

Dutta, Lakshmi

From: Elliot Slotnick [slotnick.1@gradsch.ohio-state.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 11:50 AM

To: Caswell, R.J

Cc: Dutta, Lakshmi; Smith, Randy; Tim Watson; Dena Myers

Dear Jeff,

It its meeting yesterday, our Curriculum Review Committee approved your proposal for the offering of a combined MPH/OD program by the Colleges of Optometry and Public Health. I will now forward the proposal to Randy Smith's office for processing and final approval by the CAA.

All Best,
elliot

4/22/2008



College of Public Health

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April 8, 2008

Elliot E. Slotnick
Associate Dean
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Dear Elliot:

The College of Optometry and the College of Public Health would like to propose a combined MPH/OD program. This is a very simple proposal, using the model developed in our other successful combined degree programs. In essence, all that is really required is to permit the dual counting of eight credit hours from the Doctor of Optometry (OD) program to replace eight of the 60 credit hours required for the Master of Public Health (MPH). As the proposal explains, these hours are quite appropriate for MPH students, and we believe the integrity of the graduate degree is well-protected.

The development of a population perspective in the health professions has never been more important, and this is an opportunity for Ohio State to be at the very front of this effort in the field of optometry. We are excited about the possibilities for this collaboration, and look forward to its implementation.

We had intended to bring this proposal forward in the Winter Quarter, but through an error on my part it was delayed. We hope that it will be considered as quickly as possible, and will be happy to try to respond to any questions that may arise.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Caswell", written over a white rectangular background.

Robert J. Caswell
Graduate Studies Committee Chair
College of Public Health



College of Public Health

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April 3, 2008

Elliot E. Slotnick
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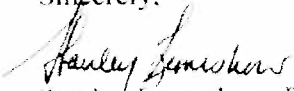
Dear Elliot:

The College of Public Health is happy to join with the College of Optometry to propose a combined program leading to the Master of Public Health (MPH) and Doctor of Optometry (OD) degrees. We believe that this collaboration takes advantage of the growing emphasis on prevention and population health in all the health professions, as well as a specific unusual opportunity at Ohio State, which is one of only three universities having accredited programs in both optometry and public health on the same campus (the others are the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham). There are already multiple faculty members in the College of Optometry (including the dean) who are trained in public health, and we believe that this will enhance our opportunities for collaboration both in the classroom and in research and other activities.

Our model has been the existing combined programs for the MPH/MD, MPWJD, and MPH/PharmD, which permit a small number of professional hours to be counted toward the MPH. The only change made in the usual MPH curriculum is that we would allow students to count eight hours of OD credit toward the MPH, replacing one required course plus three hours of elective credit in the MPH. The replaced course is the required practice placement for the MPH, which would in fact be completed as usual, but as a combined integrative experience under an optometry course number. The MPH, which is a 60 credit degree, would thus be completed with 52 hours of regular graduate credit and eight hours of credit drawn from OD course work.

The College of Public Health looks forward to this expansion of our partnership. Please let me know if any additional information is needed for your review.

Sincerely,


Stanley Lemeshow, PhD



Office of the Dean

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November 27, 2007

Stanley A. Lemeshow, PhD.
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Robert Jeffrey Caswell, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
OSU College of Public Health
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Dear Dr. Lemeshow and Dr. Caswell:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the creation of a joint degree program combining the Doctor of Optometry Degree (O.D.) with the Master of Public Health degree (MPH). We have high confidence that this program would set our College of Optometry apart from the two other institutions that compete with us in this area, the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I have spoken with two prospective optometry students who have expressed interest in this proposed combined degree program to better serve people in Appalachia and Africa.

As part of this combined degree program, we are eager to be involved in a team-taught approach to vision and eye care as it relates to population health and human productivity as well as international eye, vision, and health care initiatives. The potential cross-discipline educational opportunity these team-taught courses would present is very exciting indeed.

This project would be a logical combination of the strengths of our respective programs and contribute to our national and international reputations as leaders in optometry and public health.

The Ohio State University encourages multidisciplinary and collaborative programs. The College of Optometry is pleased to provide support for this joint degree program. Dr. Karla Zadnik, Interim Associate Dean, and I will work with you to identify the specific support required for this program to ensure its success.

Professionally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin D. Shipp".

Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH
Dean

Cc: Dr Karla Zadnik, Interim Associate Dean

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A COMBINED MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH/DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY PROGRAM

April 8, 2008

Introduction

The Doctor of Optometry/Master of Public Health (OD/MPH) combined degree program would simultaneously prepare students for the professional practice of optometry as well as providing knowledge and skills in the broader population health context. Depending on the student's choice of specialization within the MPH, the program could lead to a wide variety of career options. Challenging and exciting opportunities exist in the public and private sectors, developing skills in community-based optometry, in applications such as the development of programs addressing the aging eye and prevention of vision loss, and in continuous quality improvement in the managed care setting. OD/MPH holders might assume leadership roles in academia/research, governmental agencies, and other health-related organizations as well as in professional practice. Several current optometry faculty members are also trained in public health, including the dean. This assures that the program will have champions inside the College of Optometry as well as role models for students.

Due to efficiencies in scheduling and the ability to count some work toward both degrees, the degrees can be completed within five years of study (approximately two quarters sooner than pursuing the degrees separately), and they can be received at the same graduation ceremony. Both the OD and MPH are fully accredited by their respective accrediting agencies. This combined degree program would be the first program of its kind in Ohio, and in the country.

Curriculum

The curriculum described below follows a model completely analogous to that already in place for other combined degree programs involving the MPH. For example, we already have a combined MPH/MD, MPH/PharmD, and MPH/JD. The MPH/MD has been particularly popular, and we believe that the model will work well for the MPH/OD.

Ohio State has long been known as an innovator in optometric education, and the OD/MPH builds upon that experience to offer a rigorous but realistic program. There are two options for undertaking the program. In the first, the student will complete the first year of coursework in the MPH program, and then enter the optometry curriculum, allowing the student to graduate with the class in which the optometry curriculum is initiated. In the second, the student will begin study in the optometry curriculum, completing the first through third years of the OD curriculum. The student then takes a year of full-time graduate study in the MPH curriculum and rejoins the optometry curriculum for twelve months of advanced optometry practice experience rotations. With both options, concurrent with the Opt IV clinical rotations, the student will complete a public health practicum (field practice placement) and a culminating requirement determined by the student's field of specialization in the MPH (typically an applied research project). Because the OD/MPH student receives eight hours of graduate credit for some work completed in the OD curriculum, all scheduled courses for the MPH can usually be completed in one academic year, leaving only the practicum and culminating requirement to be done after rejoining the OD

curriculum. Two curricular options will allow for recruitment of students who are committed to seeking both degrees at initial enrollment, as well as students who may become familiar with the combined program midway through the optometric program.

Application Process

Students who wish to pursue the OD/MPH must apply to and be admitted separately to each program. This includes completing an Ohio State University Graduate Application as well as the College of Optometry Application and paying relevant application fees to the University Admissions Office. Students may apply to both programs concurrently; if admitted to both, they may defer admission to the OD program for one year in order to begin graduate study (Option 1). Alternatively, they may apply initially only to optometry, and then apply to the MPH program no later than Autumn Quarter of their Opt III year (Option 2). In either case, completed MPH applications should be received no later than January 15 preceding the autumn in which graduate study would begin.

Sample Course of Study

The model curricula shown on the attached sheets list the required courses for the MPH in some examples of the available specializations: Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Behavior and Health Promotion, and Health Services Management and Policy.* Assuming satisfactory completion of the courses as shown during the full time year of graduate study, the student would need twelve additional credit hours to complete the degree. Eight of these hours are met by dual credit for courses in the OD curriculum:

- Three hours of credit for Optometry 722, Public Health and Community Optometry, taken during the third year of the OD program, and treated as an elective in the MPH.
- Five hours of credit for Optometry 745.12, Primary Care Extern Experience, taken during the fourth year of the OD program. This course meets the practicum requirement for the MPH.

The remaining four hours consist of individual studies graduate credit (under PUB HLTH 793) for the MPH culminating requirement, which is also completed concurrently with final year of OD study.

* Other approved graduate specializations for the MPH include Public Health Biostatistics and Veterinary Public Health. These are not included in the samples because they present scheduling challenges not easily accommodated within the same time frame as the others. However, a student who wished to pursue one of these could do so with one or two additional quarters of study. In addition, students who have a strong interest in clinical research may pursue a modified version of the specialization in epidemiology, not shown here because it is currently merely a variant on the selective choices in that specialization. A formal proposal for recognition of a graduate specialization in clinical research is expected in the near future, and would be added to the options shown here if it is approved.

SAMPLE PROGRAMS FOR FULL-TIME MPH YEAR IN COMBINED OD/MPH**Summary of Requirements**

The MPH degree requires 60 credit hours. Of these, eight may be met by the dual application of hours from the Doctor of Optometry (OD) program, and 52 credit hours must be graduate course work.

Dual credit (8 hours)

Optometry 745.12 Primary Care Extern Experience (5 hours)
Optometry 722 Public Health and Community Optometry (3 hours)

The Optometry courses replace the required MPH field experience course (PUB HLTH 685, Field Experience in Public Health), along with 3 hours of elective credit.

Core courses (20 hours)

PUBH-BIO 701 Design and Analysis of Health Sciences Research I
PUBH-EHS 731 Principles of Environmental Health
PUBH-EPI 711 Epidemiology I
PUBH-HBP 720 Preventing Disease and Promoting Health through Behavioral Science
HSMP 800 Health Care Organization I

Area of specialization (20-30 hours)

Students may choose any of the available areas of specialization in the MPH. Those shown are selected on the basis of likely interest and schedule feasibility.

Culminating requirement (4 hours)

The culminating requirement is typically an applied research project or thesis, depending on the field of specialization in the MPH degree. The student registers for PUB HLTH 793 in the final quarter of the combined program for this purpose.

Electives sufficient to bring the total to a minimum of 60 credit hours

These elective hours must be from approved courses taken for graduate (as opposed to professional) credit. Students may take additional electives beyond these, which may come from OD elective courses.

The samples below illustrate the full-time year of graduate study in some of the available specializations. The student would complete the remaining MPH requirements (practicum and culminating experience) during the final year of the OD program.

These sample programs are intended to be illustrative; as always, the curriculum for any student will be that in effect at the time the student begins the program. Core courses are required of all MPH students. Other courses shown are those required for the specialization; any elective hours must be approved by the adviser and must carry graduate credit. Scheduling of the practicum and culminating experience credit are not shown below, because those are completed during the final year of the OD program.

OD/MPH IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

<i>Autumn</i>		<i>Winter</i>		<i>Spring</i>	
PUBH-BIO 701# Design and Analysis of Health Sciences Research I	4	PUBH-EHS 732 Basic Concepts in Toxicology	4	PUBH-EHS 735 Introduction to Water and Human Health Risk	4
PUBH-EHS 731# Principles of Environmental Health	4	PUBH-EHS 831 Principles of Risk Assessment	4	PUBH-EHS 794 Exposure Assessment	4
PUBH-EPI 710# Principles of Epidemiology	4	PUBH-HBP 720# Preventing Disease and Promoting Health through Behavioral Science	4	HSMP 800# Health Care Organization I	4
PUBH-EHS 830 Principles of Occupational Health	4	Electives	4	Electives	4

#Core course

Summary of requirements:

Core courses	20
Required for specialization	20
Culminating experience (project or thesis)	4
Electives (minimum)	8
Dual credit for OD coursework	8
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Total required for MPH degree	60

OD/MPH IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

Autumn		Winter		Spring	
PUBH-BIO 701# Design and Analysis of Health Sciences Research I	4	PUBH-BIO 702 Design and Analysis of Health Sciences Research II	4	PUBH-BIO 703 A Problem-Oriented Approach to Biostatistics	4
PUBH-EHS 731# Principles of Environmental Health	4	PUBH-BIO 793 Individual Studies (Statistical Programming)	2	PUBH-EPI 712 Epidemiology II	4
PUBH-EPI 710# Principles of Epidemiology	4	PUBH-EPI 705 Design and Implementation of Health Surveys	4	HSMP 800# Health Care Organization I	4
PUBH-HBP 720# Preventing Disease and Promoting Health through Behavioral Science	4	PUBH-EPI 711 Epidemiology I	4	Selective*	4
		Selective*	4		

#Core course

*Student must choose two of the following courses (4 hrs each):
 PUBH-EPI 713 Epidemiology in Environmental Health
 PUBH-EPI 814 Chronic Disease Epidemiology
 PUBH-EPI 815 Infectious Disease Epidemiology
 PUBH-EPI 816 Cancer Epidemiology
 PUBH-EPI 817 Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology

Summary of requirements:

Core courses	20
Required for specialization	30
Culminating experience (project or thesis)	4
Dual credit for OD coursework	8
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Total required for MPH degree	62

OD/MPH IN HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH PROMOTION

Autumn		Winter		Spring	
PUBH-BIO 701# Design and Analysis of Health Sciences Research I	4	PUBH-BIO 702 Design and Analysis of Health Sciences Research II	4	PUBH-HBP 827 Program Planning and Implementation	4
PUBH-HBP 720# Preventing Disease and Promoting Health through Behavioral Science	4	PUBH-EPI 710# Epidemiology I	4	PUBH-HBP 824 Program Evaluation in Public Health	4
PUBH-EHS 731# Principles of Environmental Health	4	PUBH-HBP 820 Foundations of Health Behavior and Health Promotion	4	HSMP 800# Health Care Organization I	4
PUBH-HBP 822 Settings and Special Populations	4	PUBH-HBP 821 Community Health Assessment	4	Elective	4

#Core course

Summary of requirements:

Core courses	20
Required for specialization	24
Culminating experience (project or thesis)	4
Electives (minimum)	4
Dual credit for OD coursework	8
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Total required for MPH degree	60

OD/MPH IN HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Autumn		Winter		Spring	
PUBH-BIO 701# Design and Analysis of Health Sciences Research I	4	HSMP 802 Economic Analysis of Health Services	4	HSMP 805 Introduction to Health Policy	4
PUBH-EHS 731# Principles of Environmental Health	4	HSMP 820 Health Services Finance I	4	Selectives*	8
PUBH-EPI 710# Principles of Epidemiology	4	HSMP 880 Operations Management for Health Service Organizations	4		
HSMP 800# Health Care Organization I	4	PUBH-HBP 720# Preventing Disease and Promoting Health through Behavioral Science	4		
HSMP 815 Health Services Organizational Management	4				

#Core Course

*Student must choose eight credit hours from the following courses (other HSMP courses may be approved by petition):

- HSMP 801 Health Care Organization II
- HSMP 817 Leadership in Health Care
- HSMP 821 Health Services Finance II
- HSMP 824 Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programs and Services
- HSMP 870.01 Health Services Research
- HSMP 870.05 Human Resources
- HSMP 870.06 Marketing
- HSMP 881 Topics in Health Service Operations Management

Summary of requirements:

Core courses	20
Required for specialization	28
Culminating experience (project or thesis)	4
Dual credit for OD coursework	8
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Total required for MPH degree	60