



2009-2010

DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM:

J.D./M.P.H. (MASTER'S IN PUBLIC HEALTH) PROGRAM

Boston University

I. INTRODUCTION

A limited number of highly-motivated students are offered the opportunity to combine professional training in law and public health in the dual-degree program offered by the School of Law and the School of Public Health at Boston University. Successful candidates may be able to receive both the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree and a Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.) in seven-semester, which would otherwise take a minimum of four and one-half years. The program at Boston University offers a unique opportunity for such study. The Law School and the School of Public Health provide an unusually strong program in health-law courses, and the School of Public Health is the only public health school in the country today to offer a concentration in the field.

II. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the dual-degree program include:

A. Separate admission to the School of Law and to the Graduate School.

1.) For School of Law application procedures:

Please consult the Boston University School of Law website: <http://www.bu.edu/law/prospective/>.

2.) For School of Public Health:

Please consult the Boston University School of Public Health website:
sph.bu.edu/admissions

a.) Students ordinarily apply to the School of Public Health (SPH) before or during their first year of law school to begin the M.P.H. program in their second year of law school. Students can apply to

SPH to begin their master's degree program in January of their second year of law school; however, students then would be behind by one SPH course, and could lose the advantage of completing both degrees in seven semesters;

b.) SPH applications must include:

LSAT score;

Three letters of recommendation. SPH prefers that students submit new recommendations; however, applicants may submit copies of their three law school recommendations (and one new recommendation) IF there is documentation that the recommenders gave permission for the recommendations to be used for the SPH application. In any case, at least one of the recommendations must speak specifically to the applicant's potential in the field of public health;

Official transcripts;

Statement of Purpose and Objectives.

c.) The SPH Centralized Application is available at www.sophas.org

d.) Application deadlines for SPH:

--For **September** admission: **By February 1**, for notification by April 15

- B. To earn the M.P.H. degree, students must complete 48 credit hours, consisting of six core courses, four concentration courses, and four approved courses accepted from the School of Law that are relevant to public health.

NOTE: At least 32 of the 48 required credits must be from SPH courses.

1. The Core courses are:

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Health Policy and Management
- Environmental Health
- **Either** (1) Public Health Law (SPH Course) **OR**
(2) the Law School's Health Law Course (worth 4 **SPH** credits) plus Legal Strategies to Reduce Health Risks (SPH course)

NOTE: Law students take Public Health Law or Health Law instead of Essentials of Public Health Law.

2. Students must complete the requirements of one of the following concentrations:

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights
- Environmental Health
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Health Policy and Management
- International Health
- Maternal and Child Health

3. Subject to the approval of the dual-degree program faculty coordinator

at SPH, law students can transfer four **approved** LAW courses relevant to Public Health for credit toward the SPH elective requirement. (*Note:* These need not be 4-credit LAW courses. **Upon appropriate consultation with SPH**, four 3-credit LAW courses may be granted 4 SPH credits each). A list of approved courses is available from Dean Marx (Law School) and Professor Mariner (SPH).

- C. For the M.P.H. degree, students also must complete a Practicum, with or without course credit. Students may satisfy this requirement by taking Law J.D. 924 Legal Externship/Legal Ethics IF the course work is related to public health **and it is approved, in advance, both by the Law School and the School of Public Health**. Students may also find a practicum outside the Schools, in consultation with the SPH Practicum Office.
- D. After the first year of Law School, students may ordinarily apply toward the **J.D.** (law degree) up to **3** credits **per semester** (up to 12 credits **total**) of SPH courses.
NOTE: The School of Law and the School of Public Health are subject to different accreditation requirements, which means that the two schools calculate credits differently for the same course. Rules governing accreditation of law schools require that the School of Law grant credit according to the number of hours a course meets per week and the number of weeks the course meets. Thus, if an SPH course meets three hours per week, the School of Law can apply only 3 credits for that course toward the J.D. degree, even if SPH grants 4 credits for that course.
- E. A typical J.D./M.P.H. program is as follows:
- Year 1: First-year LAW program
 - Year 2: Each semester, three or more LAW courses; one SPH course*;
SPH Practicum requirement (can be done any time though)
 - Year 3: Each semester, three or more LAW courses; one SPH course*
 - End of Year 3: J.D. awarded
 - Year 4, Fall semester: Four SPH courses.

* Note that in some semesters students need to take 2 SPH courses if they wish to finish in seven semesters. Note also that students might be able to apply to the law degree only 1 SPH course in a semester depending on how many other SPH credits the student has applied to the law degree.

- F. The M.P.H. program may be expedited if SPH courses are taken during the summer session. However, the number of SPH summer courses is limited and currently includes one health law course. Also, tuition for the Law School program does not cover summer course work, as the School of Law does not have summer courses; thus, students taking summer SPH courses during Law School must pay additional tuition for those courses.
- G. All public health credits must be taken at Boston University's School of Public Health to fulfill the M.P.H. requirements.
- H. While students are attending both the School of Law and the School of Public Health, they pay only one tuition to the school of their matriculation. If students exceed 18 credits in a given semester, they will be charged additional tuition.
- I. To receive the **M.P.H.** degree, students must have a cumulative grade point average in courses taken at the School of Public Health of B (3.0), and a grade of B- (2.70) or better in each of the Core courses taken at SPH.

III. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

- A. (For **SPH** admissions information):

Judith E. Hull
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Boston University
School of Public Health
715 Albany Street, Talbot 2 C
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- B. (For **SPH** program information):

Professor Wendy Mariner
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Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights TW3
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C. (For **LAW** program information):

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School of Public Health: <http://sph.bu.edu/>

School of Law: <http://www.bu.edu/law/prospective/>