

Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Public Health (MPH)

Joint MSW/MPH Degree Program (Updated February, 2009)

The School of Social Work and the Department of Health Science offer a joint MSW/MPH degree program. The two degrees are: Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Public Health (MPH) in Community Health Education. Students interested in pursuing the joint degree program must:

- Prepare and submit separate admissions applications to both programs
- Notify each program in writing of the intent to complete the joint degree program
- Be officially admitted to both degree programs
- Notify the NMSU Graduate School of the intent to complete the joint degree program
- Complete all course requirements for both degree programs
- Complete final examinations for both degree programs

If you are interested in pursuing this option please call and talk to the Graduate Program Coordinator in either department. It is anticipated that students in this program will take three to four academic years to complete the joint MSW/MPH degree programs.

Following is a recommended sequencing for the joint MSW/MPH degree program, effective beginning Fall, 2009. This is only a guide, and it does not represent a formal or official program of study. Please refer to the current graduate catalog for all requirements for both degrees, and please be sure to maintain close communication with your designated faculty advisors from each program.

MSW/MPH Joint Degree Curriculum (Updated February, 2009)	Credits
First Year: Fall	
MSW 505-Foundations of Professional Social Work MSW 510- HBSE I	3 credit 3 credit
MPH 500 –Orientation to Public Health (or elective)* MPH 520- Biostatistical Applications in Public Health	3 credit 3 credit (12 total)
First Year Spring	
MSW 511- HBSE II	3 credit
MPH 530- Epidemiological Approaches to Disease Control and Prevention MPH 540- Public Health Services and Design MPH 550- Environmental Public Health Issues MPH 56x- Cultural Foundations Course**	3 credit 3 credit 3 credit 3 credit (15 total)
First Year Summer	
MSW 500- Social Problems and Social Welfare Policy (summer 1) MSW 509- Socio-Cultural Concepts and Populations of the Southwest (summer 2)	3 credit 3 credit (6 total)
Second Year Fall	
MSW 520- Practice I: Social Work Practice MSW 551-Generalist Field Practicum I	3 credit 3 credit
MPH 579- Research and Resources in Community Health MPH 570- Foundations of Public Health Education	3credits 3 credit (12 total)

Second Year Spring	
MSW 503- Policy Analysis and Change MSW 521- Practice II: Social Work Practice MSW 552- Generalist Field Practicum II MSW 561- Advanced Generalist Research*** MPH 573- Community Organizing in Public Health	3 credit 3 credit 3 credit 3 credit 3 credit (15 total)
Second Year Summer	
MPH 596- Public Health Field Experience	3 credit (3 total)
Third Year Fall	
MSW 524-Practice III: Advanced Practice with Individuals MSW 525- Practice IV: Advanced Practice with Groups MSW 554- Advanced Generalist Field Practicum I MPH 572- Techniques in Health Communication and Education	3 credit 3 credit 3 credit 3 credit (12 total)
Third Year Spring	
MSW 526- Practice V: Advanced Practice with Families MSW 527- Practice VI: Advance Practice with Organization and Communities MSW 555- Advanced Generalist Field Practicum II MPH 574- Program Planning, Evaluation and Research MPH 597- Public Health Graduate Seminar	3 credit 3 credit 3 credit 3 credit 1 credit (13 total)
*MPH 500 can be waived for prior PH experience, must take elective in its place **Students have a choice of one course in the cultural foundation series (MPH 560-569) ***MSW 561 could also be taken in the fall of the third year, based on student preference Course equivalencies (courses dual students do not take): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPH 510- MSW 510 satisfies this requirement • MSW 560- MPH 579 satisfies this requirement • The six (6) MSW elective requirements are satisfied by MPH classes and the nine (9) MPH elective requirements are satisfied by MSW courses. There are no other electives required in the dual program. 	Total Credits: 88

NOTES:

- 1) It may be possible to complete separate MSW and the MPH final examinations concurrently in one session. This could be accomplished with 2 committee members from the MSW program and 2 committee members from the MPH program. One of the MSW faculty would serve as dean's rep for the MPH side of the exam, and vice versa. This concurrent final examination would be at the discretion of each individual committee chair for both programs.
- 2) Separate field experiences must be completed for each degree program, but it may be possible to complete each field experience at the same site, pending approval of both the MPH and the MSW field experience coordinators.
- 3) Separately the MSW and MPH degrees require a total of 109 credit hours (49 for the MPH + 60 for the MSW = 109 total). However, the joint MSW/MPH degree program can be completed with a total of 88 credit hours once all "overlap" has been accounted for, as summarized in the table below:

MPH		MSW	
49	Credit hours total	60	Credit hours total
-9	Electives satisfied with MSW courses	-3	Waive MSW 560
-3	Waive MPH 510	-6	Electives satisfied with MPH courses

37	Total MPH Credits	51	Total MSW Credits
	88 CREDIT HOURS TOTAL		

HISTORY:

- 1) The School of Social Work approved the proposal for a joint degree program at their March 10, 2006 faculty meeting.
- 2) The Department of Health Science approved the proposal for a joint degree program at their March 3, 2006 faculty meeting.
- 3) This joint graduate degree program was approved on May 4, 2006 by the New Mexico State University Graduate Council.
- 4) With the revision of the MSW curriculum effective beginning Fall 2009, the joint MSW/MPH curriculum was update in February, 2009 to become effective Fall, 2009.

WHY PURSUE A JOINT MSW/MPH DEGREE PROGRAM?

The following serve as some of the benefits from this joint degree program:

- 1) The values and ethics of both programs are similar, and both programs have an emphasis on social justice.
- 2) The programs complement each other: Public Health focuses on populations of people and is highly analytical; social work focuses on individual, groups, and communities within the social environment and provides both qualitative and quantities research classes.
- 3) Both programs heavily emphasize cross-cultural content in classes.
- 4) The MPH requires 160 clock hours of field experience for the entire program with supervision by an MPH or a Certified Health Education Specialist in an agency relevant to public health. The MSW field program has numerous placements that fit these criteria.
- 5) Completion of the MPH makes students eligible to take the Certified Health Education Specialist exam; Completion of the MSW makes students eligible for the MSW exams. Both add to graduates' employability.

There are 21 schools of social work that have joint MSW/MPH degrees. Most analogous to NMSU is San Diego State University with approximately 30 students enrolled in the joint degree program and a location on the border with Mexico. The degree is becoming increasing popular. Many students find this combined degree appealing, particularly if they are interested in public health and community outreach. Students from other countries and students who have served in the Peace Corps find that this degree furthers their careers in international service.