

UCLA Concurrent Degree Program Community Health Sciences and Social Welfare

This concurrent degree program leads to an M.S.W in Social Welfare and an M.P.H. in the School of Public Health with a specialization in the Department of Community Health Sciences. Public Health and Social Welfare are very complementary disciplines. Public Health teaches a population based approach to the assessment, assurance, and policy development of measures that promote and protect health. Professional MPH training equips students with the skills to plan, implement, and evaluate programs and policies that affect the health of population groups.

Similarly, professional training in Social Welfare prepares students to assess and resolve a range of social, economic, and psychological problems of individuals, groups and communities. Social work emphasizes an understanding of the ecological context in which human and social problems exist. This perspective enables social workers to respond to issues broadly by taking into account the environment in which they occur and the psychosocial factors affecting them. There are particular synergies between Social Welfare and Public Health where both disciplines work to protect and promote the well-being of specific populations, including children, families, elders, and underserved communities.

The Public Health skills in improving health care systems and health promotion programs, together with Social Welfare skills in addressing a wider set of social and psychological determinants of well-being, provide a particularly useful skill set for students who seek careers that bridge health and welfare. These two skill sets enhances students' ability to solve social problems by enabling them to make social policy that is congruent with needs of individuals, groups, and communities. Becoming familiar with a broad context and all the externalities that affect social policy provides direct service providers a valuable perspective that enables them to be more adept in influencing these policies that affect their work and the populations they serve.

In addition to offering students a structured interdisciplinary intellectual experience, a major purpose of the concurrent degrees is to shorten the time spent in residence by one year. Thus, the concurrent MPH/MSW degree takes three years instead of the four years that are required if each degree were completed separately.

Admissions

To enroll in the concurrent degree program, students are required to satisfy the regular independent admissions requirements of both degree programs. Acceptance into Social Welfare program does not guarantee admittance into the School of Public Health and vice versa. Students enrolled either in the MPH or MSW program may also apply for admission to the concurrent degree program in their first year of residence.

Concurrent Degree Program

The basic structure -- which this document describes -- is that each student takes the required first year in either Public Health or Social Welfare, followed by the required first year in the other program (Social Welfare or Public Health), and complete both degrees during the third year. The fixed times of the required prerequisite core courses in both programs repeatedly

conflict, necessitating that the suggested course of studies focus on one set of core courses at a time. Students are required to pass the MPH comprehensive exam, normally in their third year of the concurrent program, to receive the MPH degree. Similarly, before receiving the MSW, students are required to pass the MSW comprehensive exam, typically in the third year of the concurrent program.

The three year program for the concurrent degree requires 119 units: 67 under the MSW and 52 under the MPH. Tables 1 and 2 (attached) describe sample plans of study for students completing a concurrent MSW/MPH degree. Table 1 describes the plan of study for a student choosing to start in Community Health Sciences; Table 2 provides a plan for a student starting in Social Welfare. The particular courses would vary depending on the student's concentration in Social Welfare, but the total required units for each degree would remain constant. Students must qualify for graduation in both Community Health Sciences and Social Welfare to get either degree. Students may remain enrolled in the concurrent degree program following the first year so long as they are in good academic standing and are not on probationary status in either program.

Accommodating Current Students

Not every candidate for this concurrent degree will apply prior to entering graduate school. Some students already enrolled in one or the other program will become interested in this option only during their first year of graduate school. If they are in Social Welfare, the required Public Health course requirements will be taken in the second year. If they start in Public Health and later apply for the concurrent program, the second year of the program will focus on the required coursework in Social Welfare. The exact sequence of courses will have to be designed around what the student completed in their first year.

Internships/Field Placement

Social Welfare students complete two years of field practicum. The advanced practicum (SW402) follows the pattern of SW401 in the first year of Social Welfare coursework. In the concurrent degree, students starting in Social Welfare would complete the SW401 ABC during the first academic year of the program and SW402 ABC advanced field practicum during their third academic year. Students will fulfill the 400-hour internship requirement for the MPH by taking the SW402 ABC internship in the third year, but only after it is approved by the CHS fieldwork coordinator. Students who choose the SWIFG (clinical) social work concentration may be able to negotiate an advanced field practicum that meets the expectations of both Social Welfare (for clinical experience) and Public Health (for more "macro" experience). Otherwise, students will have to do an additional field practicum to fulfill their Public Health internship. Students starting in Public Health would complete their SW401 ABC internship during their second year, and their SW402 ABC internship as approved by both the Public Health fieldwork coordinator and the Social Welfare Field Director in their third year.

Fees

Because Public Health adopted a differential fee effective Fall 2005 and Social Welfare does not assess a similar fee, students do not pay the same fees for both degree programs. Students in the concurrent degree program will therefore be expected to pay the higher Public Health fee for four of the nine quarters of study, which is consistent with a normal course load of 12 units per quarter plus a summer internship to complete the MPH component of this degree.

MPH/MSW Concurrent Degree Program

PLAN OF STUDY

(starting with MPH)

Total units: 52 MPH
67 MSW

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
	Units		Units		Units
FALL QUARTER		FALL QUARTER		FALL QUARTER	
CHS 210 – Community Health Sciences	4	SW 230A – SWIFG and SW 240A – SWOCPS	2 + 3	SW231A- Advanced SWIFG 1 or SW241- Advanced SWOCPS 1	4
HS 100 – Health Services Organization	4	SW201A – Dynamics of Human Behavior I	3	CHS Elective 400 level	4
BIOS 100A – Introduction to Biostatistics	4	SW401A - Practicum	3	SW Electives (7 units total)	7
				SW 402A – Practicum *	4
WINTER QUARTER		WINTER QUARTER		WINTER QUARTER	
CHS 211A – Program Planning, Research, and Evaluation	4	SW 230B – SWIFG SW 240B- SWOCPS	2 3	SW231- Advanced SWIFG or SW241- Advanced SWOCPS	4
EPI 100 – Principles of Epidemiology	4	SW201B – Dynamics of Human Behavior II	3	CHS Elective (400 level) may be from internship	4
CHS – CHS Core Elective I	4	SW201C – Dynamics of Human Behavior III	3	SW 402B – Practicum	4
		SW401B – Practicum	3		
SPRING QUARTER		SPRING QUARTER		SPRING QUARTER	
CHS 211B – Program Planning, Research, and Evaluation	4	SW 230C – SWIFG and SW 221A - Foundations of Social Welfare Policy	2 + 4	SW231- Advanced SWIFG or SW241- Advanced SWOCPS	4
CHS Core Elective II	4	SW 202A for micro students; SW Elective for macro	2	CHS Elective	4
CHS Elective	4	EHS 100 – Intro to Environ Health	4	SW 402C – Practicum*	4
		SW410C - Practicum	3		
MPH Total Units	36	MPH Total Units	4	MPH Total Units	12
MSW Total Units	0	MSW Total Units	36	MSW Total Units	31

Total MPH Units 52
Total MSW Units 67

MSW/MPH Concurrent Degree Program

PLAN OF STUDY

(starting with MSW)

Total Units: **MSW 67 units**
MPH 52 units

YEAR 1	Units	YEAR 2	Units	YEAR 3	Units
FALL QUARTER		FALL QUARTER		FALL QUARTER	
SW 230A – SWIFG I and SW 240A – SWOCPS I	2 + 3	CHS 210 –Community Health Sciences	4	SW231A- Advanced SWIFG 1 or SW241- Advanced SWOCPS 1	4
SW 201A –Dynamics of human Behavior I	3	HS 100 – Health Services Organization	4	CHS Elective - 400 (may be from internship)	4
SW401A- Practicum	3	BIOS 100A – Introduction to Biostatistics	4	SW Elective (7 units total needed)	7
				SW 402A – Practicum	4
WINTER QUARTER		WINTER QUARTER		WINTER QUARTER	
SW230B – SWIFG II SW 240B- SWOCPS	2 3	CHS 211A - Program Planning, Research, and Evaluation	4	SW231- Advanced SWIFG or SW241- Advanced SWOCPS	4
SW201B – Dynamics of Human Behavior II	3	EPI 100 -- Principles of Epidemiology	4	CHS Elective 400 level	4
SW201C – Dynamics of Human Behavior III	3	CHS Core Elective I	4	CHS Elective	4
SW401B – Practicum	3			SW 402B – Practicum	4
SPRING QUARTER		SPRING QUARTER		SPRING QUARTER	
SW 230C – SWIFG III and SW221A-Foundations of Social Welfare Policy	2 4	CHS 211B - Program Planning, Research, and Evaluation	4	SW231- Advanced SWIFG or SW241- Advanced SWOCPS	4
SW 202A for micro students; SW Elective for macro	2	CHS Elective	4	EHS 100 – Introduction to Environmental Health	4
SW401C – Practicum	3	CHS Core Elective II	4	SW 402C – Practicum	4
MSW Total Units	36	MSW Total Units	36	MSW Total Units	67
MPH Total Units	0	MPH Total Units	36	MPH Total Units	52