

Documents Reviewed: MD-MPH Joint Degree Program proposal at IUPUI

Summary of Proposal:

A joint effort of the Doctor of Medicine MD degree program and the MS graduate degree program of the School of Public Health. Implementation of this important collaboration will make possible completion of both the MD and MPH degrees in five years as opposed to the six years typically required by recent graduates who pursued these two degrees independently. Funding is available through a Health Resources and Services (HRSA) grant for stipend and programmatic support (e.g. delivery of online content).

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

Yes.

2. Is the program academically sound?

Yes.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate [joint MD-MPH degree] without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

Yes.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

None that was obvious to this reviewer.

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

This endeavor is well aligned with a larger strategic effort by the IUSM to increase opportunities for “interprofessional” education on the IUPUI campus and across the IU system. This joint degree supports IUPUI’s strategic planning goals for 2025, particularly as they relate to leveraging the strengths of its health and life sciences programs.

Other than a few typos (e.g. pg. 4, section iv. Item 1) the document reads well and makes a compelling argument for the many positive merits of this joint degree collaboration. The projected headcounts (pg. 6) seem reasonable and the use of existing courses and (mostly) administrative personnel suggest adequate institutional support is in place to deliver on the academic objectives of this program. I defer my opinion of the proposed 5-Year MD/MPH Curriculum (pg. 19) to someone more experienced with medical school education. But it all looks reasonable to me.

The proposal has the full support of this reviewer.