ADMISSION TO DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Students interested in pursuing a specialized career in health law or in a more intensive and supervised program of course work and research related to medicine and health care may apply for the combined degrees of J.D. from UNC School of Law and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) from the Department of Health Policy and Management (HPM) at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Admission to both schools must be gained independently. Both degrees must be awarded concurrently, even if the requirements for one degree are satisfied first, in order to maintain eligibility for the benefits of the dual degree program.

Students may apply to the dual degree program before entering or after matriculating in the law school. Students who apply prior to accepting an offer of admission from the law school must take the GRE in order to apply to the M.P.H. program. Students who are enrolled in the law school may submit their LSAT scores in lieu of taking the GRE. The M.P.H. is a professional degree intended for those who hold or are pursuing a doctoral-level professional degree, such as the J.D.

A dual degree student who fails to complete the requirements for the J.D. degree no longer is eligible for the M.P.H. degree program, but may ask to change to the M.S.P.H. or M.H.A. (two-year) program and, if approved, all HPM courses already taken will count toward that degree. A student who fails to complete the M.P.H. requirements remains eligible for the J.D. degree, but will lose the benefit of cross-counting courses as explained below.

COMPLETION OF DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

In order to receive the J.D. degree, a candidate must successfully complete 86 semester hours at UNC School of Law. Upon enrollment in the dual degree program, up to nine credits from the School of Public Health may be cross-counted toward the J.D. degree, subject to the provisions set forth below. In order to receive the M.P.H. degree, a candidate must successfully complete 42 hours in the School of Public Health.

Upon enrollment in the dual degree program, up to eight credits from the law school may be cross-counted toward the M.P.H. degree, subject to the provisions set forth below. As a result, enrollment in the dual degree program allows students to complete both degrees in less time than pursuing each degree separately.

Ordinarily, dual-degree students begin with the law school’s prescribed first-year curriculum. Following their first (1L) or second (2L) year at the law school, students spend a year in residence at the School of Public Health and at least one summer in a selected field-training experience. The fourth year is spent completing the remaining requirements of both programs, including the M.P.H. Master’s Paper. Ordinarily, the preference is for J.D. students to complete both the 1L and 2L years prior to spending a year at the School of Public Health.
CROSS-COUNTING OF LAW AND PUBLIC HEALTH COURSES

Public Health Courses

Up to 9 credits of the following School of Public Health courses, if taken after matriculation in the J.D. program, will apply automatically toward the J.D. degree. Within the 9-credit limit, other courses may be transferred with the approval of the associate dean for academic affairs. Please note that these courses are subject to change and may not be taught every year; for current information, please see the Department of Health Policy and Management website.

- HPM 660 – International and Comparative Health Systems
- HPM 664 – Globalization and Health
- HPM 722 – Global Perspectives on Ethical Issues in Health Policy & Management
- HPM 743 – Health Care Reimbursement
- HPM 754 – Health Care in the United States: Structure and Policy
- HPM 757 – Health Reform: Political Dynamics and Policy Dilemmas
- HPM 758 – Underserved Populations and Health Reform

Law Courses

Up to 8 credits of the following law school courses, if taken after matriculation in the M.P.H. program, will apply automatically toward the M.P.H. degree. Within the 8-credit limit, other law school courses may be transferred with the approval of the director of residential master’s programs in the Department of Health Policy and Management. Please note that these courses are subject to change and may not be taught every year; for current information, please see the law school website.

- Biotechnology and Life Sciences
- Current Issues in Law and Medicine
- Health Law Bioethics and Quality of Care
- Health Law Organization, Regulation and Finance
- Health Care Fraud and Abuse
- Law and the Mental Health System
- Public Health Law
- Women and Health Law

CONTACT

John E. Paul, Clinical Professor, Associate Chair for Academics
Department of Health Policy and Management
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
McGavran-Greenberg Hall, 135 Dauer Drive, CB 7411, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7411
T 919.966.7373 | paulj@email.unc.edu
sph.unc.edu/hpm/dual-degrees