

11 September 2015

Concurrent Master of Public Health and Master of Urban Planning Degree Program

University of Washington School of Public Health:

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
Department of Health Services

University of Washington College of Built Environments:

Department of Urban Design and Planning

1. Introduction

Approved in September 2015, the University of Washington now offers an interdisciplinary concurrent Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree program, in which students complete all requirements of each degree and write a shared thesis. The program provides a formal mechanism for incoming and current students in the MPH and MUP degree programs to study both disciplines in an efficient and structured manner. The program trains professionals to create and study healthy and equitable urban settings and facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration among students and faculty in the School of Public Health and the College of Built Environments.

The built environment, and the policies and design that define our urban landscapes, are crucial determinants of population health. Many issues such as walkability, public transportation, sanitation, and air and water quality are influenced by decisions of planners and affect the health of the public, especially persons living in metropolitan areas. By 2050, it is estimated that 70% of the world's population will live in cities or towns. This rapid pace of global urbanization calls for individuals with interdisciplinary training in the fields of urban planning and public health. Both disciplines are committed to the betterment of human life and the environment through systematic change.

Academic and professional collaborations between urban planning and public health help further the federal Healthy People 2020 Objectives (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/>) and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>). A report of National Academies Transportation Research Board and Institute of Medicine documented the need for more interdisciplinary degrees in urban planning and public health (Sclar et al. *Promoting Interdisciplinary Curricula and Training in Transportation, Land Use, Physical Activity, and Health, 2005*, (http://www.academia.edu/4349747/Promoting_Interdisciplinary_Curricula_and_Training_in_Transportation_Land_Use_Physical_Activity_and_Health)). The report recommended that universities offer MPH/MUP degrees that are interdisciplinary in form and content, and suggested best practices for the creation of such a degree program.

2. Program Admissions

An applicant who is not currently a student at the University of Washington must submit a separate application to and be accepted by each degree program. UW students who are currently enrolled in either the MPH or MUP program must submit an application for the second program, indicating their intent to complete both degrees concurrently.

3. Tuition and Fees; student support

The MPH and MUP programs charge different tuition rates (<http://opb.washington.edu/content/quarterly-tuition-and-fees>). While enrolled in the concurrent degree program, the student will pay at the tuition level of the more expensive degree, in accord with University policy. There are no funds set aside specifically to support concurrent degree students; they are supported by the mix of research and teaching assistantships, scholarships, loans, and self-pay sources that currently fund MPH and MUP students.

4. Master of Public Health degree options

The Master of Public Health program at UW is departmentally based. Students in the concurrent MUP/MPH degree program all enroll in the same MUP degree program and will choose to enroll in one of the following three MPH programs:

- Environmental and Occupational Health - <http://deohs.washington.edu/eoh/program>

- Health Services: General Program – <http://depts.washington.edu/hservmph/program>
- Health Services: Community-Oriented Public Health Practice - <http://www.mphpublichealthpractice.uw.edu/>

5. **Program Sequence**

Program students may begin in either the MPH or MUP program. Individual course sequence is determined in consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinators and faculty advisors from both programs and made explicit in a written plan of study agreed upon by both programs and the student at the beginning of the concurrent program. While courses for which the student has the appropriate prerequisites may be taken at any time during the three years, in general it is expected that the student will spend the majority of the first year on requirements for one degree and the majority of the second year on requirements for the other degree. The third year will be used to complete remaining requirements for both degrees and to write the shared thesis. Students must be enrolled for a minimum of two consecutive quarters in the concurrent program. It is anticipated that both degrees will be awarded at the same time, typically soon after completion of the shared thesis.

6. **Program Requirements**

To earn both MPH and MUP degrees, a student must fulfill all requirements for each existing degree program, while a number of credits can be shared and applied to both programs. Currently, the MPH degree requires a minimum of 63 credits and the MUP degree requires a minimum of 72 credits. The total number of credits that a student receives in both programs must exceed 72 credits, and a minimum of 36 credits must be unique to each program, to fulfill UW Graduate School requirements (<http://www.grad.washington.edu/policies/memoranda/memo35.shtml>). Assuming a 9 credit shared thesis, to achieve a minimum of 63 credits for the MPH and 72 credits for the MUP, over 9 quarters in three years, students would need at least:

- 0 units of shared elective credits if they average 14 credits per quarter,
- 9 units of shared elective credits if they average 13 credits per quarter, or
- 18 units of shared elective credits if they average 12 credits per quarter.

Prerequisites for the MUP and MPH are listed on the websites of the departments offering those degrees:

- MUP degree: <http://urbdp.be.washington.edu/programs/graduate/mup/>
- MPH degree in Environmental and Occupational Health <http://deohs.washington.edu/graduate/admissions-prerequisites>
- MPH degree in Health Services/General Program: <http://sph.washington.edu/prospective/programDetail.asp?progID=mph-hs#apply>
- MPH degree in Health Services/COPHP: <http://www.mphpublichealthpractice.uw.edu/admissions/>

Practicum for MPH degree

The MPH curriculum requires students to complete a minimum of 120 hours of practical fieldwork in a public health practice setting (<http://sph.washington.edu/practicum/requirements.asp>). The practicum experience allows students to work alongside public health professionals who solve real-world problems while enhancing their own skills and networking in the field. Faculty will assist the student in choosing a practical fieldwork experience that is relevant to both public health and built environment issues.

7. **Shared Thesis** – Only one thesis is required for the concurrent MPH/MUP degrees. One graduate faculty member from each department shall co-chair the thesis committee for each student. The format is determined in consultation with the thesis committee members. A total of 9 credits are required, generally with 5 credits from one degree and 4 credits from the other. Intellectual components from both degree programs must be present in the shared thesis. The thesis must follow the Graduate School's *Guidelines for Degrees with Shared Thesis* (<https://www.grad.washington.edu/fac-staff/programreviews/shared-masters.shtml>).

8. **Course requirements**

Required courses for the MUP and MPH are listed on the websites of the departments offering those degrees:

For MUP – <http://urbdp.be.washington.edu/programs/graduate/mup/curriculum.html>

For MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health – <http://deohs.washington.edu/eoh/program>

For MPH in Health Services: General Program – <http://depts.washington.edu/hservmph/gen-curriculum>

For MPH in Health Services: Community-Oriented Public Health Practice –
<http://www.mphpublichealthpractice.uw.edu/overview/courses/>

In addition to the minimum requirements of each degree, concurrent MPH/MUP degree students will be required to take the following two cross-disciplinary courses and one GIS course. These courses can count toward either or both degrees, and count within the 135 minimum credits needed to meet overall degree requirements.

- EnvH 538/UrbDP 538 Public Health and Built Environment (Winter Quarter)
- EnvH 536/UrbDP 536 Health Impact Assessment (Spring Quarter)
- Choose one of following:
 - EnvH 590 Geographic Information Systems in Public Health (Autumn Quarter) **or**
 - UrbDP 598 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (Autumn Quarter)

Students are expected to take elective courses relevant to the two degrees as part of meeting the minimum credit requirements for both degrees. Courses on the following list are encouraged as electives, or a student may propose a course not on this list for approval by their faculty advisor. This list will be updated periodically based on changes in course offerings and requirements. Enrollment in any elective requires meeting course prerequisites and may require permission of the instructor.

Electives in UW School of Public Health

- ENVH 517 Children's Environmental Health
- ENVH 548 Community Air Pollution
- ENVH 545 Water, Wastewater, and Health
- ENVH 584 Occupational and Environmental Health: Policy and Politics
- HSERV 507 Health Communication and Marketing for Health Promotion
- HSERV 512 Health Systems and Policy
- HSERV 513 Health Policy Research
- HSERV 514/EPI 547 Social Determinants of Population Health and Health Disparities
- HSERV 518 Social and Ethical Issues
- HSERV 522 Health Program Evaluation
- HSERV 527 Survey Research Methods
- HSERV 551 Public Health Law
- HSERV 552 Health Policy Development
- HSERV 590 Qualitative Research Methods: An Introduction
- EPI 502 Physical Activity in Health and Disease
- EPI 503 Applied Epidemiology in Public Health Practice
- EPI 510 Epidemiologic Data Analysis
- EPI 528 Exposure Measurement in Epidemiology
- EPI 546 Psychiatric Epidemiology
- GH 503 Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Global Health
- GH 511 Problems in Global Health
- GH 515 Global Health Challenges

Electives in UW College of Built Environments

- URBDP 498 Planning as a Profession
- URBDP 519 Qualitative Research Planning
- URBDP 549 Hazard Mitigation Planning
- URBDP 564 Planning History, Theory, and Ethics
- URBDP 576 Pedestrian Travel, Land Use, and Urban Form
- URBDP 598 Urban Food Systems
- LARCH 561 Human Experience of Place
- ARCH 477 Healthcare Facilities Planning and Design
- ARCH 564 Environmental Design and Well-being

Electives in Other UW Colleges/Schools

- GEOG 478 Social Justice and the City

- o GEOG 480 Environmental Geography, Climate, and Health
- o GEOG 580 Medical Geography
- o CEE 562 Livable Communities and Design
- o CEE 580 Urban Transportation Planning

Sample course sequences designed to meet all requirements for the MUP and for each of the three types of MPH are provided in Appendices A, B, and C. Many other course sequences are possible.

9. Student Advising and Expectation

Each student will have two faculty advisors, one for the MPH and one for the MUP, who are jointly responsible for overseeing the student’s program of study. The students will work with the Graduate Program Coordinators of both programs who will monitor progress in completing all degree requirements. On entering the program, students will develop a written plan of study to be approved by both their faculty advisors and Graduate Program Coordinators. The program director and co-directors will work with the faculty advisors and Graduate Program Coordinators to coordinate the overall program.

10. Program contacts

Program Director:

Andrew L. Dannenberg, MD, MPH, Affiliate Professor, Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health, and Dept. of Urban Design and Planning, College of Built Environments; adannen@uw.edu

Program Co-Directors:

Fritz Wagner, PhD, Research Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Urban Design and Planning, College of Built Environments; Dean Emeritus, University of New Orleans College of Urban and Public Affairs; fwagner@uw.edu

Robert Mugerauer, PhD, Professor, Dept. of Urban Design and Planning, and Dept. of Architecture, College of Built Environments; drbobm@uw.edu

Graduate Degree Program Coordinators

MUP:

MPH, Environmental Health:

MPH, Health Services, General Program:

MPH, Health Services, COPHP:

Diana Siembor, udp@uw.edu

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Appendix A: Sample course sequence: MUP + MPH/Environmental Health*

	MPH	MUP	Both	
Year 1 Autumn	4 4 3 1 1			BIOST 511 Biometry 1 EPI 512 Epidemiologic Methods 1 HSERV 511 Intro to Health Care and Public Health Services ENVH 580 Environmental and Occupational Health Seminar ENVH 581 Environmental Health Reading
Year 1 Winter	4 4 3 1		2	BIOST 512 Biometry 2 EPI 513 Epidemiologic Methods 2 ENVH 599 Environmental Health Practicum ENVH 580 Environmental and Occupational Health Seminar ENVH 538/URBDP 538 Public Health and Built Environment
Year 1 Spring	4 3 3 1		2	ENVH 505 Fundamentals of Environmental & Occupational Toxicology ENVH 570 Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology HSERV 510 Society and Health ENVH 580 Environmental and Occupational Health Seminar ENVH 536/URBDP 536 Health Impact Assessment
Subtotal	36	0	4	
Year 2 Autumn		3 4 4	3	URBDP 479 The Urban Form URBDP 500 Survey of Urban Planning URBDP 520 Quantitative Methods in Urban Design and Planning URBDP 598 GIS Intro or ENVH 590 Geographic Information Systems
Year 2 Winter		3 3 3 4		URBDP 501 Comprehensive Planning and Implementation URBDP 503 Graphic Communication and Analysis URBDP 506/598 Planning Studio Prep URBDP 510 Theories and Methodologies of Planning
Year 2 Spring		5 3	3 3	URBDP 598 Urban Planning Studio (Restricted elective) URBDP 580 Legal and Administrative Framework for Planning URBDP 549 Hazard Mitigation Planning URBDP 576 Pedestrian Travel, Land Use & Urban Form (Re. elective)
Subtotal	0	32	9	
Year 3 Autumn	3	3 3	4 1	URBDP 512 Research Seminar URBDP 585 Introduction to Historic Preservation Planning ENVH 551 Principles of Human Exposure Science ENVH 545 Water, Wastewater, and Health Thesis
Year 3 Winter	3	4 3	4	ENVH 572 Environmental Risk and Society URBDP 553 Urban Land Economics (Restricted elective) URBDP 564 Planning History, Theory & Ethics (Restricted elective) Thesis
Year 3 Spring	3	3 3	4	URBDP 519 Qualitative Research Methods in Planning URBDP 561 Urban Economics and Public Policy HSERV 514 Social Determinants of Pop Health and Health Disparities Thesis
Subtotal	9	19	13	
TOTAL	45	51	26	Total credits over 3 years: 122

MPH: 45 alone + 26 shared = 71 credits

MUP: 51 alone + 26 shared = 77 credits

*This is a sample schedule; other course choices are possible that would also meet the requirements for MUP + MPH/Environmental Health.

Appendix B: Sample course sequence: MUP + MPH/Health Services/General*

	MPH	MUP	Both	
Year 1 Autumn	4 4 4 1			BIOST 511 Biometry 1 EPI 511 Intro to Epidemiology HSERV 511 Intro to Health Services/Public Health HSERV 592 MPH Seminar
Year 1 Winter	3 3 3 1		2	HSMGMT 514 Health Economics ENVH 511 Environmental Health HSERV 595 Public Health Practicum HSERV 592 Departmental Seminar ENVH 538/URBDP 538 Public Health and Built Environment
Year 1 Spring	3 3 1		2 3	HSERV 510 Society and Health HSERV 595 Public Health Practicum HSERV 592 MPH Seminar ENVH 536/URBDP 536 Health Impact Assessment HSERV 514 Social Determinants of Pop Health and Health Disparities
Subtotal	30	0	7	
Year 2 Autumn		3 4 4	3	URBDP 479 The Urban Form URBDP 500 Survey of Urban Planning URBDP 520 Quantitative Methods in Urban Design and Planning URBDP 598 GIS Intro or ENVH 590 Geographic Information Systems
Year 2 Winter		3 3 3 4		URBDP 501 Comprehensive Planning and Implementation URBDP 503 Graphic Communication and Analysis URBDP 506/598 Planning Studio Prep URBDP 510 Theories and Methodologies of Planning
Year 2 Spring		5 3	3 3	URBDP 598 Urban Planning Studio (Restricted elective) URBDP 580 Legal and Administrative Framework for Planning URBDP 549 Hazard Mitigation Planning URBDP 576 Pedestrian Travel, Land Use & Urban Form (Re. elective)
Subtotal	0	32	9	
Year 3 Autumn	3 1	3 3	3	URBDP 585 Introduction to Historic Preservation Planning HSERV 552 Health Policy Development HSERV 592 MPH Seminar URBDP 512 Research Seminar Thesis Project
Year 3 Winter	3 1	3 4	3	HSERV 509 Public Health and Informatics HSERV 592 Departmental Seminar URBDP 564 Planning History, Theory & Ethics (Restricted elective) URBDP 553 Urban Land Economics (Restricted elective) Thesis Project
Year 3 Spring	4 1	3 3	3	HSERV 527 Survey Research Methods HSERV 592 MPH Seminar URBDP 519 Qualitative Research Methods in Planning URBDP 561 Urban Economics and Public Policy Thesis Project
Subtotal	13	19	9	
TOTAL	43	51	25	Total credits over 3 years: 119

MPH: 43 alone + 25 shared = 68 credits

MUP: 51 alone + 25 shared = 76 credits

*This is a sample schedule; other course choices are possible that would also meet the requirements for MUP + MPH/Health Services/General.

Appendix C: Sample course sequence: MUP + MPH/Health Services/COPHP*

	MPH	MUP	Both	
Year 1 Autumn	3 3 1 1		4	HSERV 531 Communities & Systems, Part 1 Population Health HSERV 532 Communities & Systems, Part 2 Community Development COPHP Seminar Public Health Elective ENVH 545 Water, Wastewater, and Health
Year 1 Winter	6 3 1		2	HSERV 533 Analytic Methods – Biostatistics & Epidemiology PH Practicum COPHP Seminar ENVH 538/URBDP 538: Public Health and Built Environment
Year 1 Spring	2 4 3 1		2	HSERV 534 Environmental Health HSERV 535 Health Behavior & Health Promotion PH Practicum COPHP Seminar ENVH 536/URBDP 536 Health Impact Assessment
Subtotal	28	0	8	
Year 2 Autumn		3 4 4	3	URBDP 479 The Urban Form URBDP 500 Survey of Urban Planning URBDP 520 Quantitative Methods in Urban Design and Planning URBDP 598 GIS Intro or ENVH 590 Geographic Information Systems
Year 2 Winter		3 3 3 4		URBDP 501 Comprehensive Planning and Implementation URBDP 503 Graphic Communication and Analysis URBDP 506/598 Planning Studio Prep URBDP 510 Theories and Methodologies of Planning
Year 2 Spring		5 3	3 3	URBDP 598 Urban Planning Studio (Restricted elective) URBDP 580 Legal and Administrative Framework for Planning URBDP 549 Hazard Mitigation Planning HSERV 514 Social Determinants of Pop Health and Health Disparities
Subtotal	0	32	9	
Year 3 Autumn	6 1	3 3	1	HSERV 537 Health Policy COPHP Seminar URBDP 512 Research Seminar URBDP 585 Introduction to Historic Preservation Planning Thesis/Capstone Project
Year 3 Winter	2 1	4 3	4	HSERV 538 Program Evaluation COPHP Seminar URBDP 553 Urban Land Economics (Restricted elective) URBDP 564 Planning History, Theory & Ethics (Restricted elective) Thesis/Capstone Project
Year 3 Spring	1		6 3 4	COPHP Seminar HSERV 540 Management & Planning URBDP 576 Pedestrian Travel, Land Use & Urban Form (Re. elective) Thesis/Capstone Project
Subtotal	11	13	18	
TOTAL	39	45	35	Total credits over 3 years: 119

MPH: 39 alone + 35 shared = 74 credits

MUP: 45 alone + 35 shared = 80 credits

*This is a sample schedule; other course choices are possible that would also meet the requirements for MUP + MPH/Health Services/COPHP.