

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OF THE B.S. PUBLIC HEALTH AND MPH PROGRAM
ACCELERATED DUAL DEGREE PROPOSAL

Description of the New Academic Offering

A dual degree curriculum enables students to earn a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Public Health degree and a Master of Public Health (MPH) in an accelerated timeline. An undergraduate student, matriculated into this accelerated dual degree, would complete up to six MPH courses (18 credits) as Undergraduate PUBH students, allowing them to complete a graduate degree with one additional year of study.

Rationale for Adding this Offering to the Stockton Curriculum

These concentrations build upon the successes of the Stockton accelerated degree programs including [Criminal Justice](#) and [Literature/American Studies](#), and would hopefully lead the way for other accelerated degree options in the College of Health Sciences. The professional advantages of advanced study and field experiences in Public Health will reach a wider number of students, allowing them to capitalize on their undergraduate degree and accelerate the completion of the MPH degree at a reduced tuition cost compared to traditional paths of graduate study. Public Health education prepares students for rewarding and diverse careers in community-based organizations, health care organizations, academic settings, non-profit organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies, among others. Furthermore, the Stockton MPH program's approach prepares students to serve as evidence-based practitioners and leaders in public health, while serving communities locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Demand for the New Offering

Accelerated dual-degree programs continue to be popular across the state and nationwide. At Stockton, robust demand for accelerated degree programs signals wider undergraduate student interest in concentrations in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, particularly those programs that offer extensive opportunities for internship and fieldwork experiences, like public health. The addition of the B.S./MPH dual degree marks the first expansion of the accelerated dual-degree program in the College of Health Sciences at Stockton. Other than a program coordinator for the dual degree, implementation of the proposed accelerated dual degree program requires no additional Stockton University resources (i.e., library, ITS, new faculty lines). Future resource needs for each degree program will continue to be evaluated as part of the self-assessment and accreditation processes.

Brief Overview of the Curriculum

To be eligible for admission to the accelerated dual degree, students must earn a minimum of 96 credits including a minimum of 20 credit hours in the B.S. Public Health major courses. Students must also have a 3.2 G.P.A. in their B.S. Public Health major and have successfully completed two pre-requisite courses, each with a grade of B or better. **Students will be precepted by the Dual Degree Coordinator, as soon as they indicate their interest in this track and/or are accepted into the Dual Degree.** In the fourth year, students may take up to six MPH courses (18 graduate credits); these courses would count towards the students' undergraduate degree as Cognate courses. In addition, these six graduate courses (18 credits) would also fulfill requirements in the MPH program. This approach mirrors the Stockton [Dual BA/MA Degree Program in Criminal Justice](#) which also applies 18 credits from the graduate degree toward the

undergraduate degree. Following matriculation of the B.S. degree, in the summer of year four, students may complete their Applied Practice Experience (“internship”) and the MPH Summer Intensive, which allows them to complete the MPH in year five with the completion of 24 additional graduate credits.

Learning Outcomes

The accelerated dual degree in Public Health follows the learning outcomes in the B.S. Public Health. The learning objectives in the MPH program supplement and enhance those goals relative to the B.S. degree, and meet the rigorous accreditation requirements outlined by CEPH, including foundational public health knowledge and core competencies in areas such as:

- Profession & Science of Public Health
- Factors Related to Human Health
- Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health
- Public Health & Health Care Systems
- Planning & Management to Promote Health
- Policy in Health
- Leadership
- Communication
- Interprofessional and/or Intersectoral Practice
- Systems Thinking.

Through the training provided in this accelerated dual degree, our students will deepen their understanding of public health issues and gain additional professional skills, with the goal of developing graduates into public health leaders. The proposed accelerated dual degree program offers a clear benefit to students and offers an opportunity for Stockton University to grow, while contributing to and improving public health.