

MPH/MCRP Dual-Degree Program Quick Guide¹

For Students Entering in Fall 2016

Program Overview

The Department of Health Behavior (HB) in the Gillings School of Global Public Health (Gillings School) and the Department of City and Regional Planning (CRP) in The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill share a commitment to social intervention that positively influences individuals and communities. These departments offer a dual-degree program that combines knowledge and skills from both HB and CRP master's programs so that students learn how to shape the physical and social urban environments in health-enhancing ways. Dual-degree students must apply to, and be accepted by, both departments separately. They are expected to complete one year of coursework in one department, the next year of coursework in the other department, and then spend their third year taking coursework in both departments and integrating the learning across programs. Graduates of the program earn a Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) in three years.

Program Requirements

Required Coursework: Dual-degree students complete **75** credit hours of coursework, which includes: 27 credits of required coursework within HB, 12 credits of Gillings School core requirements, 33 credits of required coursework within CRP, and the 3 credit CRP Master's Project requirement.

CRP Required Specialization: CRP requires master's students to select an area of specialization within the department. Each specialization emphasizes equity, environmental quality, economic viability, and social participation and grapples with the interconnections among these dimensions of sustainability. The areas of specialization include:

- *Economic Development:* Focuses on planning for functional and sustainable regional economies and issues of income and jobs for central city areas.
- *Housing, & Community Development:* Is concerned with the supply of affordable housing, the revitalization of urban neighborhoods, project development, and central city redevelopment.
- *Land Use & Environmental Planning:* Addresses growth management at the urban and regional scales, environmental stewardship, and policy analysis with emphasis on water resources.
- *Transportation Planning:* Provides concepts and tools relevant to transportation policy and planning and in-depth knowledge.

Required Fieldwork: During the summer between their first and second or second and third years of the MPH/MCRP program, students complete a 240-hour individual practicum (HBEH 742) that gives them the opportunity to apply their academic training to a public health setting/population/topic of their choice. Dual-degree students are encouraged to seek out public health practicum opportunities that have a planning focus. Dual-degree students also complete a 3-credit CRP Planning Workshop (PLAN 823) in their area of specialization during their third year.

Comprehensive Exam: After completing the first year of HB required coursework, dual-degree students take a written comprehensive exam that assesses students' ability to apply the knowledge and skills in public health education, theory, practice, and applied research methods (both qualitative and quantitative) that are covered in the first-year HB core courses.

Culminating Experience: Each of the master's programs have a culminating experience in their final year. For HB, students complete a year-long Capstone project as part of a group-based, mentored, service-learning course (HBEH 746, 992). In CRP, students submit a research paper, a critical essay, or a development and evaluation of a program, project, or plan on a topic in their specialization area(s). For dual-degree students, every effort is made to combine the HB Capstone project with the CRP master's project to promote synthesis in learning across fields; however, many students

Health Behavior Required Courses

HBEH 700 - Foundations of Health Behavior: This course offers an introduction to public health and the field of health behavior, a history of public health and public health education, and an overview of population health/social determinants of health. (3 credits, Fall)

¹ Please refer to the MPH Program Guidelines for detailed information about the HB MPH Program and the CRP MCRP Program Guides and Degree .

HBEH 730 - Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Science: This course covers selected social and behavioral science theories and concepts that apply to the development and analysis of health-related behaviors and interventions. (3 credits, Fall)

HBEH 750 - Applied Research Methods: This overview of behavioral research methods is designed to help practitioners and scientists be savvy consumers of scientific research on health behavior. The course also addresses how to formulate research questions and testable hypotheses that apply to behavior change interventions and program evaluation, and how to select a research design appropriate for examining a particular research question or program goal. (3 credits, Fall)

HBEH 753 - Qualitative Research Methods: This course is an introduction to qualitative research methodology. The course is intended to develop students' skills in designing qualitative research studies, developing qualitative research questions, collecting, managing and analyzing qualitative data, and presenting findings from a qualitative study. Students will collect their own qualitative data that they will analyze in teams. (3 credits, Spring)

HBEH 772 - Planning Health Promotion Programs in Community, Worksite, School, and Medical Settings: In this course, students use a comprehensive planning model to develop a data-driven program plan that addresses a public health issue for a defined population. (3 credits, Spring)

HBEH 703, 704 - Professional Development Series: The course is designed to offer students a timely, structured opportunity for enhancing professional competencies that they will use in their MPH field work and in their careers as public health practitioners. (1 credit, Spring and 1 credit, Fall)

HBEH 742 - MPH Practicum: The practicum is an individual field training opportunity that serves as a bridge between a student's academic training and applied public health practice. (1 credit, Summer)

HBEH 746², 992 - Capstone I & II: Capstone is a group-based, mentored, service-learning course whose products serve as the master's thesis substitute. Class sessions are opportunities for students to prepare for, reflect upon, receive feedback about, and present their Capstone project experiences. (3 credits, Fall and 3 credits, Spring)

HBEH 752 - Public Health Interventions & Evaluation: This course is a critical examination and application of the concepts and methods necessary for effectively selecting, adapting, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based public health interventions. (3 credits)

Gillings School Required Courses

HBEH 601 - Principles of Statistical Inference: This course reviews the use of basic descriptive statistics and equips students with a conceptual understanding of the calculation and interpretation of inferential statistics in public health research. HB students take this class in lieu of BIOS 600. Students who have taken BIOS 600 must audit HBEH 601. (3 credits, Fall)

ENVR 600 - Environmental Health: This survey course covers the: relationship between environmental quality, human health and welfare, as well as contamination in human environments; physical, biological, and social factors; and trade-offs regarding prevention and remediation measures. (3 credits, offered Fall and Spring)

EPID 600 - Principles of Epidemiology: An introductory course that considers the meaning, scope, and applications of epidemiology to public health practice and the uses of vital statistics data in the scientific appraisal of community health. (3 credits, offered Fall online and Spring in person)

HPM 600 - Introduction to Health Policy and Administration: A course that provides an overview of the U.S. health system, emphasizing role of policy development and administrative decision-making through case examples. (3 credits, offered in Fall and Spring; online only)

CRP Required Courses

PLAN 704 – Theory of Planning I: The logic of planning as a professional activity. Critical overview of current process theories leading students to develop a personal philosophy applicable to their work as planners. (3 credits, Spring)

² MPH/MCRP students pay a \$600 field fee to cover a portion of the expenses associated with the program over and above those covered by state dollars paid through tuition. For administrative purposes, these fees are tagged onto HBEH 746.

PLAN 710 - Microeconomics for Planning and Public Policy Analysis: Introduction to principles of demand and supply, elasticity, marginal utility opportunity cost, pricing, production decisions, and profit maximization, cost-benefit analysis, financial appraisal, role of government, and market instruments for environmental protection. (3 credits, Fall) *NOTE: Students can test out of this course by passing an exam just prior to the beginning of class. Students who test out of the course must take a CRP elective in its place to fulfill the overall credit requirement.*

PLAN 714 - Urban Spatial Structure: Theories and empirical evidence of the contemporary spatial development of metropolitan areas. Industrial, residential and commercial location; neighborhood change; the role of technological change and public policies; and normative perspectives. (3 credits, Fall)

PLAN 720 - Planning Methods: Accessing information from conventional and electronic sources, spatial data acquisition, analysis and mapping. Inferential statistics through multiple regression. Microcomputer laboratory. (3 credits, Fall) *NOTE: At the discretion of the course instructor, dual-degree students may exempt out of the content of this course due to the overlap with HBEH 601 and HBEH 750. Exempted students must substitute a CRP elective to fulfill the overall credit requirement for the degree.*

PLAN 823 - Planning Workshop: Problem-solving, client-based courses designed to give students experience in applying planning theory and methods to actual problem situations in economic development, housing and community development, real estate, environmental planning, and land use and transportation. (3 credits, Spring or Fall)

PLAN 992 – Master’s Project: Students must submit a final project of professional quality on a topic in their area of specialization. The Master’s Project serves to demonstrate the student’s capabilities in his/her area and his/her readiness for professional practice. Typically, a dual-degree student’s CRP Master’s project is an independently produced deliverable that is part of the student’s group-based Capstone (HBEH 746/992) project. (3 credits, Spring)

LAW ### -: All dual-degree students must take a law course. Depending on the specialization, a specific Law course may be required. See *MCRP Program Guide and Degree Requirements*. (1.5-3 credits, Fall, Spring)

MPH-MCRP Example of Course Sequencing

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	<p>PLAN Required: PLAN 714: Urban Spatial Structure (3) PLAN 710: Microeconomics for Planning and Policy Analysis (3) PLAN 720: Planning Methods (3)</p> <p>Choose a minimum of 3 credits from: CRP Specialization Required Courses</p>	<p>PLAN Required: PLAN 704: Theory of Planning I (3)</p> <p>Choose a minimum of 9 credits from: CRP Specialization Required Courses</p>	
Year 2	<p>HBEH Required: HBEH 700: Foundations of Health Behavior (3) HBEH 730: Theoretical Foundations of Social & Behavioral Science (3) HBEH 750: Applied Research Methods (3)</p> <p>Gillings School Required: HBEH 601: Principles of Statistical Inference (3)</p> <p>Choose (0-3 credits) from: Gillings School Required Courses</p>	<p>HBEH Required: HBEH 753: Qualitative Research Methods (3) HBEH 772: Planning Health Programs (3) HBEH 703: Professional Development Series (1)</p> <p>Choose a minimum of 5 credits from: Gillings School Required Courses</p>	<p>HBEH Required: HBEH 742: Practicum (1)</p> <p>Comprehensive Exam (no credit)</p>

Year 3	<p>HBEH Required: HBEH 704: Professional Development Series (1) HBEH 752: Interventions and Evaluation (3) HBEH 746: Capstone (3)</p> <p>PLAN Required: LAW course (3) PLAN 823: Planning Workshop (3)</p> <p>Choose a minimum of 2 credits from: CRP Specialization or Gillings School Required Courses</p>	<p>HBEH Required: HBEH 992: Capstone (3)</p> <p>PLAN Required: PLAN 992: Master’s Project (3) PLAN 823: Planning Workshop (3)</p> <p>Choose a minimum of 6 credits from: CRP Specialization or Gillings School Required Courses</p>	
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Advising & Mentoring

Advising is a critical component of the dual-degree program. In order to help ensure students get the guidance they need, the dual-degree program has an advising/mentoring program with several components: 1) orientation programs in both departments; 2) group advising sessions for students interested in each area of specialization within CRP; 3) academic advising from an assigned faculty member within the student’s specialization area in CRP; 4) academic advising from the MPH program manager in HB; and 5) cohort advising sessions led by the HB MPH program director and HB MPH program manager to support students’ progress through the MPH degree requirements. The HB MPH program director and CRP dual-degree program coordinator lend additional support to the dual-degree program.

Extracurricular Activities

There are numerous opportunities to get involved in extracurricular activities within HB, CRP, on campus, and in the community. For example, there is a student-led dual-degree student group (uncdualdegree@gmail.com) that generally meets monthly to organize resources and support, share interdisciplinary interests, and plan professional development opportunities. For a complete list of committees, organizations, and volunteer opportunities through the School of Public Health, please see: http://sph.unc.edu/student_pages/get-involved/. For more information about activities organized by the student body of CRP, please see <https://planning.unc.edu/people/students/plannersforum>.