

## Brothers, Sheila C

---

**From:** Schroeder, Margaret <m.mohr@uky.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 07, 2015 2:38 PM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C; Hippisley, Andrew R  
**Subject:** Dual Degree in MPH and MHA  
**Attachments:** MPH-MHA Joint Degree-signed revised.pdf

### Proposed New Dual Degree Program: Master's in Public Health and Master's in Health Administration

This is a recommendation that the University Senate approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, the establishment of a new Dual Degree Program: Master's in Public Health at the University of Kentucky and Master's in Health Administration, both in the College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky.

Please find the revised proposal attached.

Best-

Margaret

-----  
Margaret J. Mohr-Schroeder, PhD | Associate Professor of STEM Education | [COE Faculty Council Chair](#) | [SAPC University Senate Committee Chair](#) | [University Senator](#) | Secondary Mathematics Program Co-Chair | [STEM PLUS Program Co-Chair](#) | [Department of STEM Education](#) | [University of Kentucky](#) | [www.margaretmohrschroeder.com](http://www.margaretmohrschroeder.com)



Brian,

Thanks for your call this past week re: the question of a concurrent degree for the MHA/MPH rather than a dual degree. In discussing this with our faculty, we would like to move forward with the dual degree program as it allows us to market it to attract highly qualified students who are interested in both degrees. We believe the dual degree will be particularly attractive to students interested in global health and to students looking for new job opportunities as a result of healthcare reform. This dual degree is available at other universities and we want UK to be in the mix when students are looking for this dual degree.

Let me know what the next steps are in the process, Brian, and thanks for your assistance.

Martha

Martha C. Riddell, DrPH  
Associate Professor and  
Director, MHA Program  
Health Management and Policy  
College of Public Health  
University of Kentucky  
111 Washington Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40506  
859-218-2012

## **MPH/MHA DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

### **Background**

The academic disciplines of healthcare and population health, which have traditionally been taught and housed in separate sectors, are rapidly converging. The new healthcare models supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation focus explicitly on the essential role of non-clinical inputs to individual and community health. Likewise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Transformation Grant program aims to improve population health through the merging of approaches traditionally separated into public health and healthcare silos. In keeping with this nationwide articulation of the need for population health orientation in healthcare, employers in the U.S. healthcare sector are building their institutional competence in public health. Healthcare provider organizations are seeking individuals to bridge the knowledge the gap between delivery of healthcare services and management of the health of a population. Chief Population Health Officers are now being hired to lead healthcare organizations through the transition of changing reimbursement models. These market forces and caregiving paradigms point to the need for an MPH/MHA dual degree option.

The MPH/MHA is a degree that is being added by universities as the need for this combination of unique skills increases with healthcare payment reform. Since both the MHA and the MPH degrees are housed within the College of Public Health, the dual degree can be completed without requiring additional resources by the College. Students may complete the degree in two and a half or three years rather than the four years required if the degrees are completed separately. Initial enrollment is anticipated to be 2-3 students/year. Current enrollment in the MHA program is approximately 25 students while approximately 50 students are enrolled each year in the MPH program.

The University of Kentucky Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree is a two-year, 54-hour program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) and offered through the College of Public Health. The Master of Public Health follows a two-year, 42-hour curriculum in the College of Public Health and is accredited by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH) as part of the college's accreditation. Under the MPH-MHA dual degree, 9 credit hours would be recognized as fulfilling degree requirements in both programs, allowing the student to complete both MPH and MHA degrees with a total of 87 credit hours, compared with the 96 credit hours required for both programs separately. The graduate program faculty are the graduate faculty of record for each of the degrees' home departments. Initially, students will be in the MPH concentration in Population Health Management and Policy, which is housed in the same department as the MHA program. In future, if students have other MPH concentrations, the graduate faculty in their MPH home department will coordinate advising through the students' MHA advisors.

### **Structure of Program**

#### **A. Admissions**

Application to both programs is through the Schools of Public Health Application System (SOPHAS). Admission standards for the dual degree are the same as for applications to each of the programs; applicants should note on all application forms that admission is being sought for the MPH/MHA dual degree program. The dual degree program is not suitable for part-time students.

Students who are currently enrolled in either the MPH or the MHA program can be considered for admission to the MPH/MHA dual degree program at the time when they apply or at the end of the first full-time year in either program. Application for admission must be accepted by the program in which the student is not yet enrolled. The MPH/MHA program is not applicable to students who have earned one of the degrees.

#### **B. Advantages**

Students can complete this dual program of study in two or three academic years, more than one year less than the combined four years of study required for the separate MPH and MHA degrees.

**C. Programs of Study**

To earn the MPH/MHA, a student must satisfy the graduation requirements of both degrees. If there is a scheduling problem, representatives of the two programs will resolve conflicts on an ad hoc basis.

The following track applies to all students who enter the program at the beginning of their coursework; individual tracks will be determined for students who enter after completing the first year of either program. Of note, CPH 663, which is required of MHA students to fulfill College of Public Health accreditation requirements, would not be required of dual degree students because they will complete all the core public health courses as part of their MPH curriculum.

**See attachment**

**D. Grade Point Average**

Grade point average for each program is calculated independently. Dual degree students are required to remain in compliance with the academic standards of each degree-granting unit.

**E. Granting of MPH/MHA Degree**

Upon satisfactory completion of all degree requirements of both programs, the student is granted both degrees.

**G. Fee Payments**

The MPH and MHA programs are in the same college, so this issue does not arise.

**H. Failure to Complete MHA or MPH Requirement**

The MPH/MHA dual degrees will be granted only upon successful completion of all coursework and examinations. If a student is unable to complete the requirements of either degree, the student may complete the requirements for the remaining degree program, including up to six credit hours of coursework completed in the other program with a grade of B or better.

---

**Signatures of Agreement**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Alexander, PhD                      Date  
Director of Graduate Studies, MPH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha C. Riddell, DrPH                      Date  
Director of Graduate Studies, MHA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Sanderson, Ph.D.                      Date  
Dean

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs                      Date

Updated 9/30/2015

Grade point average for each program is calculated independently. Joint degree students are required to remain in compliance with the academic standards of each degree-granting unit.

**E. Granting of MPH/MHA Degree**

Upon satisfactory completion of all degree requirements of both programs, the student is granted both degrees.

**G. Fee Payments**

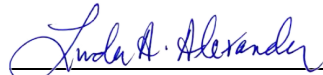
The MPH and MHA programs are in the same college, so this issue does not arise.

**H. Failure to Complete MHA or MPH Requirement**

The MPH/MHA joint degrees will be granted only upon successful completion of all coursework and examinations. If a student is unable to complete the requirements of either degree, the student may complete the requirements for the remaining degree program, including up to six credit hours of coursework completed in the other program with a grade of B or better.

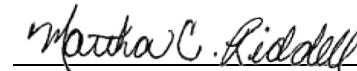
---

**Signatures of Agreement**

  
Linda Alexander, PhD  
Director of Graduate Studies, MPH

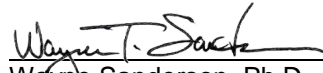
11-12-14

Date

  
Martha C. Riddell, DrPH  
Director of Graduate Studies, MHA

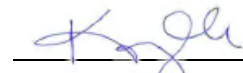
11-12-14

Date

  
Wayne Sanderson, Ph.D.  
Dean

11-12-14

Date

  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

11-12-14

Date

Updated 9/26/2014

Example of MPH/MHA Curriculum

Fall Semester (12 credits)

CPH 600/HA 601 Overview of the U.S. Health System  
 STA 580 Principles of Biostatistics OR HA 621 Quant Methods  
 CPH 604 Principles of Health Behavior  
 CPH 650 Management of Public Health Organizations

**Cumulative subtotals**

MPH	MHA	Joint
3	3	3
3	3	3
3		
3		
<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

Spring Semester (12 credits)

CPH 601 Occupational and Environmental Health  
 HA 636 Health Economics  
 HA 623 Healthcare Operations Management  
 HA 635 Management Accounting for Health Care Organizations

**Cumulative subtotals**

3		
	3	
	3	
	3	
<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>

Summer Semester II (6 credits)

CPH 609 Practicum  
 CPH 551 Comparative Health Systems (online)

**Cumulative subtotals**

3		
3		
<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>

Fall Semester (12 credits)

HA 603 Health Law  
 HA 637 Health Finance  
 CPH 605 Principles of Epidemiology  
 HA 673 Health Policy  
 MPH elective

**Cumulative subtotals**

	3	
	3	
3		
3	3	3
3		
<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>

Spring Semester (12 credits)

CPH 753 Public Health Law  
 HA 628 Human Resource Mgt in Healthcare  
 MHA elective  
 HA 624 Information Systems in Healthcare

**Cumulative subtotals**

3		
	3	
	3	
	3	
<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>

Summer (6 credits)

HA 711 Internship  
 MHA elective or independent study  
 MPH elective or independent study

**Cumulative subtotals**

	1	
	2	
3		
<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>

Fall Semester (14 credits)

HA 602 Strategic Planning & Marketing in Healthcare  
 HA 604 Healthcare Ethics and Governance  
 CPH 614 Managerial Epidemiology  
 MPH elective  
 CPH 608 MPH Capstone

**Cumulative subtotals**

	3	
	2	
	3	
3		
3		
<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>

Spring Semester (13 credits)

HA 660 Decision Making in Healthcare Organizations  
 HA 785 Independent Study for capstone  
 MHA electives or indep study

**Cumulative subtotals**

	3	
	1	
	9	
<b>42</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>9</b>

# SIGNATURE ROUTING LOG

**General Information:**

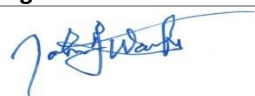


Proposal Name: MPH-MHA Dual Degree Program

Proposal Contact Person Name: Andrea Perkins Phone: 218-2021 Email: [andrea.perkins@uky.edu](mailto:andrea.perkins@uky.edu)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal; note the date of approval; offer a contact person for each entry; and obtain signature of person authorized to report approval.

**Internal College Approvals and Course Cross-listing Approvals:**

Reviewing Group	Date Approved	Contact Person (name/phone/email)	Signature
Academic Affairs Committee	10/9/2014	John Watkins/218-0240/john.watkins@uky.edu	
Faculty Council	11/4/2014	Steve Fleming/218-2229/steven.fleming@uky.edu	
Academic Dean-Public Health	11/7/2014	Kathryn Cardarelli/218-0241/Kathryn.cardarelli@uky.edu	

External-to-College Approvals:

Council	Date Approved	Signature	Approval of Revision <sup>6</sup>
Undergraduate Council			
Graduate Council		<i>Roshan Nikou</i>	
Health Care Colleges Council			
Senate Council Approval		University Senate Approval	

Comments:

<sup>6</sup> Councils use this space to indicate approval of revisions made subsequent to that council's approval, if deemed necessary by the revising council.