2019-2020 Graduate Council
Meeting Agenda: September 11, 2019 | 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. | 102 Kern Graduate Building

1. Minutes of the May 1, 2019 Meeting (1 minute)
2. Communications to Graduate Council (1 minute)
3. Announcements by the Chair of Graduate Council – Ken Davis (20 minutes)
   a) Graduate Council Overview
   b) Graduate School Information Sessions
   c) VOTE - Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Doctorates (Appendix A)
4. Announcements by the Dean of the Graduate School – Michael Verderame (10 minutes)
   a) Standing Joint Committee for General Education Assessment
   b) Erika Bowser - Penn State Mobile App Focus Group
5. Announcements by the University Faculty Senate Liaison to Graduate Council – Kent Vrana (5 minutes)
6. Reports of Standing Committees of Graduate Council (31 minutes)
   a) Committee on Committees and Procedures – Naomi Seidman, Chair (10 minutes)
      1. VOTE – Nominations for 2018-2019 Graduate Council Standing Committees (Appendix B)
   b) Committee on Academic Standards – Douglas Stairs, Chair (5 minutes)
   c) Committee on Programs and Courses – Tim McNellis, Chair (2 minutes)
      1. INFORMATION – Graduate Council Curriculum Report, 9/4/2019 (Appendix C)
   d) Committee on Fellowships and Awards – Mark Owens, Chair (2 minutes)
   e) Committee on Graduate Research – Kathleen Keller, Chair (2 minutes)
   f) Committee on Graduate Student and Faculty Issues – Amy Allen, Chair (5 minutes)
   g) Subcommittee on Graduate Exhibition – Ela Sikora, Chair (5 minutes)
7. Special Reports (5 minutes)
   a) Graduate and Professional Student Association (5 minutes)
8. Unfinished Business (15 minutes)
   a) GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students: Review the list of countries that are exempt from the TOEFL requirement.
   b) GCAC-601 Residency Requirement – Research Doctorates: Residence as a master’s degree student does not count towards the residency requirement for a doctoral degree.
9. New Business (1 minute)
10. Comments and Recommendations for the Good of the Graduate Community (1 minute)
2018-2019 Graduate Council  
Minutes of the Meeting: May 1, 2019

Graduate Council met on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in 102 Kern Graduate Building. Dr. Regina Vasilatos-Younken, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School, chaired the meeting. The minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

Communications to Graduate Council

None.

Announcements/Remarks by the Chair – Regina Vasilatos-Younken,  
Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken announced that there is a discrepancy between the Bylaws of Graduate Council and policy GCAC-101 Graduate Faculty Membership. Currently, the policy lists serving on Graduate Council as a privilege under some categories of Graduate Faculty membership but not all. However, the only restrictions on Graduate Council membership stated in the Bylaws are that the individual must be a member of the Graduate Faculty who has not served more than four consecutive years on Council. Since the Bylaws are superior to policies, any policy statement that conflicts with the Bylaws is null and void. The following statements will be removed from GCAC-101 to clarify that all members of the Graduate Faculty who meet the qualifications stated in the Bylaws are eligible to serve on Graduate Council:

- GCAC-101 1.a.ii. (under Category P): Tenure-Line and Standing Category P members of the Graduate Faculty may also serve on Graduate Council and its committees and subcommittees, and vote on matters submitted to the Graduate Faculty for vote.
- GCAC-101 1.c.ii. (under Category R): May serve on Graduate Council and its committees and subcommittees, and vote on matters submitted to the Graduate Faculty for vote.

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken also announced the creation of a new ad hoc committee, to be appointed over the summer and charged in the upcoming fall semester, that will examine the unique aspects of academic integrity in graduate education and how these might be accommodated if the University moves to a more centralized academic integrity process. Dr. Sarah Ades, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Affairs, will work with this committee which is expected to include faculty, staff, and student representatives from the Committee on Academic Standards, the Committee on Graduate Student and Faculty Issues, the Office of Student Conduct, the Rock Ethics Institute, and others.

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken announced the creation of a second ad hoc committee that will begin development of academic policies for professional doctorates. Dr. Verderame explained that Penn State currently offers four professional doctoral degrees: Doctor of Education (D.Ed.), Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.), Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.), and Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.). When created, most of these degree programs were modeled in part after the requirements for the Ph.D. degree in order to fit within the bounds of existing policy. However, professional doctoral degrees may appropriately differ from the Ph.D. so a distinctive set of policies may be more appropriate for them. This ad hoc committee, which will include representatives from the existing professional doctoral programs, will explore what minimum requirements might be appropriate as standards for all professional doctorates. The results of the committee’s work will be reviewed by the Committee on Academic Standards to be considered for presentation to Graduate Council.

Finally, Dr. Vasilatos-Younken reminded Council that the University Faculty Senate has delegated authority for graduate education to the Graduate Faculty as represented by Graduate Council. The new chair of the Faculty Senate made remarks concerning Graduate Council in the Senate’s last meeting. For
Graduate Council members who do not serve on the Faculty Senate or otherwise did not hear the remarks, the video of the Senate meeting is available on Mediasite at the following link, with the related remarks beginning at approximately 3:23:00:
http://live.libraries.psu.edu/Mediasite/Play/e094d350bf234810a8f9c5ff64bbb6741d?catalog=8376d4b2-4dd1-457e-a3bf-e4cf9163feda

Reports of Standing Committees of Graduate Council

Committee on Committees and Procedures

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Dr. Siela Maximova, Chair of the Committee on Committees and Procedures.

Dr. Maximova reported that three new faculty representatives were elected to begin new two-year terms on the committee: Amy Allen, Susan Loeb, and Bernhard Luscher. Steven Branstetter, Naomi Seidman, and Judith Sierra-Rivera are continuing members of the Committee in 2019–2020, serving the second year of their two-year terms. Alexander Wilson-Heid will be the graduate student representative serving a one-year term.

In accordance with the amendment provisions in the Graduate Council Articles of Authority, Dr. Maximova presented several revisions to the Articles of Authority for the second time along with a motion to approve the revisions. The motion passed.

Committee on Academic Standards

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Dr. Doug Stairs, Chair of the Committee on Academic Standards.

Dr. Stairs reported that the committee met earlier in the day and discussed feedback received on the proposed revisions to GCAC-604 Qualifying Examination – Research Doctorate. The discussion resulted in some revisions to clarify the committee’s intent. Dr. Stairs presented an amended version of GCAC-604 and the related FAQs. A motion was made to change the word “results” to “report” in Policy Statement 6 to clarify that both the student and Graduate Enrollment Services should receive the same report including identified deficiencies, required remedial steps, and recommendations for further study, and not simply the examination result. The motion passed. A motion was made to revise Policy Statement 4 to indicate that the Qualifying Examination Committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty, with the majority drawn from the faculty of the program. The motion passed. The motion was made to accept the revisions to policy GCAC-604 as amended. The motion passed.

Dr. Stairs presented revisions to GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs with a motion to approve the revisions. The minor revisions to this policy were proposed to conform with the changes to policy GCAC-604 concerning the timing of the Qualifying Examination. The motion passed.

Committee on Programs and Courses

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Dr. Andy Cole, Chair of the Committee on Programs and Courses.

Dr. Cole reported that the committee will meet on May 2 for the final meeting of the academic year. The next Graduate Council Curriculum Report will be published on May 10, 2019.

Committee on Fellowships and Awards

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Dr. David Atwill, Chair of the Committee on Fellowships and Awards.
Dr. Atwill indicated the committee had nothing to report.

**Committee on Graduate Research**

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Dr. Siela Maximova, Chair of the Committee on Graduate Research.

Dr. Maximova reported that the committee held its final meeting of the academic year on April 23, 2019. The report on barriers to the sustainability and growth of intercollege degree programs was presented to the University Faculty Senate. The Senate supported the joint recommendations from the Graduate Council Committee on Research/Senate Committee on Research, Scholarship and Creative Accomplishment that a University-level task force with representation from the appropriate units be established to identify long-term solutions on issues of funding for and to mitigate the perceived second-class status of these important educational programs. The committee continued to discuss the results of the survey on barriers to and opportunities for inter-campus research collaboration. The committee plans to present a summary of the survey results as well as a statement from Dr. Neil Sharkey to the University Faculty Senate in the next academic year.

**Committee on Graduate Student and Faculty Issues**

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Dr. Amy Allen, Chair of the Committee on Graduate Student and Faculty Issues.

Dr. Allen reported the committee continued work on developing a survey to be sent to students who stop out of their graduate programs. Over the summer months, Dr. Ades will work to incorporate the revisions recommended by the committee and have the survey reviewed by individuals with expertise in survey design. The committee hopes to finalize the survey at the beginning of the fall semester. The committee also discussed potential topics for next academic year, including assisting Dr. Ades in strategic planning for career and professional services for graduate students and issues focused on international graduate students.

**Subcommittee on Graduate Exhibition**

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Dr. Elizabeth Hughes, Chair of the Graduate School’s Graduate Exhibition Committee.

Dr. Hughes reported the committee met and reviewed the survey results from this year’s Graduate Exhibition. Based on the data received, the committee formed some recommendations for next year’s committee to consider while planning the exhibition.

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken informed Council that the Graduate Exhibition had a 33% no-show rate this year for judges, including many faculty members. The Council of Academic Deans suggested that, post-registration but prior to the Exhibition, the committee forward the names of faculty members registered to judge to the dean of the respective college so they could send an email thanking the faculty members for their commitment and service.

**Special Reports**

**Graduate and Professional Student Association**

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken recognized Claire Kelling of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA).
Ms. Kelling reported that GPSA held its final meeting of the academic year and funded some events for next year, such as a welcome picnic in the fall, and theatre days. The GPSA also voted to co-sponsor the International Town and Gown Association’s conference, which will be held in State College this year. The new Graduate Council GPSA delegates met. Four of the five delegates will be new to Council. Alexander Wilson-Heid will continue on Council and will serve as the Graduate Council Student Caucus Chair for next year. There are open delegate spots for the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Eberly College of Science, the College of Nursing, and the Smeal College of Business. Faculty members may direct any interested students to contact Ms. Kelling.

Dr. Vasilatos-Younken remarked that many alumni and their families returning to campus for the alumni recognition events held the weekend of the Graduate Exhibition have expressed an interest in more interaction with current students. Dr. Vasilatos-Younken encouraged GPSA members to consider how they might work with the Graduate School to build events with more student interaction and especially family engagement, as an increasing number of Graduate School alumni are returning with family members for whom a more meaningful experience would be valued.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

A motion was made for Council to consider revising policy GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students to update the list of countries from which a student may have received a baccalaureate or graduate degree to be considered exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement. It was suggested that South Africa may be appropriate to add to this list. The motion was seconded. This item will be added to the agenda for the next academic year.

A motion was made for Council to consider revising GCAC-601 Residency Requirement – Research Doctorate so that time in a master’s degree program at the University might be counted toward the residency requirement for a doctoral degree program. The motion was seconded. This item will be added to Council’s agenda for the next academic year.

**Comments and Recommendations for the Good of the Graduate Community**

None.

**Next meeting:**

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., 102 Kern Graduate Building
GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs

**Purpose:** This policy describes underlying goal of and the process by which graduate students may apply and be admitted to a dual-title graduate degree program.

**Academic Goal:** The academic goal of this policy is to define the features of a dual-title graduate degree program.

**Scope:** This policy applies to all graduate programs and graduate students.

**Background**

A dual-title graduate degree program is a fully integrated program of study that begins with defining a research problem or culminating experience, as appropriate to the degree, that integrates both the graduate major and dual-title fields early in the program. A dual-title graduate degree program includes the addition of valuable coursework not currently prescribed in an existing graduate degree program (in distinction to an option or a minor).

**Policy Statement**

1. A graduate dual-title degree is a fully integrated program of study that allows students to define a research problem that combines both the graduate major and dual-title fields.
2. A dual-title graduate degree program must require a minimum of 15 credits for a dual-title doctoral program and 6 credits for a dual-title master’s program.
3. The dual-title area of study cannot exist as a separate (stand-alone) graduate degree program at Penn State. The student's diploma will carry the name of both the graduate major and the dual-title offering. Students may complete only one dual-title in addition to a graduate major program of study within a single degree program.
4. Students must apply and may be admitted to an existing dual-title graduate degree program only after being enrolled in an existing graduate program.
   a. Doctoral students should enroll in a dual-title graduate degree program early in their training, and no later than the end of the fourth semester (not counting summer semesters) of entry into the graduate major program.
   b. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should students be encouraged to take coursework related to or recruited for admission to a dual-title graduate degree program that has not yet been approved by Graduate Council and adopted by the student’s graduate major program by means of a program change proposal submitted to and approved through the Graduate Council curricular review process.

**Process**

In order for a dual-title graduate degree program to be established, an existing graduate program must have previously agreed to the desirability of adding such a course of study, and will have detailed in writing the rationale and requirements of this course of study via a graduate program
change proposal submitted centrally. Graduate Council must approve any newly constituted dual-title graduate degree program and the addition of the dual-title offering to each graduate program that wishes to offer it.

The new dual-title area of study must be described in a new graduate program proposal, outlining the nature of the dual-title degree, including the array of courses typically taken; expectations for participation by dual-title students (for example, dual-title students may be expected to regularly attend weekly seminars scheduled by the dual-title area of study); and detailing other structural and practical requirements of a dual-title degree. Proposals for new dual-title graduate degree programs also must address the rationale for the creation of the dual-title degree. The proposal must show the advantages to be conferred by the dual-title graduate degree beyond those in existing alternative paths (e.g., graduate minors). A proposal might address such issues as the existence of current and sufficient demand by graduate students for such a program, and the enhanced employment opportunities for dual-title degree graduates. Graduate programs seeking to add (adopt) a new dual-title graduate degree program similarly must show the advantages to be conferred. Proposals for new dual-title graduate degree programs must be accompanied by at least one graduate program change proposal by a graduate major program to adopt the dual-title degree.

Graduate programs participating in a dual-title degree must develop sections in their graduate student handbooks that outline the nature of the dual-title degree; stipulate the array of courses typically taken; and detail other structural and practical requirements of a dual-title degree.

A graduate program wishing to adopt an existing dual-title program must submit a program change proposal to adopt the dual-title degree as described above, and must describe in its graduate student handbook the dual-title offering requirements. The various formal requirements for achieving a dual-title degree should be stated in the graduate program’s student handbook, and care be taken to outline how satisfying these requirements can be rationally connected with satisfying the requirements in the graduate program.

Typically, a provision is made whereby a dual-title degree student at the master's level is relieved of some of the requirements of the graduate degree program, so that a different and substituted set of courses can be pursued. Any such course substitutions must be specified in the graduate program’s student handbook. Since Graduate Council does not specify a minimum number of credits for a doctoral degree program, programs must include language in the proposal and in the student handbook that specifies any courses from the dual-title area of study that are approved as substitutions in the graduate program for post-master's students.

The dual-title representative on the Ph.D. Committee will participate in constructing and grading comprehensive examination questions that cover the dual-title area of study as part of a unified comprehensive examination with the major program administered to the student.

**Revision History**

Approved by Graduate Council Nov. 20, 2002
Revised by Graduate Council, May 13, 2009
Revised by Graduate Council, Sept. 17, 2014
Revised by Graduate Council, May 1, 2019. Effective date: Fall 2019 (8/12/2019).
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION - RESEARCH DOCTORATE

Contents:
- Purpose
- Academic Goal
- Scope
- Background
- Definitions
- Policy Statement
- Process
- Responsibilities/Guidelines/Best Practices
- Forms
- Further Information
- Cross References/Other Policies

PURPOSE:
To establish the content, form, scheduling, and reporting requirements for the Qualifying Examination.

ACADEMIC GOAL:
The academic goal of the Qualifying Examination is to assess early in the student’s program whether the student is capable of conducting doctoral-level research based on evidence of critical thinking and other skills that the Graduate Faculty of the program view as necessary to a successful researcher in the disciplinary field.

SCOPE:
This policy applies to all students enrolled in programs of study leading to the Ph.D.

BACKGROUND:
Graduate education leading to an advanced research degree (M.A., M.S., or Ph.D.) is fundamentally different from undergraduate education in form and content. Graduate work on an advanced research degree is often solitary and in close collaboration with one or a few faculty members or other research personnel. Research doctorate education in particular is focused on research methodologies and is uniform across disciplines in its characteristics, including but not limited to being hypothesis-driven, and evidence-based, and results in the creation of new knowledge. To ensure adequate progress toward the Ph.D., there are a set of formal assessments at various times in the student’s program; at Penn State the first of these is referred to as the Qualifying Examination.
DEFINITIONS:

Academic Adviser: A Graduate Faculty member assigned to an individual student who provides individualized advice that promotes intellectual discovery and helps guide the student to meet the student’s goals through the successful completion of the degree program.

Dissertation Adviser: Graduate Faculty member principally responsible for day-to-day guidance of the student’s dissertation research and academic and professional development.

Qualifying Examination Committee: A committee drawn from the Graduate Faculty members of the student’s Ph.D. program faculty charged by the Graduate Program head to administer the Qualifying Examination.

POLICY STATEMENT:

1. The primary purpose of the Qualifying Examination is to provide an early assessment of whether the student has the potential to develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes the program has defined in its formal Learning Objectives, including evidence of critical thinking skills, necessary for a successful researcher in the disciplinary field.
   a. The Qualifying Examination is conducted early in a student’s program to ensure that the considerable investment of time, resources, and effort required by the student has a high likelihood of leading to completion of the Ph.D.
   b. Additionally, the Qualifying Examination may assess if the student is well grounded in the fundamental knowledge of the discipline.

2. Scheduling:
   a. It is the responsibility of the major Graduate Program Head to ensure that the Qualifying Examination is scheduled within the required time limits as defined below.
   b. All students must take the Qualifying Examination within three semesters (not counting the summer semester) of entry into the doctoral program.
      i. Students who have been identified as master’s-along-the-way upon admission into the graduate program may be allowed an extension such that the three semester time limit will begin upon completion of the master’s degree.
      ii. Students pursuing dual-title degrees must take the Qualifying Examination within four semesters (not counting the summer semester) of entry into the doctoral program.
   c. To be eligible to take the Qualifying Examination the student must have:
      i. Earned at least 18 credits in courses eligible to be counted toward the graduate degree (these may be graduate credits earned previously at other recognized institutions from which transfer credits would be accepted) or the equivalent as determined and documented by the program.
      ii. A grade-point average of 3.00 or greater for work done at the University while a graduate student.
      iii. No incomplete or deferred grades.

3. Content:

1 The additional time allowed for dual-title degree students is in recognition of the additional requirements they may need to fulfill.
Policy GCAC-604

Policy Steward:

a. The student’s major program must establish guidelines for the Qualifying Examination that are uniformly applied to all students. These guidelines and evaluation criteria must be presented in the graduate program’s handbook, which must be provided to the student upon matriculation. These guidelines must include:
   i. The timing and the format of the examination
   ii. Clear criteria for evaluation.
   iii. The program’s policy describing the student’s options in case of failure. The policy must include:
      1) If retaking the examination after failure is allowed.
      2) If retaking the examination after failure is permitted whether there is a limit to the number of attempts.
      3) If students who have failed the final attempt will be dismissed from the program or may be allowed to change to the master’s degree.

b. If the student is also enrolled in a dual-title graduate degree program,
   i. the Qualifying Examination requirement shall be satisfied by one of the following:
      1) Ideally, a single Qualifying Examination that incorporates content from both the graduate major program and the dual-title program. The Qualifying Examination Committee must include at least one member of the Graduate Faculty from the dual-title program.
         a) In cases where the timing of the Qualifying Examination in the major area precludes the inclusion of the dual-title area, the dual-title program may choose to examine proficiency in the dual-title area at a later time, but no later than the end of the fourth semester (not counting summer semesters) of entry into the major doctoral program.
         2) Dual-title programs may choose to allow the Qualifying Examination in the major area alone to satisfy the requirements for the dual-title program.
   ii. The means of establishing proficiency in the dual-title area must be defined in the major program proposal adopting the dual-title degree and must be included in the student handbook for each dual-title program.

4. Format of Exam:
   a. Each graduate program will determine the composition of its Qualifying Examination Committee. All members of the Qualifying Examination Committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty, with the majority drawn from the faculty of the program.
   b. The graduate program administering the Qualifying Examination may choose from the following general formats with the specific details being left to the discretion of the program. The exam can be:
      i. a written, oral, or written and oral assessment of a student’s ability to conduct doctoral-level research as determined by the graduate program; or
      ii. an assessment of a thesis submitted in fulfillment of a research master’s degree in the major or a related program.

5. Outcome: At the conclusion of the evaluation, students must be informed of the results in writing. In cases when the Qualifying Examination is not passed, the student must also be notified whether a re-examination is offered or if the student will be terminated from the Ph.D. program. If the student will be terminated from the Ph.D. program, they must also be informed if they will be allowed to change to the master’s degree.
6. Reporting: The same report of all Qualifying Examinations, regardless of the outcome, must be reported to both the student and Graduate Enrollment Services as soon as possible but no later than 30 days following the conclusion of the assessment of the student; this includes both the initial examination, and any subsequent retakes.
   a. The report will include any identified deficiencies as well as any remedial steps the committee recommends or requires the student to undertake. Unresolved deficiencies from other assessments (e.g., English Competence, see GCAC-605) should be included.
   b. Following the examination, the Qualifying Examination Committee should also share any recommendations for further study or preparation, as well as any remedial steps the committee requires the student to undertake with the student’s Academic or Dissertation adviser and Ph.D. Committee (when formed).
   c. While it is common and helpful for a student and the student’s Ph.D. Committee to use the information gathered to further guide the student’s program, such discussions are not part of the examination itself.

PROCESS:

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The program is responsible for ensuring that:

1. **Qualifying Examinations are administered fairly to all students.**
   
   Examples (not an exhaustive list):
   
   a. Smaller programs may use the same Qualifying Examination Committee for all eligible students.
   
   b. Larger programs or programs with distinct subdisciplines may use multiple committees, but will undertake measures to ensure that the evaluation criteria are equally applied across all examinations or consistently within each distinct subdiscipline; a description of such measures will be included in the program’s handbook (e.g., the evaluation criteria will be listed in the handbook).

2. **Conflicts of interest in administering the Qualifying Examination must be avoided or effectively managed.**
   
   Examples (not an exhaustive list):
   
   a. For students whose dissertation adviser has already been identified at the time of the Qualifying Examination, the adviser may participate in the examination (if oral) or review the examination (if written) but not be the sole participant in the formal assessment.
   
   b. Graduate programs will undertake measures to ensure that conflicts of interest are managed; a description of such management measures will be included in the program’s handbook.
FORMS:

FURTHER INFORMATION:

CROSS REFERENCES / OTHER POLICIES:

GCAC-601 Residency Requirement – Research Doctorate
GCAC-602 Doctoral Ph.D. Committee Formation, Composition, and Review – Research Doctorate
GCAC-603 Doctoral Ph.D. Committee Responsibilities – Research Doctorate
GCAC-604 Qualifying Examination – Research Doctorate
GCAC-605 English Competence – Research Doctorate
GCAC-606 Comprehensive Examination – Research Doctorate
GCAC-607 Dissertation – Research Doctorate
GCAC-608 Final Oral Examination – Research Doctorate

REVISION HISTORY:
Adapted from Graduate Bulletin: June 2018
Approved by Graduate Council, May 1, 2019. Effective date: Fall 2019 (8/12/2019)
Graduate Council Ad Hoc Committee Charge

Name of the Committee:
Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Doctoral Degree Policies

Committee Charge:
Develop academic policies for professional doctoral degrees for consideration by the Committee on Academic Standards and the Graduate Council.

Rationale:
The Graduate Council has long-established policies for the research doctoral degree (Ph.D.) and research master’s degrees (M.A./M.S.) establishing the general requirements for those degrees. For example, all Ph.D. students, regardless of their specific program, must pass a Qualifying Examination, demonstrate English competency, pass a Comprehensive Examination, write a dissertation, and pass a Final Oral Examination. Individual programs are responsible for defining the program requirements for students in their program (requirements for specific courses, for a specific number of credits, for completing a seminar, etc.).

Professional doctoral degree programs have no similar policies defining overall degree requirements, distinct from program requirements. The absence of such policies has resulted in program proposals that include elements of the research doctorate when that is neither necessary nor appropriate.

The work of crafting professional doctoral degree requirements appropriately falls to the Committee on Academic Standards. The Committee on Academic Standards is in the midst of revising all of the research degree policies; it is currently working through the research doctoral degree policies and plans to take up the research master’s degree policies next. It is anticipated that this work will require at least two more years (possibly more).

In addition, because of the small number of professional doctoral programs at Penn State, the Committee on Academic Standards typically does not have strong representation from professional doctoral degree programs.

Thus, to assure timely completion of this important work and to ensure that the policies meet the needs of professional degree programs, it is recommended that Graduate Council establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Doctoral Degree Policies.

Outcome:
Policies developed by the Ad Hoc Committee will be reviewed and voted on first by the Committee on Academic Standards. When Academic Standards has approved these policies to move forward, they will go to Graduate Council for final review and approval.

Time Frame:
The committee is expected to complete its work in the 2019-2020 academic year.
Committee Chair(s):
Rayne Sperling, Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, College of Education, Co-Chair
Michael Verderame, Senior Associate Dean, The Graduate School, Co-Chair

Membership:
There are currently four professional doctoral degrees offered (D.Ed., D.M.A., D.N.P., and Dr.P.H). The Graduate School reached out to the associate deans for graduate education in each of the four colleges that offer these degree (Arts and Architecture, Education, Medicine, and Nursing). The Graduate School also reached out to the associate deans for graduate education in the Smeal College of Business and the College of Engineering, as both of these colleges have indicated they are contemplating offering a professional doctoral degree in the future. To ensure that the needs of the broader community are represented, the associate deans were asked for nominees who would be particularly knowledgeable about professional degrees and their requirements. The proposed committee membership was derived from these recommendations.

Betsy B. Aumiller, D.Ed.  
Director of Graduate Studies, Dr.P.H. program  
Assistant Professor, College of Medicine

Barbara (Barb) Birriel, Ph.D., ACNP-BC, CRNP, FCCM  
Interim Program Head, D.N.P. Program  
Assistant Research Professor, College of Nursing

Brian Cameron, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Professional Graduate Programs  
Clinical Professor, Smeal College of Business

Christopher Guzman, D.M.A.  
Associate Professor of Piano, School of Music, College of Arts and Architecture

Vicki Hewitt, Ed.D.  
Director of Graduate Council Administration, The Graduate School

Dena Lang, Ph.D.  
Associate Director of Engineering Leadership Research  
Associate Teaching Professor, College of Engineering

Rayne A. Sperling, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies  
Professor of Education, College of Education

Michael Verderame, Ph.D.  
Senior Associate Dean, The Graduate School  
Professor of Medicine, College of Medicine
Graduate Council 2019–2020 Standing Committees

Membership Recommendations

Committee on Academic Standards
It shall consist of at least seven elected faculty members of Graduate Council. The Dean, Senior Associate Dean, Associate Dean, Director of Graduate Council Administration, and Director of Graduate Student Services of the Graduate School shall be *ex officio* members of this committee.

Duties
It shall be responsible for standards of quality of graduate programs and research and is authorized to select Subcommittees as needed for the following activities:

a. Admissions: Studies admission and evaluation techniques and recommends to the Graduate Council standards and policies for the admission of students.

b. Degree Requirements: Recommends standards and policies for degree requirements and assessment, registration, and satisfactory academic progress of students.

c. Membership of the Graduate Faculty: Recommends criteria for membership in the Graduate Faculty.

d. Theses and Dissertations: Considers general policy, objectives, standards, regulations, procedures, and requirements relating to theses and dissertations.

e. Languages and Communications: Works with and advises on problems of graduate training and professional development in the area of instrumental languages and communication skills.

- GC faculty members who served on this committee last year to potentially continue:
  - Christopher Castiglia, Distinguished Professor of English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (College of The Liberal Arts)
  - Beth Gugino, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology (College of Agricultural Sciences)
  - Rebecca Henn, Associate Professor of Architecture (College of Arts and Architecture)
  - Douglas Stairs, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Pharmacology (College of Medicine) **willing to chair**

- GC faculty members to potentially serve as new to this committee this year:
  - Kimberly Cornaggia, Associate Professor of Finance (Smeal College of Business)
  - Scott Metzger, Associate Professor of Education (College of Education)
  - Sven Schmitz, Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering (College of Engineering)

- *Ex Officio* members
  - Regina Vasilatos-Younken, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School
  - Michael Verderame, Senior Associate Dean
  - Lori Anne Hawn, Director, Graduate Enrollment Services
  - Vicki Hewitt, Director of Graduate Council Administration
Executive Committee
It shall consist of the presiding officers of the Committees on Academic Standards, Committees and Procedures, Fellowships and Awards, Programs and Courses, Graduate Research, and Graduate Student and Faculty Issues; the liaison member from the University Faculty Senate Council; the Dean and the Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School; plus at least three elected faculty members from the Graduate Council appointed by Graduate Council.

Duties
1. Provide advice and counsel as requested by the Chair.

- GC faculty members to potentially serve for this year:
  - Jogesh Babu Gutti, Distinguished Professor of Statistics and Astronomy & Astrophysics (Eberly College of Science)
  - Mare Sarr, Associate Professor of International Affairs (School of International Affairs)
  - Ming Wang, Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences (College of Medicine)

- Ex Officio members
  - Regina Vasilatos-Younken, Chair, Graduate Council, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School
  - Michael Verderame, Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School
  - Kent Vrana, University Faculty Senate Liaison
  - Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Graduate Council
Committee on Fellowships and Awards

It shall consist of one Graduate Faculty representative from each academic college and school of the University that offers graduate programs. The Director of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration is an ex officio member of this committee.

Duties

It shall consider policies on awards; examine and judge applications for Graduate School fellowships; and make recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate School for awards.

Nominees for this committee are submitted by the dean/chancellor of each college/school.

- Ramaswamy Anatheswaran, Professor of Food Science, College of Agricultural Sciences
- Madhuri Desai, Associate Professor of Art History (College of Arts and Architecture)
- Robert Edwards, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of English and Comparative Literature (College of the Liberal Arts)
- Nil Ergin, Associate Professor of Systems Engineering (Penn State Great Valley)
- Carleen Maitland, Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology (School of Information Sciences and Technology)
- Guhaprasanna Manogharan, Assistant Professor, College of Engineering
- Andrea McCloskey, Associate Professor of Education, College of Education
- Daniel Morgan, Assistant Professor in Anesthesiology (College of Medicine)
- Karl Muller, Associate Professor of Accounting, Smeal College of Business
- Patrick Parsons, Professor of Communications, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications
- Michael Robb, Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders (College of Health and Human Development)
- Stephen Schappe, Associate Professor of Management, Penn State Harrisburg
- Stephen Schaeffer, Professor of Biology, Eberly College of Science
- Kimberly Van Haitsma, Associate Professor of Nursing (College of Nursing)
- George Young, Professor of Meteorology (College of Earth and Mineral Sciences)
- TBD (Penn State Behrend)
- TBD (School of International Affairs)
- Jessica Hoffman, Director, Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards Administration, Ex Officio
Committee on Graduate Research

It shall consist of at least seven elected faculty members and one graduate student member of Graduate Council. The Associate Vice President for Research, and the Dean and Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School shall be ex officio members of this Committee.

Duties

The Committee's responsibilities are as follows:

a. Advise the Graduate Council on policies and procedures that affect graduate research.
b. Foster graduate research at The Pennsylvania State University by aiding the Graduate Council in recognizing and rewarding outstanding graduate research performed by faculty and students of The Pennsylvania State University.
c. Support efforts, at all University levels, to enhance the funding of graduate research.
d. Support efforts to attract and retain excellent graduate students.
e. Inform and advise the Graduate Council on issues and opportunities associated with industrial-academic-related research areas, particularly as they affect graduate research and graduate study.
f. Recommend to the Graduate Council appropriate policies or actions on emerging political, budgetary, and academic issues related to graduate research.
g. Be responsible for and authorized to select the standing Subcommittee:
   i. Subcommittee on Graduate Exhibition

Membership and Duties of Standing Subcommittee: It shall consist of at least four elected faculty members of Graduate Council. Additional participants may be invited to attend based on their expertise. The Associate Dean for Graduate Student Affairs is an ex officio member of this Committee. This committee helps to implement the annual Graduate Exhibition, and makes recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate School concerning the Graduate Exhibition.

• GC faculty to potentially serve as members meeting with SCORSCA:
  ▪ Andrew Carleton, Professor of Geography (College of Earth and Mineral Sciences)
  ▪ James DiPerna, Professor of Education (College of Education)
  ▪ Kathleen Keller, Associate Professor of Nutritional Sciences (College of Health and Human Development)
  ▪ Joshua Lambert, Associate Professor of Food Science (College of Agricultural Sciences)
  ▪ Dongwon Lee, Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology (College of Information Sciences and Technology)
  ▪ Anna Mazzucato, Professor of Mathematics (Eberly College of Science)
  ▪ Mary Shenk, Associate Professor of Anthropology (College of the Liberal Arts)

• GC graduate student member to potentially serve as a member meeting with SCORSCA:
  ▪ Baily Thomas, Graduate Student in Mechanical Engineering (GPSA)

• GC faculty to potentially serve as members of the Graduate Exhibition Committee:
  ▪ Charles Ammon, Professor of Geosciences (College of Earth and Mineral Sciences)
  ▪ Sukwon Choi, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering (College of Engineering)
  ▪ Naomi Seidman, Associate Professor of Music (College of Arts and Architecture)
  ▪ Elzbieta Sikora, Assistant Teaching Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics (College of Engineering)
  ▪ Jennifer Williams, Associate Professor of Nutritional Sciences (College of Health and Human Development)

• Ex Officio members
  ▪ Sarah Ades, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Affairs
Committee on Graduate Student and Faculty Issues
It shall consist of at least six elected faculty members, and three elected graduate student members of Graduate Council, and five *ex officio* members: the Assistant/Associate Dean for Graduate Educational Equity and the Associate Dean for Graduate Student Affairs in the Graduate School, and one representative each from the Division of Student Affairs, the University Office of Global Programs, and the Office of Student Aid.

**Duties**
It shall be responsible for and is authorized to select Subcommittees as needed for the following activities:

a. Review existing and proposed policies and make recommendations concerning the welfare and ethics of the Graduate Faculty and graduate students.

b. Promote the intellectual development and social welfare of an inclusive graduate community by fostering an awareness and appreciation of cultural and social differences.

c. Keep the Dean of the Graduate School apprised of issues of concern to graduate students.

d. Assist the Dean of the Graduate School in the review of appeals concerning the violation of accepted norms of professional behavior of Graduate Faculty members and graduate students with authorization to review and make recommendations to the Dean when it is charged that individual rights have been violated and responsibilities unfulfilled.

### GC faculty members who served on this committee last year to potentially continue:
- Amy Allen, Department Head, Liberal Arts Professor of Philosophy and Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies (College of the Liberal Arts) **willing to chair**
- Rhoda Joseph, Associate Professor of Information Sciences (Penn State Harrisburg)
- Denise Potosky, Professor of Management and Organization (Penn State Great Valley)

### GC faculty members to potentially serve as new to this committee this year:
- Mari Haneda, Associate Professor of Education (College of Education)
- Anthony Kwasnica, Professor of Business Economics (Smeal College of Business)
- Tong Qiu, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering (College of Engineering)

### GC graduate student members to potentially serve this year:
- Alexander Wilson-Heid, Graduate Student in Materials Science and Engineering (GPSA)
- Catherine Okafor, Graduate Student in Higher Education (GPSA)
- Arghajeet Saha, Graduate Student in Agricultural and Biological Engineering (GPSA)

### Ex Officio members
- Sarah Ades, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Affairs
- Stephanie Preston, Associate Dean for Graduate Educational Equity
- Adam Christensen, Director of Research and Assessment, Student Affairs
- Robert Crane, Director for Strategic Initiatives, University Office of Global Programs
- Paul Simenson, Director, Student Aid Programs, Office of Student Aid
Committee on Programs and Courses
The Committee shall consist of at least nine elected faculty members and one graduate student member of Graduate Council. The Dean, Senior Associate Dean, Associate Dean, Director of Graduate Council Administration, and Director of Graduate Student Services of the Graduate School shall be *ex officio* members of this committee.

Duties
The Committee duties are as follows:

- a. Suggest policy related to programs and courses.
- b. Undertake, as appropriate, review of existing graduate programs.
- c. Review, evaluate, and approve or reject all graduate program and course proposals that have been submitted for curricular review.
- d. Review all requests for extended degree programs submitted through the established protocols of the University.
- e. Develop criteria for evaluating program and course proposals and recommend procedures for handling these proposals.
- f. Review and comment, in consultation with the Dean of the Graduate School, on other issues that have impact on the quality of graduate education.
- g. Be responsible for and authorized to select standing Subcommittees:
  - i. [Subcommittee on Program Review and Evaluation](#)

Membership and Duties of Standing Subcommittee: One Graduate Faculty representative from each academic college and school of the University that offers graduate programs responsible for review of quality indicators of existing graduate programs, recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate School on those, and other activities authorized by the Programs and Courses Committee related to graduate program review and evaluation. The Dean, Associate Dean, and Director of Graduate Council Administration shall be *ex officio* members of this subcommittee.

- ii. [Subcommittee on New and Revised Programs and Courses](#)

Membership and Duties of Standing Subcommittee: One Graduate Faculty representative from each academic college and school of the University that offers graduate programs responsible for evaluation and review of new and revised program and course proposals and for recommendations on those to the Committee on Programs and Courses. The Dean, Senior Associate Dean, and Director of Graduate Council Administration shall be *ex officio* members of this subcommittee.

- GC faculty members who served on this committee last year to potentially continue:
  - Timothy McNellis, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology (College of Agricultural Sciences) **willing to chair**
  - Rebecca Craven, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology (College of Medicine)
  - Judith Sierra-Rivera, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latina/o Studies (College of the Liberal Arts)
  - Juliet Pinto, Associate Professor of Journalism (Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications)

- GC faculty to potentially serve as new to this committee this year:
  - David Atwill, Associate Professor of History (College of the Liberal Arts)
  - Steven Branstetter, Associate Professor of Biobehavioral Health (College of Health and Human Development)
  - Anthony Buccitelli, Associate Professor of American Studies (Penn State Harrisburg)
  - Bo Cheng, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering (College of Engineering)
  - Edward Jaenicke, Professor of Agricultural Economics (College of Agricultural Sciences)
  - Susan Loeb, Associate Professor of Nursing (College of Nursing)
  - Bernhard Luscher, Professor of Biology (Eberly College of Science)
  - Miguel Mostafa, Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Astrophysics (Eberly College of Science)
  - Bing Ran, Associate Professor of Public Administration (Penn State Harrisburg)
  - **TBD (Penn State Behrend)**

- GC graduate student member to potentially serve for this year:
  - Katie Warczak, Graduate Student in English (GPSA)

- Ex Officio members
  - Regina Vasiliatos-Youken, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School
  - Michael Verderame, Senior Associate Dean
  - Lori Anne Hawn, Director, Graduate Enrollment Services
  - Vicki Hewitt, Director of Graduate Council Administration
Committee on Committees and Procedures
It shall consist of six elected Graduate Council faculty members, plus one graduate student representing the Graduate and Professional Student Association. One-half of the membership normally shall be elected each year. The Dean, Senior Associate Dean, and Director of Graduate Council Administration of the Graduate School shall be ex officio members of this committee.

Selection
By the Graduate Council. No fewer than six nominees will be submitted to the Council every year by the Committee on Committees and Procedures. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The Council will elect the Committee members by secure and secret ballot.

Duties
a. It shall recommend appointment of members of all other Committees.
b. It shall assist the Chair in reviewing proposed changes in procedures and make recommendations for Council action thereon.
c. It shall assist the Chair in the appointment of special Ad Hoc Committees.
d. It shall elect its own presiding officer.
e. It shall periodically review these Articles, Bylaws, and Standing Rules including committee structure of the Council and recommend changes as necessary.

2019-2020 Membership
- Amy Allen, Department Head, Liberal Arts Professor of Philosophy and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (College of the Liberal Arts)
- Steven Branstetter, Associate Professor of Biobehavioral Health (College of Health and Human Development)
- Susan Loeb, Associate Professor of Nursing (College of Nursing)
- Bernhard Luscher, Professor of Biology (Eberly College of Science)
- Naomi Seidman, Assistant Professor of Music (College of Arts and Architecture)
- Judith Sierra-Rivera, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latina/o Studies (College of the Liberal Arts)
- Alexander Wilson-Heid, Graduate Student in Materials Science and Engineering (GPSA)

- Regina Vasilatos-Younken, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School, Ex Officio
- Michael Verderame, Senior Associate Dean, Ex Officio
- Vicki Hewitt, Director of Graduate Council Administration, Ex Officio
Graduate Council Curriculum Report

The Graduate Council Curriculum Report (GCCR), which includes all graduate curricular proposals approved through the Graduate Council curricular review process, is published 12 times each calendar year.

Questions/comments regarding the GCCR or its contents may be directed to the Director of Graduate Council Administration.

September 4, 2019

Graduate Degree Programs

CHANGE

Public Health – add joint degree program with the J.D. and Dr.P.H. degrees with Dickinson Law (College of Medicine), page 3

Strategic Communications – change degree requirements (Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications), page 45

Graduate Courses

CHANGE

OLD
CJPA 808
Capstone Project in Criminal Justice and Policy Administration
CAPSTONE PROJECT (3)
This is a capstone course and a requirement for all students in the M.P.S. in Criminal Justice and Policy Administration. During their final semester the student will work closely with a faculty adviser (selected to match the student on substantive and/or methodological expertise) on a self-selected criminal justice and policy administration-related project. The student is expected to draw on data and methods encountered during their prior course work. At the end of the semester the student will be required to make a formal peer presentation to other enrolled students and all their faculty advisors. The student also will be required to submit a final report/paper to their faculty adviser by the end of the semester.
Prerequisites: CJPA 501, CJPA 502, CJPA 803, CJPA 820, CJPA 865, CRIMJ 503

NEW
CJPA 808
Capstone Project in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration
CAPSTONE PROJECT (3)
This course is a requirement for all students in the M.P.S. in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration. During their final semester, the student will work closely with a faculty adviser (selected to match the student on substantive and/or methodological expertise) on a self-selected criminal justice and policy administration-related capstone project. The student is expected to draw on data and methods encountered during their prior course work. At the end of the semester, the student will be required to make a formal peer presentation to other enrolled students and all their faculty advisers. The student also will be required to submit a final report/paper to their faculty adviser by the end of the semester.
Prerequisites: CJPA 501, CJPA 502, CJPA 803, CJPA 820, CJPA 865, CRIMJ 503
MCIBS 551
Genomics
GENOMICS (3)
Structure and function of genomes including use of some current web-based tools and resources for studies and research in genomics. BMMB 551 / MCIBS 551 Genomics (3) This course will deal with the structure and function of genomes including the use of some current web-based tools and resources for studies and research in genomics. The overall objective is to learn current information about the structure and function of genomes, to develop facility in the many web-based tools and resources for further studies and research in genomics, and to appreciate the power and limitations of current resources and knowledge. This course is designed as a basic course for any student in the life sciences who needs to exploit the developments and tools in genomics in their own research and who wants to broaden their understanding of the current knowledge and research in the life sciences that are increasingly drawing on genomics advances. The course will be taught by a team of faculty (members active in genomics research and will be video-conferenced. Students’ grades will be based on take home exams or assignments that require their understanding of the concepts in genomics and the hands-on use of web-based analysis tools, as well as on class discussion participation. Students will be assigned one or more projects, tutorials, problem sets or essays to complete. Reading assignments will further help students explore the materials, do the assignments and participate in classroom discussions.
CROSS-LISTED COURSES: BMMB 551

EDTHP 516
Genomics
GENOMICS (3)
This course will deal with the structure and function of genomes including the use of some current web-based tools and resources for studies and research in genomics. The overall objective is to learn current information about the structure and function of genomes, to develop facility in the many web-based tools and resources for further studies and research in genomics, and to appreciate the power and limitations of current resources and knowledge.
CROSS-LISTED COURSES: BMMB 551, BGEN 551
Graduate Council
Program, Option, or Minor Proposal Form

Submit 1 original, signed Graduate Council proposal form and 2 hardcopies of the graduate program proposal document, with a copy of the signed proposal form attached to each proposal copy, to the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, 211 Kern Building, University Park. For more information about the process, see the Overview of the Graduate Council Curricular Review Process.

The Program Proposal Procedures provide guidance for the development of a graduate program proposal. If you have questions regarding the preparation of a graduate program proposal or how to complete this Graduate Council proposal form, contact the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.

College/School: College of Medicine
Department or Instructional Area: Public Health Sciences

New Graduate Program, Option, or Minor: Add

| Designation of new graduate program: | | |
| Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: | | |
| Designation of new graduate option: | | |
| Designation of new graduate minor: | | |

Indicate effective semester:
- First semester following approval
- Second semester following approval

Existing Graduate Program Option, or Minor: Change Drop

| Current designation of graduate program: Public Health |
| Current designation of graduate option: | |
| Current designation of graduate minor: | |
| New designation of existing graduate program (if changing): | |
| New designation of existing graduate option (if changing): | |
| New designation of existing graduate minor (if changing): | |

Brief description of the change (if not noted above): 1) Addition of joint JD/DrPH degree

Indicate effective semester:
- First semester following approval
- Second semester following approval

Submitted by Graduate Program Head

Robin Taylor Wilson
Printed name
Signature
Date: 11/20/18

Noted by College/School Representative to Graduate Council Subcommittee on New and Revised Programs and Courses:

Rebecca Craven
Printed name
Signature
Date: 11/19/18

Approved by College/School Dean/Chancellor (or Designee):

Charles Lang
Printed name
Signature
Date: 11/19/18
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Printed name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended by Chair, Graduate Council Subcommittee ition</td>
<td>On Behalf of David Babb</td>
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<td>9/3/2019</td>
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<td>Recommended by Chair, Graduate Council Committee</td>
<td>On Behalf of Timothy McNellis</td>
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<td>9/3/2019</td>
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<td>Noted by Dean of the Graduate School</td>
<td>On Behalf of Regina Vasilatos-Younken</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/3/2019</td>
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Program Change Proposal for the Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)

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Proposer Contact Information:
Betsy Aumiller, D.Ed.
Associate Director, Dr.P.H. Program
Department of Public Health Sciences
College of Medicine
baumiller@phs.psu.edu
717-531-1169

Responsible Faculty Members:
Dr.P.H. – Betsy Aumiller, D.Ed.

J.D. – Medha Makhlouf, J.D.
Director, Medical-Legal Partnership
Dickinson Law
Mdm5849@psu.edu
717-241-3521
I. Justification for Proposed Changes

We respectfully submit this program change proposal to offer joint J.D./Dr.P.H. degree program, in collaboration with Penn State’s Dickinson Law. This program change proposal is in accordance with the Graduate Council’s policy, Joint Degree Programs at http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/faculty-and-staff/faculty/jointdegree/.

Of the century’s great public health achievements, each of them have in one way or another involved legal intervention (Burris, 2016). In recognition of this, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed the Public Health Law Program (PHLP) in 2000. The PHLP improves public health by developing law-related tools and legal technical assistance to state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) jurisdictions. The CDC’s Legal Epidemiology Competency Model provides guidelines for entry level, mid-tier, and senior manager/principal investigator positions and minimum competencies, including research and translation knowledge and skills required of public health practitioners, lawyers, and policy experts working in state, tribal, local, or territorial health departments. https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/publications/topic/resources/legalepimodel/index.html. The opioid epidemic is one example in which development and tracking of the epidemic was benefited by legal review of state laws. In addition, a wide range of impactful work in public health law (e.g. from injury and violence prevention to vaccination law to public health emergencies) appear here https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/publications/topic/index.html.

By 2012, approximately one-quarter of the existing public health workforce will have retired (Rosenstock, 2008). The joint degree program mechanism and similar models are recommended to encourage students from various disciplines enter the public health field and infuse the workforce with new talent and increase efficiency of existing processes (Hilliard, 2012). Rosenstock et al. (2008, p. 397) also argue that “additional efforts are needed to deliver public health education to cross-disciplinary professions,” citing law as one discipline in which such efforts are underway.

This proposed J.D./DR.P.H. offers law students a gateway through which they can enter and impact the field of public health. In “Who Will Keep the Public Healthy? Educating Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century,” Gebbie et al. (2003, p. 143) argue that law is an essential function within public health, but the majority of law schools do not provide public health training. Consequently, lawyers who lack public health training “have difficulties unraveling complex health issues” (Gebbie, Rosenstock, & Hernandez, 2003, p. 143). The field of public health needs lawyers trained in health and public health, but there is a disconnect between that need and reality. As one solution, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) recommends “[strengthening] connections with departments that do not traditionally teach public health, such as law, finance, and public administration” (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2013). The J.D. joint degree mechanism at Penn State is one model through which we can achieve this goal. More recently, Public Health Law is a burgeoning discipline.

There are presently 37 accredited schools and programs that offer a Dr.P.H. degree with a combination of 87 degree focus areas within the US and Puerto Rico. (https://ceph.org/about/org-info/who-we-accredit/search/, date last accessed October 11, 2018). While all of the Big Ten universities offer a J.D./MPH joint degree, including Penn State, there are no joint J.D./Dr.P.H. programs. This program would be an innovative and forward thinking approach to anticipating future increases in public health funding streams.
Although there are no known J.D./Dr.P.H. joint programs offered within any of the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited school or programs, the J.D./Ph.D. joint degree is a well-established model. There are over 25 colleges and universities in the U.S. that offer a J.D./Ph.D. program. A coordinated J.D./PhD Program is designed for students interested in completing interdisciplinary work and is founded on the belief that students' legal studies and other specialized graduate work can be mutually enriched through this pursuit. As such a J.D./Dr.P.H. would represent a unique opportunity for Penn State to offer law and public health students the prospect of gaining greater depth and expertise in another discipline. A J.D./Dr.P.H. joint degree is designed to train the next generation of public health practitioners to leverage law acumen to become leaders in the growing field of public health law and policy development. This joint degree program will provide rigorous interdisciplinary training for legal academia, but also for students who plan to pursue other career paths related to law, public health policy, medical legal partnerships and health care law and policy, among others. This is further supported by the existing Advanced Field Experience course requirement for the Dr.P.H. program. The numerous existing collaborations with a variety of pertinent organizations will provide students with unique opportunities to practiced-based experiences within the region and beyond. This program is open to students who intend to pursue careers in academia (teaching/research), private industry, international settings, the non-profit sector, or within local, state and/or federal government venues. In addition, CDC provides externships to law students and these opportunities would be key for the success of our students and may, by nature of interaction, also provide additional opportunities for public health students that are not also enrolled in the J.D. program. There is also an active colloquia engaged with this program which students could benefit (https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/news/current.html). However, the sub-field of legal evaluation research is still quite new and did not expand until 2009 when systematic effort was made by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) (Burris, 2016). There has been a recent call for NIH to greatly increase funding for public health law research (Ibrahim, 2017).
REFERENCES


II. Overview of Program Changes: Side by Side Comparison

The table below provides a side-by-side comparison of the current Dr.P.H. curriculum and the proposed joint degree curriculum. Courses below are presented as follows: course number: title (credit total). Differences are in bold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Dr.P.H. Curriculum (60 credits)</th>
<th>Proposed J.D./Dr.P.H. Curriculum (60 credits)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Core Didactic Dr.P.H. Courses (24 credits)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Proposed J.D./Dr.P.H. Curriculum (60 credits)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PHS 575: Integrative Public Health Leadership (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 575: Integrative Public Health Leadership (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• PHS 577: Integrated Seminar in Social &amp; Behavioral Determinants of Health (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 577: Integrated Seminar in Social &amp; Behavioral Determinants of Health (3)</td>
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<td>• PHS 576: Integrative Seminar in Public Health Policy (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 576: Integrative Seminar in Public Health Policy (3)</td>
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<td>• PHS 554: Statistical Methods in Public Health I (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 554: Statistical Methods in Public Health I (3)</td>
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<td>• PHS 555: Statistical Methods in Public Health II (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 555: Statistical Methods in Public Health II (3)</td>
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<td>• ADTED 550: Qualitative Research Methodologies for Adult Education (3)</td>
<td>• ADTED 550: Qualitative Research Methodologies for Adult Education (3)</td>
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<td>• PHS 806: Public Health Ethics (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 806: Public Health Ethics (3)</td>
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<td>• PHS 892: Directed Studies in Public Health</td>
<td>• PHS 892: Directed Studies in Public Health (3)</td>
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<td>o PHS 550: Principles of Epidemiology (3)*</td>
<td>o PHS 550: Principles of Epidemiology (3)*</td>
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<td>o PHS 520: Principles of Biostatistics (3)*</td>
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<td>o PHS 504: Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies (3)*</td>
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<td>o PHS 571: Health Services Organization &amp; Delivery (3)*</td>
<td>o PHS 571: Health Services Organization &amp; Delivery (3)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>o PHS 809: Principles of Public Health (3)*</td>
<td>o PHS 809: Principles of Public Health (3)*</td>
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<td>• * The Council on Education for Public Health (C.E.P.H. - the accrediting organization for public health education) requires Dr.P.H. students to be grounded in foundational public health knowledge. This criterion was established in October 2016 when C.E.P.H. revised their accreditation criteria. Students not having an MPH from a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited school are required to take prescribed MPH core courses before and/or concurrently with the Dr.P.H. program requirements or pass a written exam demonstrating foundational public health knowledge as defined by CEPH criteria.</td>
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<td><strong>2. Advanced Field Experience (6 credits)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Advanced Field Experience (6 credits)</strong></td>
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<td>• PHS 895B: Advanced Field Experience (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 895B: Advanced Field Experience (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• PHS 895B: Advanced Field Experience (3)</td>
<td>• PHS 895B: Advanced Field Experience (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Integrative Doctoral Research (9 credits)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Integrative Doctoral Research (9 credits)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• IHCLN 997: Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic (3)</td>
<td>• IHCLN 997: Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Electives (21 credits)

- Students may (1) select from a pre-approved list of electives or (2) propose alternate electives for consideration and approval by the program.
- In addition to fulfilling the 21-credit elective requirement by selecting courses from the pre-approved list or by proposing alternate courses for consideration, students may specialize in a track for **depth of training** by selecting a specific configuration of pre-approved electives.

*Students will fulfill up to 21 elective credits by double counting J.D. coursework to the Dr.P.H. degree program.*
III. Description of Proposed Changes

A. Double-Counting of Courses and Reciprocity

This proposal will allow for the following 24 credits of J.D. course work to be applied to the Dr.P.H. degree:

- IHCLN 997: Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic (3)
- Law school elective credits (various) (21)

The proposal will allow for up to 9 credits of Dr.P.H. course work to be applied to the J.D. degree. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Dickinson Law shall approve, in advance of the student’s enrollment in DR.P.H. elective courses, which of those courses will apply toward the J.D. degree.

B. Admissions Requirements

Admissions requirements for the J.D./M.P.H program are the same as those for the J.D. and Dr.P.H.in Public Health programs. The requirements are in addition to the Graduate School’s requirements for admission. J.D./Dr.P.H. students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs, and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for Dickinson Law are available at the J.D. Program section of the Dickinson Law website. Students will first apply and be accepted to the J.D. program at Dickinson Law. After being accepted to and matriculating at the J.D. program, J.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the Dr.P.H. in Public Health. J.D. students may submit an application during their first and second semesters of law school.

J.D./Dr.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the J.D. program retain the option of remaining in the Dr.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

C. Time of Admission to the Program

Students may apply to the joint degree program during their first and second semesters of law school. The program will officially begin in the fall semester following the academic year in which the student applies.

D. J.D./DR.P.H. Degree Requirements

J.D./Dr.P.H. degree requirements are the same as the requirements of the standalone Dr.P.H. degree program. Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined in this proposal. Degree requirements for the J.D. program are listed on the J.D. Program section of the Dickinson Law website.
### E. Sample Plan of Study

A sample plan of study for the J.D./DR.P.H. program including double-counted courses is presented below. Courses are presented as follows: course prefix and number (credits). Semesters in which programs do not require coursework are blocked off. Students in the joint degree program must complete the first-year J.D. curriculum before enrolling in any classes in the Dr.P.H. curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>J.D./Dr.P.H. Coursework by Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr.P.H.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dr.P.H.</td>
<td>PHS 520 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PHS 550 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PHS 575 (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PHS 809 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PHS 806 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.D.</td>
<td>IHCLN 997: Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic (3) - Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dr.P.H.</td>
<td>PHS 554 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ADTED 550 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ELECTIVE (J.D. course) (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.D.</td>
<td>Standard J.D. curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dr.P.H.</td>
<td>PHS 892 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ELECTIVE (J.D. course) (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.D.</td>
<td>Standard J.D. curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dr.P.H.</td>
<td>PHS 896A (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PHS 896A (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F. Advising of Students

All students in the J.D./Dr.P.H. program will have two academic advisers, one in the Dr.P.H. degree program and one in the J.D. program. The Dr.P.H. adviser will be a faculty member from the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA who is a member of the Graduate Faculty. The J.D. adviser will be a faculty member from Dickinson Law whose teaching and research focus on the area of health law.
IV. Program Learning Objectives

DrPH Learning Objectives

Demonstrate meaningful scholarship through competencies that include evidence-based approaches to public health, public health & health care systems, planning and management to promote health, policy in public health, leadership, communication, interprofessional practice and systems thinking. (Penn State Goal 1, 2)

Apply effective communication skills (oral and written) to diverse audiences, for purposes of influencing behavior and policies, with an understanding of the importance of cultural competence. (Penn State Goal 3)

Apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to address real-world public health issues. (Penn State Goal 4, 5)

Synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired in coursework and other learning experiences and apply it to analyzing and addressing a public health practice or research challenge. (Penn State Goal 1, 2, 3)

Penn State Scholarly and Professional Goals for All Graduate Degree Students

1) Demonstrate appropriate breadth and depth of disciplinary knowledge, and comprehension of the major issues of their discipline;
2) Use disciplinary methods and techniques to apply knowledge, and – if appropriate to the degree – create new knowledge or achieve advanced creative accomplishment.
3) Communicate the major issues of their discipline effectively;
4) Demonstrate analytical and critical thinking within their discipline, and, where appropriate, across disciplines; and
5) Know and conduct themselves in accordance with the highest ethical standards, values, and, where these are
V. Proposed Graduate Bulletin

**Graduate Program Head** Douglas Leslie

**Program Code** PH

**Campus(es)** Hershey (M.P.H., Dr.P.H.)

- Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)
- Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)
- Integrated B.S. in Biobehavioral Health and M.P.H. in Public Health

**Degrees Conferred**

- Joint J.D./M.P.H. with Dickinson Law
- Joint M.D./M.P.H. with the College of Medicine
- Joint M.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University
- Joint Pharm.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University

**Overview**

The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) in Public Health program is a professional degree program that builds knowledge and skills in the areas of systems thinking, evidence-based public health, leadership, program planning and management, public health and health systems, communication, and interprofessional practice. In addition, the M.P.H. in Public Health program advances expertise in community and behavioral health, epidemiology and biostatistics, global health, and health systems organization and policy. The M.P.H. degree leads to careers in a wide variety of fields and settings, including local, state, and federal government agencies; health care settings; health insurance industry; health services networks; nonprofits; and the pharmaceutical industry.

The Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) in Public Health program is a professional degree program that provides advanced public health education and training to prepare its graduates for evidence-based practice and leadership in the application of translational science and implementation research findings. It allows graduates to pursue career opportunities in the federal, state, and local government, as well as in the non-profit, academic, and private sectors. Educationally it places an emphasis on discovery, teaching, integration, and application with a primary purpose of bridging research and practice to protect and improve the public’s health. The Dr.P.H. builds on Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) competency domains and, as a professional degree, integrates public health practice and project-based learning with local, state, and federal networks to enrich learning in health policy and program development and implementation. Dr.P.H. program of study includes course work, an advanced field experience, and integrative doctoral research and provides an opportunity for further specialization within a specified cognate.
Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission. Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions.

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Admission to the Penn State M.P.H. Program is granted jointly by the M.P.H. Program and the Graduate School at Penn State.

For admission to the M.P.H. Program, applicants must submit:

- Completed online Graduate School application with nonrefundable application fee
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Statement of purpose
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Official scores from one of the following standardized tests taken within the past five years; Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), or Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

Standardized Test Requirement Waiver 1: This requirement is waived for applicants who have an advanced degree beyond the baccalaureate.

Standardized Test Requirement Waiver 2: This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the program for applicants who, prior to submitting the application for admission, have successfully completed (with a grade of B or better in each course):

- At least one 3-credit graduate-level course in biostatistics; AND
- At least one 3-credit graduate-level course in epidemiology; AND
- At least one 3-credit graduate-level course in the social and behavioral sciences or health services administration core areas of public health.

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)

For admission to the Dr.P.H. Program, applicants must submit:

- Completed online Graduate School application with nonrefundable application fee
- Three recommenders to provide letters of academic and professional reference
- Statement of purpose
  - Describe why you want to pursue a Dr.P.H., how you plan to use your education and training, the needs and/or challenges you perceive as important in your field of study,
and any personal qualities, characteristics, skills and experiences you believe will enable you to be successful in public health

- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores taken within the past five years
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
- CV or resume

Degree Requirements

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements.

M.P.H. students must complete a total of 42 credits of graduate level course work, the majority of which are 500 level courses, specifically:

- 24 credits in prescribed courses, including:
  - 18 credits of core classroom-based courses
  - 3 credit practicum experience
  - 3 credit capstone course

- 18 credits in elective courses

The Capstone Course (PHS 894) provides the students with the knowledge and skills to design, carry out, and present a scholarly public health project based upon competencies gained in previous courses. Topics include defining a scholarly project, selecting a topic and project type, describing the problem, reviewing the literature, identifying project methodology, presenting project results, ethics and scholarly work, writing and critiquing scholarly work, and creating and delivering a poster presentation.

Required Courses

- **PHS 809**  Principles of Public Health  3
- **PHS 504**  Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies  3
- or **BBH 504**  Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies
- **PHS 520**  Principles of Biostatistics  3
- or **STAT 500**  Applied Statistics
- **PHS 538**  Mixed Methods Research  3

Select 3 credits from the following:
Required Courses

**PHS 550**  Principles of Epidemiology  3

HPA 540  Epidemiological Applications in Health Services Research

STAT 507  Epidemiologic Research Methods

**PHS 571**  Health Services Organization and Delivery  3

or  **HPA 520**  Introduction to Health Services Organizations and Delivery

**PHS 895A**  Master of Public Health Internship  3

Additional Courses

Select 18 credits from a list of approved courses that is maintained by the graduate program office. Multiple tracks of specialization are available.  18

Culminating Experience

**PHS 894**  Capstone Experience (Capstone Course)  3

Total Credits  42

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under [GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements](#).

Dr.P.H. students must complete a minimum of 60 credits of graduate-level course work beyond a master's degree, the majority of which are 500-level and 800-level courses, specifically:

- 24 credits in prescribed, core classroom-based courses
- 21 credits in elective courses
  - 9 credits of track elective courses
  - 12 credits of general (cognate) elective courses
- 15 additional credits
  - 6 credits of Advanced Field Experience
  - 9 credits of Integrative Doctoral Research
Course List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 575</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar in Public Health Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 576</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar in Public Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 577</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar in Social &amp; Behavioral Determinants of Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 554</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Public Health I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 555</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Public Health II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADTED 550</td>
<td>Qualitative Research in Adult Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 806</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 892</td>
<td>Directed Studies in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 895B</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select 21 credits from a list of approved courses that is maintained by the graduate program office. Multiple tracks of specialization are available.

Electives

21

Culminating Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 896A</td>
<td>Integrative Doctoral Research I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 896B</td>
<td>Integrative Doctoral Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 60

Dr.P.H. students must meet Penn State doctoral degree requirements as outlined in GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements, including qualifying examinations, English competencies, and dissertation committee composition. Dr.P.H. students must also meet the following additional Dr.P.H.-specific requirements.

The Dr.P.H. degree is conferred in recognition of advanced preparation of a high order for work in the profession of education as evidenced by:

1. Satisfactory completion of a prescribed period of study;
2. Ability to apply translational science and implementation research findings in evidence-based public health practice;

3. Successful performance of qualifying and comprehensive examinations, covering public health core areas of study and a field of specialization; and

4. The preparation and acceptance of integrative doctoral research.

**Residency requirement**

The Doctor of Public Health requires 24 core credits to be taken in residence as a registered student engaged in academic work at the Hershey and Harrisburg campuses.

**Additional Course Requirements for Applicants without a Master of Public Health**

Applicants must have a graduate (e.g. master’s) or advanced professional (e.g., M.D.) degree. Applicants without a Master of Public Health or related degree are required to take core courses to ensure a firm foundation in discipline-specific M.P.H. competency domains. These foundation courses include:

**Course List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 809</td>
<td>Principles of Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 504</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 520</td>
<td>Principles of Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 550</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 571</td>
<td>Health Services Organization and Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For applicants entering the program without a Master of Public Health, the minimum credits required for the Dr.P.H. degree will include these 15 credits of foundation courses, for a minimum total of 75. Some or all of the foundation courses may be waived based on previous graduate-level course work, in which case the total credits required for the degree may be reduced in an equivalent manner, down to the base minimum of 60 credits. Students must petition the head of the graduate program to obtain a waiver for the foundation courses, and students’ transcripts will be reviewed to assess their eligibility for a waiver.

**Comprehensive Examination**

Upon completing all core and most cognate course work, Dr.P.H. students will take comprehensive exams to ensure they meet Dr.P.H. core and track program competencies. Comprehensive exams will be overseen and evaluated by students’ doctoral committee.

**Integrative Doctoral Research**
Dr.P.H. students will be required to complete two major components for their Dr.P.H. integrative experience: two publishable-quality manuscripts and a doctoral portfolio.

With guidance from their doctoral adviser and doctoral committee, students will develop two manuscripts that comprehensively address, generate, and/or interpret and evaluate knowledge applicable to public health practice. Manuscripts are encouraged to be of an applied nature and must demonstrate students’ abilities to conduct independent research on a contemporary public health issue. Students will demonstrate the application of advanced public health practice skills and knowledge in the design and execution of a scholarly project, the analysis and interpretation of the findings, and the application of the new knowledge to advance public health practice. This work should contribute to the evidence base of public health practice, be of publishable quality, and demonstrate critical thinking and rigorous analytic strategies.

Throughout their doctoral program, students will develop a doctoral portfolio that will document how Dr.P.H. courses, advanced field experience, other experiential learning, and self-knowledge has informed their leadership style and approach to integrating evidence-based research into public health practice. Components of the portfolio may include, but are not limited to, research (e.g., publications, conference presentations), teaching (academic and non-academic, community-based teaching), and field and other service learning experiences. Portfolios will require reflection on in-class and out-of-class experiences and demonstrate students’ broad public health knowledge, specialized knowledge, translation of this knowledge into evidence-based public health practice, and leadership style.

Integrative Doctoral Research will demonstrate the following competencies:

- data and analysis,
- communication, systems thinking,
- leadership,
- critical thinking, and
- problem solving.

Written and oral presentation of this work will be required.

**Integrated Undergrad-Grad Programs**

**Integrated B.S. in Biobehavioral Health and M.P.H. in Public Health**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in [GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs](#).

The M.P.H. in Public Health program at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine and the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health program at University Park offer an Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) degree program leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).
Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission. Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions.

Students must apply to and meet the admissions requirements of the Graduate School, as well as the graduate program in which they intend to receive their master’s degree. Admission to the IUG and the M.P.H. degree program is granted jointly by the M.P.H. Program and the Graduate School at Penn State. The requirements presented here are in addition to the Graduate School’s requirements for admission.

To be eligible to apply to the IUG program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

Requirements Guidelines

- **GPA**
  - Cumulative GPA: 3.25 or greater
  - GPA in BBH major courses: 3.0 or greater
  - Enrollment in the B.S. in BBH degree program

- **Education**
  - Completion of the following courses: BBH 101, BBH 311 or BBH 316, STAT 200 or STAT 250, PSYCH 100, BIOL 110, BIOL 141

The M.P.H. in Public Health program will continue to monitor the academic performance of undergraduate students who apply and are admitted to the IUG program. If students fall below the GPA requirements during the undergraduate portion of the IUG plan of study, they may be put on probation or terminated from the IUG program altogether.

IUG application requirements include the following:

- Completed online Penn State Graduate School application with nonrefundable application fee
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Statement of purpose
- Two letters of recommendation, including one from the student’s undergraduate academic adviser that proves the academic adviser has worked with the student to develop a draft IUG plan of study
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Preliminary draft plan of study. The plan should cover the entire time period of the integrated program, and it should be reviewed periodically with an adviser as the student advances through the program.

Students may begin applying to the IUG in the spring semester of their sophomore year, but must apply no later than the middle of the spring semester of their junior year of the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health degree program. Students must be admitted to the program prior to taking the first course they intend to count towards the graduate degree.
Degree Requirements

B.S./M.P.H. degree requirements are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program. If students accepted into the IUG program are unable to complete the M.P.H. degree, they are still eligible to receive their undergraduate degree if all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfied.

Up to 12 credits of M.P.H. degree course work will double count towards the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health degree requirements.

Course List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 504</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BBH 504</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 520</td>
<td>Principles of Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 500</td>
<td>Applied Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 550</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 507</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 571</td>
<td>Health Services Organization and Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HPA 520</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Services Organizations and Delivery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 12

Advising of Students

The M.P.H. in Public Health program will assign IUG students with an academic adviser. This adviser is in addition to the one assigned to them as undergraduate students enrolled in the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health degree program. The M.P.H. in Public Health adviser will be a faculty member from the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA who is a member of the Graduate Faculty. The academic adviser will be assigned upon entry into the M.P.H. degree program. If advisers are on different campuses than their respective students, they will communicate with their students through a combination of videoconferencing (via Skype or other mechanism), phone, email, and in person meetings.

Joint Degrees

Joint J.D./M.P.H. with Dickinson Law
Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs.

The M.P.H. in Public Health program and J.D. Program at Dickinson Law offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

Admission Requirements

Admissions requirements for the J.D./M.P.H. program are the same as those for the J.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. J.D./M.P.H. students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs, and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for Dickinson Law are listed in the J.D. Admissions section of the Dickinson Law website. The admission requirements for the Master of Public Health are listed on the Admission Requirements tab. Students will first apply and be accepted to the J.D. program at the Dickinson Law. After being accepted to and matriculating at the Dickinson Law, J.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. J.D. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the J.D. program up through the fourth semesters of law school.

J.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the J.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the J.D. program are listed on the Dickinson Law website. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab.

Double-Counting of Courses

Twelve credits of J.D. course work may be double-counted toward the M.P.H. degree. In lieu of PHS 895A, J.D./M.P.H. students will complete IHCLN 997, which will double-count for both degrees. In addition, up to 9 law school elective credits will be double-counted towards the M.P.H.

Up to 9 credits of M.P.H. course work may be applied towards the J.D. degree. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Dickinson Law will approve, in advance of the student’s enrollment in M.P.H. elective courses, which of those courses will double-count towards to J.D. degree.

Advising of Students

All students in the J.D./M.P.H. program will have two academic advisers, one in the M.P.H. degree program and one in the J.D. program.

Joint J.D./Dr.P.H. with Dickinson Law
The Dr.P.H. in Public Health program and J.D. Program at Penn State Dickinson Law offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.).

**Admission Requirements**

Admissions requirements for the J.D./Dr.P.H. program are the same as those for the J.D. and Dr.P.H. in Public Health programs. J.D./Dr.P.H. students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs, and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for Dickinson Law are listed in the [J.D. Admissions](#) section of the Dickinson Law website. The admission requirements for the Doctor of Public Health are listed above. Students will first apply and be accepted to the J.D. program at the Penn State Dickinson Law. After being accepted to and matriculating at the Penn State Dickinson Law, J.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the Dr.P.H. in Public Health. J.D. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the J.D. program up through the fourth semesters of law school. J.D. students can submit LSAT scores in lieu of GRE scores if they can provide evidence to show quantitative skills (B or above for graduate level statistical/math courses or other standard test consisting of quantitative evaluation).

J.D./Dr.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the J.D. program retain the option of remaining in the Dr.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

**Degree Requirements**

Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the J.D. program are listed on the [Penn State Dickinson Law website](#). Degree requirements for the Dr.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab.

**Double-Counting of Courses**

Twenty-four credits of J.D. coursework may be double-counted toward the Dr.P.H. degree. In lieu of PHS 895B, J.D./Dr.P.H. students will complete IHCLN 997 Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic (3 cr.), which will double-count for both degrees. In addition, up to 21 law school elective credits will be double-counted towards the Dr.P.H. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Dickinson Law will approve, in advance of the student’s enrollment in Dr.P.H. elective courses, which of those courses will double-count towards to J.D. degree.

**Advising of Students**

All students in the J.D./Dr.P.H. program will have two academic advisors, one in the Dr.P.H. degree program and one in the J.D. program.

**Joint M.D./M.P.H. with the College of Medicine**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in [GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs](#).
The M.P.H. in Public Health program and M.D. Program at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

**Admission Requirements**

Admissions requirements for the M.D./M.P.H. program are the same as those for the M.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. M.D./M.P.H. students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs, and each program will make a separate admissions decision. The admission requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Admission Requirements tab. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for the Penn State College of Medicine are available at the [M.D. Program](#) section of the Penn State College of Medicine website. Students will first apply and be accepted to the M.D. program at the Penn State College of Medicine. After being accepted to and matriculating at the Penn State M.D. program, M.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. M.D. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the M.D. program up through the fall semester of their third year of medical school.

M.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the M.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

**Degree Requirements**

M.D./M.P.H. degree requirements are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program. Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the M.D. program are listed on the [M.D. Program](#) section of the Penn State College of Medicine website. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab.

**Double-Counting of Courses**

Sixteen credits of M.D. course work may be double-counted toward the M.P.H. degree.

**Advising of Students**

All students in the M.D./M.P.H. program will have two academic advisers, one in the M.P.H. degree program and one in the M.D. program.

**Joint M.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in [GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs](#).

The M.P.H. in Public Health program and T.M.U. offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) from T.M.U. and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) from Penn State.

**Admission Requirements**
Admissions requirements for this program are the same as those for the T.M.U. M.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. Students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs (T.M.U. and Penn State program), and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements for T.M.U. medical students are listed in the Admissions section of the T.M.U. website. The admission requirements for the Master of Public Health are listed on the Admission Requirements tab. Students will first apply and be accepted to the M.D. or Pharm.D. program at T.M.U. After being accepted to and matriculating at T.M.U., M.D. and Pharm.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. T.M.U. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the medical or pharmacy program up through their fourth year of school.

M.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the M.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements for T.M.U. students are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program including the completion of 42 credits. Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the transfer of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. For degree requirements for the M.D., contact Taipei Medical University.

Transfer of Courses

Sixteen credits of coursework completed at Taipei Medical University may be transferred toward the M.P.H. degree.

Advising of Students

All students in the M.D./M.P.H. program will have two advisers, one administrative adviser and one academic adviser in the M.P.H. degree program.

Joint Pharm.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs. The M.P.H. in Public Health program and T.M.U. offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) from T.M.U. and M.P.H from Penn State.

Admission Requirements

Admissions requirements for this program are the same as those for the T.M.U. Pharm.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. Students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs (T.M.U. and Penn State program), and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements for T.M.U. pharmacy students are listed in the Admissions section of the T.M.U. website. The admission requirements for the Master of Public Health are listed on the Admission...
Requirements tab. Students will first apply and be accepted to the Pharm.D. program at T.M.U. After being accepted to and matriculating at T.M.U., Pharm.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. T.M.U. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the medical or pharmacy program up through their fourth year of school.

Pharm.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the Pharm.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements for T.M.U. students are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program including the completion of 42 credits. Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the transfer of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. For degree requirements for the M.D. or Pharm.D., contact Taipei Medical University.

Transfer of Courses

Sixteen credits of coursework completed at Taipei Medical University may be transferred toward the M.P.H. degree.

Advising of Students

All students in the Pharm.D./M.P.H. program will have two advisers, one administrative adviser and one academic adviser in the M.P.H. degree program.

Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits set by The Graduate School.

Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Public Health Sciences (PHS) Course List

Contact

Graduate Program Head: Douglas Leslie
M.P.H. Director of Graduate Studies/Professor-in-Charge: Wenke Hwang

Dr. P. H. Director of Graduate Studies/Professor-in-Charge: Robin Wilson

Primary Program Contact: Shannon Tuininga

Email: smb611@psu.edu

Mailing Address: Dept of Public Health Sciences, A210, 90 Hope Dr, Suite 2200, Hershey, PA 17033

Telephone: (717) 531-7178

Program Website: Public Health
VI. Proposed Graduate Bulletin in Track Changes

Graduate Program Head Douglas Leslie

Program Code PH

Campus(es) Hershey (M.P.H., Dr.P.H.)

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Integrated B.S. in Biobehavioral Health and M.P.H. in Public Health

Degrees Conferred Joint J.D./M.P.H. with Dickinson Law

Joint M.D./M.P.H. with the College of Medicine

Joint M.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University

Joint Pharm.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University

Overview

The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) in Public Health program is a professional degree program that builds knowledge and skills in the areas of systems thinking, evidence-based public health, leadership, program planning and management, public health and health systems, communication, and interprofessional practice. In addition, the M.P.H. in Public Health program advances expertise in community and behavioral health, epidemiology and biostatistics, global health, and health systems organization and policy. The M.P.H. degree leads to careers in a wide variety of fields and settings, including local, state, and federal government agencies; health care settings; health insurance industry; health services networks; nonprofits; and the pharmaceutical industry.

The Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) in Public Health program is a professional degree program that provides advanced public health education and training to prepare its graduates for evidence-based practice and leadership in the application of translational science and implementation research findings. It allows graduates to pursue career opportunities in the federal, state, and local government, as well as in the non-profit, academic, and private sectors. Educationally it places an emphasis on discovery, teaching, integration, and application with a primary purpose of bridging research and practice to protect and improve the public's health. The Dr.P.H. builds on Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) competency domains and, as a professional degree, integrates public health practice and project-based learning with local, state, and federal networks to enrich learning in health policy and program development and implementation. Dr.P.H. program of study includes course work, an advanced field experience, and integrative doctoral research and provides an opportunity for further specialization within a specified cognate.
Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission. Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions.

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Admission to the Penn State M.P.H. Program is granted jointly by the M.P.H. Program and the Graduate School at Penn State.

For admission to the M.P.H. Program, applicants must submit:

- Completed online Graduate School application with nonrefundable application fee
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Statement of purpose
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended
- Official scores from one of the following standardized tests taken within the past five years; Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), or Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

Standardized Test Requirement Waiver 1: This requirement is waived for applicants who have an advanced degree beyond the baccalaureate.

Standardized Test Requirement Waiver 2: This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the program for applicants who, prior to submitting the application for admission, have successfully completed (with a grade of B or better in each course):

- At least one 3-credit graduate-level course in biostatistics; AND
- At least one 3-credit graduate-level course in epidemiology; AND
- At least one 3-credit graduate-level course in the social and behavioral sciences or health services administration core areas of public health.

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)

For admission to the Dr.P.H. Program, applicants must submit:

- Completed online Graduate School application with nonrefundable application fee
- Three recommenders to provide letters of academic and professional reference
- Statement of purpose
  - Describe why you want to pursue a Dr.P.H., how you plan to use your education and training, the needs and/or challenges you perceive as important in your field of study,
and any personal qualities, characteristics, skills and experiences you believe will enable you to be successful in public health

- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores taken within the past five years
- **Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended**
- CV or resume

**Degree Requirements**

**Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)**

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements.

M.P.H. students must complete a total of 42 credits of graduate level course work, the majority of which are 500 level courses, specifically:

- 24 credits in prescribed courses, including:
  - 18 credits of core classroom-based courses
  - 3 credit practicum experience
  - 3 credit capstone course
- 18 credits in elective courses

The Capstone Course (PHS 894) provides the students with the knowledge and skills to design, carry out, and present a scholarly public health project based upon competencies gained in previous courses. Topics include defining a scholarly project, selecting a topic and project type, describing the problem, reviewing the literature, identifying project methodology, presenting project results, ethics and scholarly work, writing and critiquing scholarly work, and creating and delivering a poster presentation.

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 809</td>
<td>Principles of Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 504</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BBH 504</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 520</td>
<td>Principles of Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or STAT 500</td>
<td>Applied Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 538</td>
<td>Mixed Methods Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 3 credits from the following:
Required Courses

- **PHS 550**  Principles of Epidemiology  3
- HPA 540  Epidemiological Applications in Health Services Research
- STAT 507  Epidemiologic Research Methods

**PHS 571**  Health Services Organization and Delivery  3
or **HPA 520**  Introduction to Health Services Organizations and Delivery

**PHS 895A**  Master of Public Health Internship  3

Additional Courses

Select 18 credits from a list of approved courses that is maintained by the graduate program office. Multiple tracks of specialization are available.

Culminating Experience

- **PHS 894**  Capstone Experience (Capstone Course)  3

Total Credits  42

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements.

Dr.P.H. students must complete a minimum of 60 credits of graduate-level course work beyond a master's degree, the majority of which are 500-level and 800-level courses, specifically:

- 24 credits in prescribed, core classroom-based courses
- 21 credits in elective courses
  - 9 credits of track elective courses
  - 12 credits of general (cognate) elective courses
- 15 additional credits
  - 6 credits of Advanced Field Experience
  - 9 credits of Integrative Doctoral Research
### Course List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHS 575</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar in Public Health Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHS 576</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar in Public Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 577</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar in Social &amp; Behavioral Determinants of Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 554</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Public Health I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 555</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Public Health II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADTED 550</td>
<td>Qualitative Research in Adult Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 806</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 892</td>
<td>Directed Studies in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 895B</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>Select 21 credits from a list of approved courses that is maintained by the graduate program office. Multiple tracks of specialization are available.</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culminating Experience</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 896A</td>
<td>Integrative Doctoral Research I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 896B</td>
<td>Integrative Doctoral Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr.P.H. students must meet Penn State doctoral degree requirements as outlined in GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements, including qualifying examinations, English competencies, and dissertation committee composition. Dr.P.H. students must also meet the following additional Dr.P.H.-specific requirements.

The Dr.P.H. degree is conferred in recognition of advanced preparation of a high order for work in the profession of education as evidenced by:

1. Satisfactory completion of a prescribed period of study;
2. Ability to apply translational science and implementation research findings in evidence-based public health practice;

3. Successful performance of qualifying and comprehensive examinations, covering public health core areas of study and a field of specialization; and

4. The preparation and acceptance of integrative doctoral research.

Residency requirement

The Doctor of Public Health requires 24 core credits to be taken in residence as a registered student engaged in academic work at the Hershey and Harrisburg campuses.

Additional Course Requirements for Applicants without a Master of Public Health

Applicants must have a graduate (e.g. master’s) or advanced professional (e.g., M.D.) degree. Applicants without a Master of Public Health or related degree are required to take core courses to ensure a firm foundation in discipline-specific M.P.H. competency domains. These foundation courses include:

Course List

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 520</td>
<td>Principles of Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 550</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 571</td>
<td>Health Services Organization and Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For applicants entering the program without a Master of Public Health, the minimum credits required for the Dr.P.H. degree will include these 15 credits of foundation courses, for a minimum total of 75. Some or all of the foundation courses may be waived based on previous graduate-level course work, in which case the total credits required for the degree may be reduced in an equivalent manner, down to the base minimum of 60 credits. Students must petition the head of the graduate program to obtain a waiver for the foundation courses, and students’ transcripts will be reviewed to assess their eligibility for a waiver.

Comprehensive Examination

Upon completing all core and most cognate course work, Dr.P.H. students will take comprehensive exams to ensure they meet Dr.P.H. core and track program competencies. Comprehensive exams will be overseen and evaluated by students’ doctoral committee.

Integrative Doctoral Research
Dr.P.H. students will be required to complete two major components for their Dr.P.H. integrative experience: two publishable-quality manuscripts and a doctoral portfolio.

With guidance from their doctoral adviser and doctoral committee, students will develop two manuscripts that comprehensively address, generate, and/or interpret and evaluate knowledge applicable to public health practice. Manuscripts are encouraged to be of an applied nature and must demonstrate students’ abilities to conduct independent research on a contemporary public health issue. Students will demonstrate the application of advanced public health practice skills and knowledge in the design and execution of a scholarly project, the analysis and interpretation of the findings, and the application of the new knowledge to advance public health practice. This work should contribute to the evidence base of public health practice, be of publishable quality, and demonstrate critical thinking and rigorous analytic strategies.

Throughout their doctoral program, students will develop a doctoral portfolio that will document how Dr.P.H. courses, advanced field experience, other experiential learning, and self-knowledge has informed their leadership style and approach to integrating evidence-based research into public health practice. Components of the portfolio may include, but are not limited to, research (e.g., publications, conference presentations), teaching (academic and non-academic, community-based teaching), and field and other service learning experiences. Portfolios will require reflection on in-class and out-of-class experiences and demonstrate students’ broad public health knowledge, specialized knowledge, translation of this knowledge into evidence-based public health practice, and leadership style. Integrative Doctoral Research will demonstrate the following competencies:

- data and analysis,
- communication, systems thinking,
- leadership,
- critical thinking, and
- problem solving.

Written and oral presentation of this work will be required.

**Integrated Undergrad-Grad Programs**

**Integrated B.S. in Biobehavioral Health and M.P.H. in Public Health**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in [GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs](#).

The M.P.H. in Public Health program at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine and the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health program at University Park offer an Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) degree program leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).
Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the [Graduate School application for admission](#). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under [GCAC-300 Admissions](#).

Students must apply to and meet the admissions requirements of the Graduate School, as well as the graduate program in which they intend to receive their master’s degree. Admission to the IUG and the M.P.H. degree program is granted jointly by the M.P.H. Program and the Graduate School at Penn State. The requirements presented here are in addition to the Graduate School’s requirements for admission.

To be eligible to apply to the IUG program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

**Requirements Guidelines**

**GPA**
- Cumulative GPA: 3.25 or greater
- GPA in BBH major courses: 3.0 or greater
- Enrollment in the B.S. in BBH degree program

**Education**
- Completion of the following courses: [BBH 101](#), [BBH 311](#) or [BBH 316](#), [STAT 200](#) or [STAT 250](#), [PSYCH 100](#), [BIOL 110](#), [BIOL 141](#)

The M.P.H. in Public Health program will continue to monitor the academic performance of undergraduate students who apply and are admitted to the IUG program. If students fall below the GPA requirements during the undergraduate portion of the IUG plan of study, they may be put on probation or terminated from the IUG program altogether.

IUG application requirements include the following:

- Completed [online Penn State Graduate School application](#) with nonrefundable application fee
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Statement of purpose
- Two letters of recommendation, including one from the student’s undergraduate academic adviser that proves the academic adviser has worked with the student to develop a draft IUG plan of study
- [Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended](#)
- Preliminary draft plan of study. The plan should cover the entire time period of the integrated program, and it should be reviewed periodically with an adviser as the student advances through the program.

Students may begin applying to the IUG in the spring semester of their sophomore year, but must apply no later than the middle of the spring semester of their junior year of the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health degree program. Students must be admitted to the program prior to taking the first course they intend to count towards the graduate degree.
Degree Requirements

B.S./M.P.H. degree requirements are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program. If students accepted into the IUG program are unable to complete the M.P.H. degree, they are still eligible to receive their undergraduate degree if all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfied.

Up to 12 credits of M.P.H. degree course work will double count towards the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health degree requirements.

Course List

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<thead>
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<td>Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BBH 504</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 520</td>
<td>Principles of Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 500</td>
<td>Applied Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 550</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 507</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 571</td>
<td>Health Services Organization and Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HPA 520</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Services Organizations and Delivery</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 12

Advising of Students

The M.P.H. in Public Health program will assign IUG students with an academic adviser. This adviser is in addition to the one assigned to them as undergraduate students enrolled in the B.S. in Biobehavioral Health degree program. The M.P.H. in Public Health adviser will be a faculty member from the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA who is a member of the Graduate Faculty. The academic adviser will be assigned upon entry into the M.P.H. degree program. If advisers are on different campuses than their respective students, they will communicate with their students through a combination of videoconferencing (via Skype or other mechanism), phone, email, and in person meetings.

Joint Degrees

Joint J.D./M.P.H. with Dickinson Law
Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs.

The M.P.H. in Public Health program and J.D. Program at Dickinson Law offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

Admission Requirements

Admissions requirements for the J.D./M.P.H. program are the same as those for the J.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. J.D./M.P.H. students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs, and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for Dickinson Law are listed in the J.D. Admissions section of the Dickinson Law website. The admission requirements for the Master of Public Health are listed on the Admission Requirements tab. Students will first apply and be accepted to the J.D. program at the Dickinson Law. After being accepted to and matriculating at the Dickinson Law, J.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. J.D. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the J.D. program up through the fourth semesters of law school.

J.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the J.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the J.D. program are listed on the Dickinson Law website. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab.

Double-Counting of Courses

Twelve credits of J.D. course work may be double-counted toward the M.P.H. degree. In lieu of PHS 895A, J.D./M.P.H. students will complete IHCLN 997, which will double-count for both degrees. In addition, up to 9 law school elective credits will be double-counted towards the M.P.H.

Up to 9 credits of M.P.H. course work may be applied towards the J.D. degree. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Dickinson Law will approve, in advance of the student’s enrollment in M.P.H. elective courses, which of those courses will double-count towards to J.D. degree.

Advising of Students

All students in the J.D./M.P.H. program will have two academic advisers, one in the M.P.H. degree program and one in the J.D. program.

Joint J.D./Dr.P.H. with Dickinson Law
The Dr.P.H. in Public Health program and J.D. Program at Penn State Dickinson Law offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.).

Admission Requirements

Admissions requirements for the J.D./Dr.P.H. program are the same as those for the J.D. and Dr.P.H. in Public Health programs. J.D./Dr.P.H. students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs, and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for Dickinson Law are listed in the J.D. Admissions section of the Dickinson Law website. The admission requirements for the Doctor of Public Health are listed above. Students will first apply and be accepted to the J.D. program at the Penn State Dickinson Law. After being accepted to and matriculating at the Penn State Dickinson Law, J.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the Dr.P.H. in Public Health. J.D. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the J.D. program up through the fourth semesters of law school. J.D. students can submit LSAT scores in lieu of GRE scores if they can provide evidence to show quantitative skills (B or above for graduate level statistical/math courses or other standard test consisting of quantitative evaluation).

J.D./Dr.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the J.D. program retain the option of remaining in the Dr.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the J.D. program are listed on the Penn State Dickinson Law website. Degree requirements for the Dr.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab.

Double-Counting of Courses

Twenty-four credits of J.D. coursework may be double-counted toward the Dr.P.H. degree. In lieu of PHS 895B, J.D./Dr.P.H. students will complete IHCLN 997 Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic (3 cr.), which will double-count for both degrees. In addition, up to 21 law school elective credits will be double-counted towards the Dr.P.H. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Dickinson Law will approve, in advance of the student’s enrollment in Dr.P.H. elective courses, which of those courses will double-count towards to J.D. degree.

Advising of Students

All students in the J.D./Dr.P.H. program will have two academic advisors, one in the Dr.P.H. degree program and one in the J.D. program.

Joint M.D./M.P.H. with the College of Medicine

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs.
The M.P.H. in Public Health program and M.D. Program at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.).

**Admission Requirements**

Admissions requirements for the M.D./M.P.H. program are the same as those for the M.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. M.D./M.P.H. students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs, and each program will make a separate admissions decision. The admission requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Admission Requirements tab. Admissions requirements and applications for admission for the Penn State College of Medicine are available at the [M.D. Program](#) section of the Penn State College of Medicine website. Students will first apply and be accepted to the M.D. program at the Penn State College of Medicine. After being accepted to and matriculating at the Penn State M.D. program, M.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. M.D. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the M.D. program up through the fall semester of their third year of medical school.

M.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the M.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

**Degree Requirements**

M.D./M.P.H. degree requirements are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program. Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the M.D. program are listed on the [M.D. Program](#) section of the Penn State College of Medicine website. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab.

**Double-Counting of Courses**

Sixteen credits of M.D. course work may be double-counted toward the M.P.H. degree.

**Advising of Students**

All students in the M.D./M.P.H. program will have two academic advisers, one in the M.P.H. degree program and one in the M.D. program.

**Joint M.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University**

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in [GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs](#).

The M.P.H. in Public Health program and T.M.U. offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) from T.M.U. and Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) from Penn State.

**Admission Requirements**
Admissions requirements for this program are the same as those for the T.M.U. M.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. Students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs (T.M.U. and Penn State program), and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements for T.M.U. medical students are listed in the Admissions section of the T.M.U. website. The admission requirements for the Master of Public Health are listed on the Admission Requirements tab. Students will first apply and be accepted to the M.D. or Pharm.D. program at T.M.U. After being accepted to and matriculating at T.M.U., M.D. and Pharm.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. T.M.U. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the medical or pharmacy program up through their fourth year of school.

M.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the M.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements for T.M.U. students are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program including the completion of 42 credits. Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the transfer of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. For degree requirements for the M.D., contact Taipei Medical University.

Transfer of Courses

Sixteen credits of coursework completed at Taipei Medical University may be transferred toward the M.P.H. degree.

Advising of Students

All students in the M.D./M.P.H. program will have two advisers, one administrative adviser and one academic adviser in the M.P.H. degree program.

Joint Pharm.D./M.P.H. with Taipei Medical University

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-211 Joint Degree Programs. The M.P.H. in Public Health program and T.M.U. offer a joint degree program leading to the degrees of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) from T.M.U. and M.P.H from Penn State.

Admission Requirements

Admissions requirements for this program are the same as those for the T.M.U. Pharm.D. and M.P.H. in Public Health programs. Students will have to meet the admissions requirements of both programs (T.M.U. and Penn State program), and each program will make a separate admissions decision. Admissions requirements for T.M.U. pharmacy students are listed in the Admissions section of the T.M.U. website. The admission requirements for the Master of Public Health are listed on the Admission
Requirements tab. Students will first apply and be accepted to the Pharm.D. program at T.M.U. After being accepted to and matriculating at T.M.U., Pharm.D. students will be eligible to submit a Penn State Graduate Application for Admission to the M.P.H. in Public Health. T.M.U. students may submit an application starting their first semester in the medical or pharmacy program up through their fourth year of school.

Pharm.D./M.P.H. students who, for whatever reason, withdraw from the Pharm.D. program retain the option of remaining in the M.P.H. in Public Health program to earn the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements for T.M.U. students are the same as that of the standalone M.P.H. degree program including the completion of 42 credits. Students must fulfill all requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the transfer of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the M.P.H. degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. For degree requirements for the M.D. or Pharm.D., contact Taipei Medical University.

Transfer of Courses

Sixteen credits of coursework completed at Taipei Medical University may be transferred toward the M.P.H. degree.

Advising of Students

All students in the Pharm.D./M.P.H. program will have two advisers, one administrative adviser and one academic adviser in the M.P.H. degree program.

Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits set by The Graduate School.

Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Public Health Sciences (PHS) Course List

Contact

Graduate Program Head: Douglas Leslie
M.P.H. Director of Graduate Studies/Professor-in-Charge: Wenke Hwang

Dr. P. H. Director of Graduate Studies/Professor-in-Charge: Robin Wilson

Primary Program Contact: Shannon Tuininga

Email: smb611@psu.edu

Mailing Address: Dept of Public Health Sciences, A210, 90 Hope Dr, Suite 2200, Hershey, PA 17033

Telephone: (717) 531-7178

Program Website: Public Health

VII. Letters of Support

Vernon Chinchilli, Ph.D.
Gary S. Gildin, J.D.
Graduate Council  
Program, Option, or Minor Proposal Form

Submit 1 original, signed Graduate Council proposal form and 2 hardcopies of the graduate program proposal document, with a copy of the signed proposal form attached to each proposal copy, to the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, 211 Kern Building, University Park. For more information about the process, see the Overview of the Graduate Council Curricular Review Process.

The Program Proposal Procedures provide guidance for the development of a graduate program proposal. If you have questions regarding the preparation of a graduate program proposal or how to complete this Graduate Council proposal form, contact the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.

College/School: Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications  
Department or Instructional Area: Department of Advertising and Public Relations

New Graduate Program, Option, or Minor: Add  
Designation of new graduate program:  
Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code:  
Designation of new graduate option:  
Designation of new graduate minor:

Indicate effective semester:  
First semester following approval  
Second semester following approval

Existing Graduate Program Option, or Minor: Change  
Drop  
Current designation of graduate program: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS ☑  
Current designation of graduate option:  
Current designation of graduate minor:  
New designation of existing graduate program (if changing):  
New designation of existing graduate option (if changing):  
New designation of existing graduate minor (if changing):  
Brief description of the change (if not noted above): Changing a required class to an elective class

Indicate effective semester:  
First semester following approval Fall 2019  
Second semester following approval Spring 2020

Submitted by Graduate Program Head
Michelle Baker  
Printed name  
Signature  
Date: 4/10/19

Noted by College/School Representative to Graduate Council Subcommittee on New and Revised Programs and Courses:
Alex Fastay  
Printed name  
Signature  
Date: 4/11/2019

Approved by College/School Dean/Chancellor (or Designee):
Printed name  
Signature  
Date: 4/17/19
Recommended by Chair, Graduate Council Subcommittee on New and Revised Programs and Courses:

On Behalf of David Babb
Printed name
Signature
Date: 9/3/2019

Recommended by Chair, Graduate Council Committee on Programs and Courses:

On Behalf of Timothy McNellis
Printed name
Signature
Date: 9/3/2019

Noted by Dean of the Graduate School:

On Behalf of Regina Vasilatos-Younken
Printed name
Signature
Date: 9/3/2019
PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL FOR
Master of Professional Studies in Strategic Communications

SUBMITTED BY
Michelle Baker, Director, Online Programs in Strategic Communications
Michelle.Baker@psu.edu ; 814-863-2682
Justification for the Proposed Changes

State why the change is being proposed, and any expected outcomes as a result.

The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Strategic Communications is a fully online master’s degree program created by the Department of Advertising and Public Relations in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications and delivered via Penn State’s World Campus. Officially launched in Spring 2019, the MPS is designed for working professionals seeking to enhance their careers and learn to develop and implement strategic communications plans for organizations as well as individual clients.

In keeping with the positive results of the market scan conducted by the Outreach Office of Marketing Research to assess the viability of this degree, the MPS has attracted a strong applicant pool. Currently, 28 students are actively taking classes in the program, and 13 prospective students have submitted their applications for the Fall 2019 admissions cycle. With this enrollment, the MPS program has exceeded World Campus’s goal of 40 course enrollments during one full program year (fall-spring-summer).

Presently, the program curriculum includes seven required core courses (21 credits), two communications electives (6 credits), and one open elective (3 credits), for a total of 30 credits to complete the degree. After careful consideration of both the students who are currently enrolled in the program and an examination of the curricula of other fully online strategic communications master’s degrees, it has been determined that for Penn State’s MPS in Strategic Communications to continue to attract a strong array of prospective students from a variety of industries (e.g., marketing, advertising, public relations, education, healthcare, military), the program should be more customizable to allow students to tailor their education to match their individual career goals. With only one open elective in the current MPS program, students have limited flexibility in customizing their degree.

To address this need, the following program change is being proposed: COMM 832, Multimedia Content Development and Delivery, will be eliminated as a core required course and instead be made a Communications Elective course. In its place, another 3 credits of an Open Elective course will be added to the program to enhance customizability and widen students’ choice of electives related to their individual career interests. COMM 832 will be eliminated from the core curriculum because some students come to the program with previous expertise in the skills developed in this course; for others, these skills may not be necessary since multimedia content development is not relevant to every industry within the broader field of strategic communications. By changing COMM 832 into a Communications Elective course, students who would like to gain multimedia content development skills can opt to take the class, while others can elect to take another course more relevant to their professional goals. This change makes the MPS curriculum more customizable and relevant to students’ goals without compromising the integrity of the overall curriculum. Additionally, many online master’s degrees in strategic communications highlight the customizability of their programs to match students’ individual interests. To remain competitive with similar programs, Penn State’s MPS in Strategic Communications also needs flexibility in its curriculum for students to customize their education.

It is anticipated that this change could have a favorable effect on the expected enrollment in the MPS program. Additionally, World Campus offers an extensive list of graduate courses, so MPS students can choose to enroll in more classes outside of the Communication Elective offerings.
Comparison of Changes

A description of the proposed changes as compared to the existing program requirements, so the reviewers can determine what specifically is being changed. A table is recommended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Program Requirements</th>
<th>Proposed Changes to the Program Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Required Courses (21 Credits)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Core Required Courses (18 Credits)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 530: Research Methods in Strategic Communications</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 531: Strategic Communications: Theory and Implementation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 830: Strategic Communications Industry</td>
<td>COMM 830: Strategic Communications Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 831: Digital Media Analytics</td>
<td>COMM 831: Digital Media Analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMM 832: Multimedia Content Development and Delivery</strong></td>
<td>COMM 833: Ethics and Decision Making in Strategic Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMM 833: Ethics and Decision Making in Strategic Communications</strong></td>
<td>COMM 834: Strategic Communications Campaigns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMM 834: Strategic Communications Campaigns</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional Courses (6 Credits)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 835: Social Media Communications</td>
<td>COMM 832: Multimedia Content Development and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 836: Strategic Communications Leadership</td>
<td>COMM 835: Social Media Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 837: Reaching Multicultural Populations with Strategic Communications</td>
<td>COMM 836: Strategic Communications Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 838: Strategic Communications Law</td>
<td>COMM 837: Reaching Multicultural Populations with Strategic Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 839: Advanced Digital Media Analytics</td>
<td>COMM 838: Strategic Communications Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COMM 839: Advanced Digital Media Analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Electives (3 Credits)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Open Electives (6 Credits)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students must take at least three additional elective credits from any Penn State World Campus course(s). This includes 400-level courses and all elective courses listed above.</td>
<td>Students must take at least six additional elective credits from any Penn State World Campus course(s). This includes 400-level courses and all elective courses listed above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Existing Graduate Bulletin Copy**

A complete and current copy of the existing Bulletin page for the program, with any changes that need to be made marked by using Track Changes.

### REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 530</td>
<td>Research Methods in Strategic Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 531</td>
<td>Strategic Communications: Theory and Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 830</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Industry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 831</td>
<td>Digital Media Analytics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 832</td>
<td>Multimedia Content Development and Delivery</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 833</td>
<td>Ethics and Decision Making in Strategic Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 834</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Campaigns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ELECTIVES

Select 6 credits of the following: 6

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 835</td>
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<td>Strategic Communications Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 839</td>
<td>Digital Media Analytics II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 3 credits from any World Campus course(s), including the elective courses listed above. 3

### CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 834</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Campaigns (Capstone Course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commented [A1]:** According to the proposed program change, this course will be moved to the Electives section below.

**Commented [A2]:** Though this is not related to the proposed program change, this is an error in the program bulletin: below, COMM 834 is listed as a Culminating Experience. Because it is listed twice, the program is said to require a total of 33 credits. The total required for this program is 30 credits. Please take COMM 834 out of this list of required courses and allow it to stay below as the Culminating Experience.

**Commented [A3]:** According to the proposed program change, students will select 6 credits from any World Campus course(s), including the elective courses listed above.

**Commented [A4R3]:**
### REQUIRED COURSES

| Total Credits | 33 |

*These 3 credits can be at the 400-level.*

### Consultation

Written evidence of consultation with any departments affected by the proposed change. Consultation must include the original query and the full reply by the consultant. Consultations submitted as part of the proposal will be available to the public when the proposal is published, so private exchanges should be edited out and any references to current students should be removed.

Because this proposed change only affects the MPS program and no other graduate programs, a consultation was not needed in relation to this proposed change.

Commented [AS]: This should be 30 credits per the comment above regarding COMM 834 being listed twice.
Program Learning Objectives and Graduate Council Goals

Students who complete the proposed MPS in Strategic Communications can expect to:

- Obtain a comprehensive knowledge of media-based research, theory, and practice related to the strategic communications industry;
  1. Demonstrate appropriate breadth and depth of disciplinary knowledge, and comprehension of the major issues of their discipline.

- Develop an understanding of basic mass-communication processes that can influence individuals’ attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors;
  2. Use disciplinary methods and techniques to apply knowledge, and – if appropriate to the degree – create new knowledge or achieve advanced creative accomplishment.
  4. Demonstrate analytical and critical thinking within their discipline, and, where appropriate, across disciplines.

- Understand the attributes, complexities, and roles of new and traditional media in affecting the outcomes of successful strategic communications campaigns;
  1. Demonstrate appropriate breadth and depth of disciplinary knowledge, and comprehension of the major issues of their discipline.
  3. Communicate the major issues of their discipline effectively.
  4. Demonstrate analytical and critical thinking within their discipline, and, where appropriate, across disciplines.

- Develop practical knowledge of message-content creation and delivery methods across major contemporary media to implement specifically targeted communications campaigns;
  1. Demonstrate appropriate breadth and depth of disciplinary knowledge, and comprehension of the major issues of their discipline.
  4. Demonstrate analytical and critical thinking within their discipline, and, where appropriate, across disciplines.

- Develop awareness of the ethical issues that can arise when utilizing persuasive communication at a mass level;
  5. Know and conduct themselves in accordance with the highest ethical standards, values, and, where these are defined, the best practices of their discipline.

- Develop skill at diagnosing the effectiveness of strategic communications efforts through proper goal-setting, benchmarking, and evaluation methods.
2. Use disciplinary methods and techniques to apply knowledge, and – if appropriate to the degree – create new knowledge or achieve advanced creative accomplishment.

4. Demonstrate analytical and critical thinking within their discipline, and, where appropriate, across disciplines.

**Existing Graduate Bulletin Copy**

*A complete and current copy of the existing Bulletin page for the program, with any changes that need to be made marked by using Track Changes.*

**Overview**

The MPS degree in Strategic Communications is a program of study for individuals who are in the early and middle stages of their strategic communications careers, currently in or aspiring to managerial positions. The content of the program will be appropriate for such individuals employed in a wide range of functional specialties and industry sectors, including advertising, public relations, and strategic communications.

The MPS degree in Strategic Communications examines the process and application of purposive mass communication that is delivered to specific target audiences through varied mass media and other communications channels. Program content exposes the student to a broad range of strategic communications theory, research, and practical application related to developing and implementing effective communications plans for companies and organizations of all types. Courses examine:

- how persuasive communication functions through mass media and other communication channels;
- how specific communications goals are developed based on theory and rationale;
- how strategic communications plans and campaigns are created and executed; and
- how the effectiveness of communications plans is measured and evaluated.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission. Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

A minimum 3.00 junior/senior grade-point average (on a 4.00 scale) is recommended. Students also are expected to have some industry work experience prior to admission.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students for more information.

CORE APPLICATION PACKET

- Completed official online Graduate School application and payment of nonrefundable application fee.
- Statement of purpose: a 2-3 page essay articulating career and educational goals that demonstrates the student’s written communication skills.
- A current vita or résumé.
- Three letters of recommendation that attest to the student’s readiness for graduate study and document the requisite industry experience. Letters must be submitted through the online application. Within the online application you will be asked to enter the names and email addresses of three individuals who will be providing your recommendation. Those individuals will receive a note via email asking them to complete a brief form that will serve as your recommendation. Please inform all recommenders they must submit the form in order for your application to be complete.
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
Degree Requirements

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements.

Total required credits for the MPS: at least 30 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level; at least 27 must be at the 500 or 800 level, with at least 6 at the 500 level. Degree Requirements

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements.

Total required credits for the MPS: at least 30 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level; at least 27 must be at the 500 or 800 level, with at least 6 at the 500 level.

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<tr>
<td>COMM 831</td>
<td>Digital Media Analytics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 832</td>
<td>Multimedia Content Development and Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 833</td>
<td>Ethics and Decision Making in Strategic Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commented [A6]: According to the proposed program change, this course will be moved to the Electives section below.
## REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 834</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Campaigns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## ELECTIVES

Select 6 credits of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 835</td>
<td>Social Media Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 836</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 837</td>
<td>Reaching Multicultural Populations in Strategic Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 838</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 839</td>
<td>Digital Media Analytics II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 3 credits from any World Campus course(s), including the elective courses listed above.

## CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 834</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Campaigns (Capstone Course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits**: 33

*These 6 credits can be at the 400-level.*

---

Commented [A7]: Though this is not related to the proposed program change, this is an existing error in the program bulletin below, COMM 834 is listed as a Culminating Experience. Because it is listed twice, the program is said to require a total of 33 credits. The total required for this program is 30 credits. Please take COMM 834 out of this list of required courses and allow it to stay below as the Culminating Experience.

Commented [A8]: According to the proposed program change, students will select 6 credits from any World Campus course(s), including the elective courses listed above.

Commented [A9R8]:

Commented [A10]: This should be changed from 3 to 6.

Commented [A11]: This should be 30 credits per the comment above regarding COMM 834 being listed twice.

Commented [A12]: This should say, "These 6 credits can be at the 400-level."
The culminating experience provides students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge of the theories and principles concerning strategic communications to a practical campaign project. Specific campaign clients and scope can vary, but all representative aspects of each project would include:

- setting effective communications goals;
- identifying proper target audiences to best achieve the goals;
- developing specific, effective messages for each target audience;
- creating the message content across multiple media platforms;
- implementing a message-delivery plan that optimizes effectiveness and efficiency; and
- evaluating campaign performance against predetermined, measurable benchmarks.

COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions for the above prescribed courses, either with resident-education courses, alternate online courses, or courses from other institutions, will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit, and must be petitioned and approved in advance by the program administrator, with input from the student’s adviser.

STUDENT AID

World Campus students in graduate degree programs may be eligible for financial aid. Refer to the Tuition and Financial Aid section of the World Campus website for more information.

COURSES

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree
requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

**CONTACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>World Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Program Head</td>
<td>Francis Erin Dardis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Contact</td>
<td>Michelle K Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>304 B James Buiding</td>
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<td>University Park PA 16802</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkd155@psu.edu">mkd155@psu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(814) 863-2682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Website</td>
<td>View</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commented [A13]:** Please change the Graduate Program Head to Fuyuan Shen.

**Commented [A14]:** Please change this address to 115 Carnegie Building.