the cost of the MD degree tuition. Annual incremental tuition increases to the joint degree program are planned over the next 4 years, with total tuition capping out around \$16,000 over the cost of the MD degree tuition for students in the class of 2032.

Program admission: The MD/MPH Joint Degree application is a supplement to the MD application process. Interested students will have the opportunity to apply for the integrated MD/MPH joint degree program soon after admission to the College of Medicine during fall of the M1 year (application distributed during fall term).

Introductory course: The MD/MPH joint degree program strongly encourages interested students to enroll in a 2-credit introductory course (IPHS 500: Population Health Seminar for Students in Health Sciences) in the summer prior to matriculation into the College of Medicine, for which tuition is waived.

This introductory course does not require students' presence on campus and occurs in approximately 10 evening online sessions scheduled during 4 weeks in June and July preceding College of Medicine matriculation.

The introductory course focuses on disease outbreak investigation and field epidemiology. Topics addressed include outbreaks of infectious and noninfectious conditions globally and the terms and methods of epidemiological investigation to prevent, control, and research diseases in populations, methods that are often performed as a rapid response to crisis. Included are presentations by physicians working in public health including several associated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). Students gain an appreciation for many diseases of public health importance such as the COVID-19 pandemic, whooping cough, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, and chemical poisonings, as well as the role of medical and public health detectives in addressing these challenges.

Program curriculum: The MD/MPH joint degree program requires completion of 42 graduate course credits. Up to 12 shared credit hours—including IPHS 404 (3 SH), IPHS 405 (3 SH), IPHS 420 (0 SH), IPHS 650 (3-5 SH), and IPHS 698 (1 SH)—in the MPH curriculum will apply toward the MD degree. Additional shared credits may be considered in consultation with students’ advisors. Potential additional shared credits are electives during M4 year and participation in Scholarly Concentration Programs. The MPH coursework occurs throughout the 4-year medical curriculum, comprising predominantly online courses on both synchronous online evening schedules and asynchronous online delivery, as well as some in-person courses. A very concentrated, essential portion of the curriculum occurs in the summer free period between the first year (M1) and second year (M2) in the medicine curriculum, and students must commit substantial time to the program during this M1/M2 summer free period. These M1/M2 summer courses and courses during the fourth year (M4) elective periods comprise the most intense time commitment in the MD/MPH program, although courses occur during the second year (M2) and third year (M3) MD curriculum as well.

The Program curriculum consists of the following courses:

Course number	Course name	Credit hours
IPHS 500	Population Health Seminar for Students in Health Sciences	2
IPHS 430	Epidemics of Injustice	2
IPHS 401	Determinants of Public Health	4
IPHS 403	Public Health Systems, Management and Community Health Methods	4
IPHS 404	Analytic and Research Methods in Population Health Part I	3
IPHS 405	Analytic and Research Methods in Population Health Part II	3
IPHS 420	Interprofessional Education	0
EOHS 401 *	Ethics and Justice in Environmental and Occupational Health	2
EPID/BSTT 402 *	Health Policy for Epidemiologists and Biostatisticians	1
HPA 415 *	Introduction to Public Health Policy	3
CHS 430 *	Public Health Policy and Advocacy	3
IPHS 650	Applied Practice Experience	3-5
EOHS 502	Environment, Toxicology, and Disease	4
IPHS 698	Integrative Learning Experience	1
Elective #	MPH electives	11-15
Total	-	42

* = Choose one policy course in public health division of interest

= Select electives in public health division of interest (EOHS, EPID, BSTT, CHS, HPA)

4-year MD/MPH curriculum schedule

Courses	M0 summer	M1 fall, phase 1A	M1 spring phase 1B	M1 summer, phase 1C	M2 fall, phase 1D	M2 spring phase 1E	M2 summer phase 2F	M3 fall phase 2G	M3 spring, phase 2H	M3 summer, phase 2/3I	M4 fall, phase 3J	M4 spring, phase 3K	Credits	Shared
IPHS 500	Fixed												2	0
IPHS 430			Fixed										2	2
IPHS 401				Fixed									4	0
IPHS 403				Fixed									4	0
IPHS 404					Fixed								3	0
IPHS 405						Fixed							3	0
IPHS 420						Fixed							0	0
EOHS 401 *								Choose one					2	0
EPID/BSTT 402 *								Choose one					1	0
HPA 415 *								Choose one	Choose one				3	0
CHS 430 *									Choose one				3	0
IPHS 650								Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	3-5	3-5
EOHS 502												Fixed	4	4
IPHS 698												Fixed	1	1
Elective #							Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible	11-15	0
Credits	4			14			24						42	10-12

* = Choose one policy course in public health division of interest

= Select electives in public health division of interest (EOHS, EPID, BSTT, CHS, HPA)

Fixed = Must take in assigned semester

Choose one = Select one course among those indicated

Flexible = Can take in any indicated semester

Students advising resources:

MD/MPH students received advising from three sources:

- Academic advising
- Faculty mentors
- Peer advising

All students receive academic and career advising from assigned faculty mentors from both the College of Medicine and the School of Public Health. Advising occurs through both individual and small group consultation. Mentors provide resources to students throughout the 4-year curriculum. The peer advisors program provides insights from M3 and M4 students to M1 and M2 students.

Student progress assessment: Student academic performance is evaluated each semester by both faculty advisors/mentors and the faculty teaching the courses during each semester. The evaluations address both student performance in the MD/MPH joint degree and performance in the College of Medicine curriculum. Priority evaluation is achievement required progression in the College of Medicine curriculum. Students who experience challenges progressing in the College of Medicine curriculum will consult with faculty advisors/mentors and determine one of three options: (1) enroll in the gap year (5-year) MD/MPH program, (2) pursue the Public Health Certificate option that requires much less time commitment, or (3) withdraw from the MD/MPH degree program.

Gap year (5-year) MD/MPH option: A gap year (5-year) MD/MPH joint degree option is also available, and students enrolling in the 4-year integrated MD/MPH program may later convert to the gap year (5-year) MD/MPH program, if desired. However, tuition for the 5-year program will be adjusted. It is not possible to convert from the 5-year to the 4-year program, and cost of the 5-year program varies from the 4-year program based on credits completed during enrollment in the 4-year program.

Public Health certificate: The SPH also offers a Public Health Certificate that students who wish to obtain a certificate in lieu of the MD/MPH degree may complete (as a terminal qualification or for application toward future MPH completion). To obtain the Public Health Certificate, students must complete the SPH Integrated Core courses.

Program contacts: For additional information, you may contact:

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Additional information about the MD/MPH joint degree program is available online:

<https://publichealth.uic.edu/academics/joint-degrees/md-mph/>