



## TITLE OF POLICY

Combined and Joint Degree Program Policy

## PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish supervision of combined or joint degree. The policy also outlines eligibility, recommended schedule for completion, and credit hour application to Medical Degree for each type of combined or joint degree.

## RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE

Office of Student Affairs reviews the policy on an as-needed basis and Education Committee approves it.

## LCME REFERENCE(S)

NA

## HISTORY OF APPROVALS AND UPDATES

Approved by Education Committee February 2017.

Approved by Education Committee May 17, 2021

## DEFINITION(S):

**Combined degree program:** A combined degree program is one in which a student applies to both programs with a single application process.

**Joint degree program:** A joint degree program is one that requires two separate application processes.

## POLICY

### Combined and Joint Degree Overview

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs oversees all joint and combined degree programs. Most joint and combined degree programs will require a leave of absence for graduate studies (see Leave of Absence Policy). The Office of Student Affairs governs the leave structure of all combined and joint degree programs.

### The Medical Sciences Training Program (MSTP) MD/PhD Program

The program allows for the clinical study of medicine combined with graduate education and doctoral research in any of a wide variety of disciplines.

Schedule



- The Foundation Phase is completed in the first year and a half of the program.
- The summer before the first year of the program is used to expose students to potential research areas.
- The summer after the first 10 months of Foundation Phase and before the next Fall semester begins is further used to expose students to potential research areas.
- After completing the Foundation Phase, students may be registered for the Application Phase during the spring semester before starting graduate school in the fall semester.
- The final two years of the program are devoted to clinical medicine.

#### Application of Credit Hours to Medical Degree

- Students may receive up to 18 credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree.
- Students who enroll in the Longitudinal Advanced Practice Selective will not be required to repeat it in the Individualization Phase.
- Students are exempt from the Science of Medicine selective but must replace it with another six credit hour elective.

#### **The MD/MPH Joint Degree Program**

Medical students may enroll in the Master of Public Health or the Master of Science in Public Health degree programs in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

#### Eligibility

- The academic records of students applying to the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH program are reviewed by the Educational Resources Coordinator and must have the approval of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
- Students with histories of either academic or professional difficulty may not be approved for the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program.

#### Schedule

- Students must complete the Foundation Phase and Application Phase before enrolling in the MD/MPH or MSPH Program MPH Program. Students also typically complete the first four months of the Individualization Phase before starting the MD/MPH or MSPH Program MPH Program to be eligible for the residency match.

#### Application of Credit Hours to Medical Degree

- Students in the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program may receive six credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree for medically relevant graduate school courses if they complete their MPH or MSPH degree by August of the Individualization Phase.
- Students in the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program who complete their MPH or MSPH degree by August of the Individualization Phase are not required to take the Social Health Systems 5 but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this selective.



- Students in the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program who complete their MPH or MSPH degree by August of the Individualization Phase are not required to take the Science of Medicine Selective but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this selective.

### **The MD/MBA Joint Degree Program**

Medical students may enroll in the Master of Business Administration program in the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School.

#### Eligibility

- Students seeking admission to the MD/MBA Program will need to take either the GMAT or the GRE.

#### Schedule

- Students must complete the Foundation Phase and Application Phase before enrolling in the MBA Program. Students also typically complete the first four months of the Individualization Phase before starting the MD/MPH or MSPH Program MPH Program to be eligible for the residency match.
- Students are enrolled in the Kenan-Flagler Business School during their fourth year.
- Students are enrolled in the SOM and in the Kenan-Flagler Business School during fifth year.

#### Application of Credit Hours to Medical Degree

- Students in the MD/MBA Program may receive 12 credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree for medically relevant graduate school courses.
- Students in the MD/MBA, who participate in the healthcare concentration, are not required to take the Social Health Systems 5 Selective but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this selective.

### **The MD/DDS Joint Degree Program**

#### Eligibility

- Dental students may apply to the MD/DDS program. (see The UNC SOM Medical Student Transfer Policy)

#### Application of Credit Hours to Medical Degree

- Students in the MD/ DDS Program may receive 12 credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree.
- Students in the MD/DDS Program are not required to take the Transition to Residency Course, but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this course

### **The MD/MA Program**

Medical students may enroll in the interdisciplinary Master of Art Program concentrating in literature, medicine, and culture. This program is run jointly by the College of Arts & Science and the School of



Medicine. Students in the MD/MA program may study a variety of disciplines including anthropology, English, history, journalism, philosophy, public health, religious studies, social medicine, and social work.

#### Eligibility

- Students must seek the approval of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

#### Schedule

- Students in the MD/MA Program will typically enroll in graduate school after completing the Foundation Phase, the Application Phase, and the first four months of the Individualization Phase.
- The MD/MA Program is typically either an intensive 12-month program or may be spread out over two academic years.

#### Application of Credit Hours to Medical Degree

- Students in the MD/MA Program may receive six credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree for medically relevant graduate school courses if they complete their MA degree by August of the Individualization Phase.

### **Other Joint Degree Programs**

Medical students may work toward joint degrees in medicine and another graduate or professional school, including programs at other universities.

#### Eligibility

- The School of Medicine allows medical students to seek approval to complete a graduate program in any area that is relevant to medicine, including MD/PhD, MD/MPH, MD/MSPH, MD/MBA, or MD/JD degree combinations.
- Students must obtain approval in advance from the Office of Student Affairs to enroll in a joint degree program.

#### Application of Credit Hours to Medical Degree

- Students in joint degree programs, with advanced written approval from the Office of Student Affairs, may receive up to six hours of elective credit towards the MD degree, for medically relevant graduate school courses, in a one-year graduate degree program or up to twelve hours of elective credit towards the MD degree, for medically relevant graduate school courses in a two- or three-year graduate degree program.