

Documents Reviewed: Memorandum, Program Description, Proposal for Joint Degree in Medicine and Public Health, Appendix 1

Summary of Proposal:

The Indiana University School of Medicine and Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health propose a five year joint MD-MPH program. The program will be administered by IUPUI and offer it to students on all nine School of Medicine campuses. Students will need to apply and be accepted to each program separately. MD students complete the curriculum needed for the MPH during the summer between the 1st and 2nd years of medical school and the 4th year of medical school. The medical school curriculum is then extended to a 5th and final year. Students complete 45 credits for the degree; 9-12 of these credits are offered for classes already taken as part of the MPH degree. A 1.4M Health Resources and Services grant recently received by Medicine and Public Health will be used to develop online public health content as well as provide stipends to interested MD-PHD students. The program is estimated to serve 5 new students in 2014 and increase to 8 in 2017. Appropriate and extensive justifications for program development in Indiana are outlined.

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

- a. Public health already offers joint degrees with a number of other professional schools and that sets precedence for success.
- b. The proposal states that 4 new courses are under development that will be integral for the success for the MD-MPH program. The proposal states that these courses will be available when the 1st group of MD-MPH program students is in their 4th year. No details are given as to how these courses are being developed.
- c. The proposal also states that online courses will be developed and that students at all nine School of Medicine campuses will be able enroll in the program. The availability of significant online courses (no details are given) or a requirement that students enroll in courses taught in Indianapolis would be required to achieve this goal. No details are given about how the online courses will be developed or how students at different campuses will take the courses.

2. Is the program academically sound?

The joint MD-MPH program is academically sound and is comparable to other MD-MPH programs at other universities. The MS-MPH program at the University of Iowa requires 42 credits. The MPH program at Johns Hopkins can be completed in 11 months by MD students. The University of Illinois at Chicago

has similar credit requirements as the proposed program. Most comparable programs have a similar timeline for completion of the MPH curriculum. Many of the other comparable programs listed in the proposal have options for certain areas of expertise within their programs. The proposed MD-MPH program, however, may be lacking depth as only a few courses may be chosen as elective options.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

As the proposal is written it is unclear how the new program will be administered and new courses will be developed. It is unknown which of the current faculty will develop and teach the 4 newly proposed courses. It is also unclear how the \$1.4M grant will be utilized to develop the online courses and how this will impact current faculty. The proposal states that no new University costs will be associated with the new program.

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

No overlap is known.

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

Recommend to approve with minor changes.

Would like more information on: online course development, who will develop the new courses, and how the \$1.4M grant will be used to develop the program. Additionally, the development of additional courses as the program progresses would be beneficial.