



UNIVERSITY SENATE

UNIVERSITY SENATE

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: Graduate Academic Council
University Planning & Policy Council

Date: April 24, 2006

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL, DUAL DEGREE
PROGRAM: M.S. BIOETHICS / M.P.H.
WITH ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE / THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF
UNION UNIVERSITY**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the University Senate approve the attached proposal as approved by the Graduate Academic Council and the University Planning & Policy Council.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.

Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree
Master of Science in Bioethics at Albany Medical College/
The Graduate College of Union University
and
Master of Public Health at the School of Public Health, University at Albany,
State University of New York

PROPOSED PROGRAM TITLE: Dual Jointly Registered Degree Program in Bioethics and Public Health

Titles and Program Code Numbers of Currently Registered Programs which are to be combined: Master of Science in Bioethics (Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union University) 24465 and 24642 (distance learning registration code). Master of Public Health (University at Albany, SUNY) 90104.

PROPOSED DEGREE: M.S./M.P.H.

HEGIS Classification and Number: Masters in Bioethics, 0499. Public Health, 1214 (M.P.H.)

Academic Units that will Offer the Program: Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union University (degree awarded by Graduate College of Union University) and School of Public Health, University at Albany, State University of New York.

PROPOSED STARTING DATE: Fall 2006

Summary of Program

Presently, the Center for Medical Ethics at Albany Medical College (College) and the Center for Bioethics and Clinical Leadership of The Graduate College of Union University (Union) jointly offers a Master of Science (MS) in Bioethics degree. The School of Public Health at the University at Albany, State University of New York (School) offers the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. The College/Union program and the School are proposing the introduction of a dual jointly registered MS/MPH degree. There will be three separate tracks in which students can choose from: MS/MPH with an Epidemiology concentration; MS/MPH with a Health Administration concentration; and MS/MPH with a Social Behavior and Community Health concentration. The proposed dual degree will prepare public health professionals to address the bioethical dilemmas they will inevitably encounter in the various institutions and organizations in which they work.

Individuals interested in pursuing an MS/MPH will be able to complete the degree in approximately 3 years. The MS in Bioethics normally requires 40 credits, while the MPH requires 45 to 51 credits, dependent upon the student's prior experience in public health or related fields. With the proposed dual degree, each program will recognize course credits granted by the other, including a portion of the internship credits. The total number of credit hours for the dual degree will be approximately 75 credits. The allocation of credits for the program can be found in Tables 1-3. The majority of the Bioethics courses and several of the Public Health courses are offered online. The distance learning option provides for flexibility in the students' schedules, allowing them the opportunity to complete their course of study in a timely manner.

This program will be accredited as a Council on Education for Public Health accredited MPH program under the School of Public Health's current accreditation.

A sample curriculum for the proposed dual degree program is displayed in Tables 4. An academic calendar for the sample curriculum is displayed in Table 5.

Rationale for the Program

MS in Bioethics degree

The MS in Bioethics degree is an interdisciplinary degree offering intensive education in bioethics for persons from many disciplines, including medicine, healthcare administration, law, nursing, pharmacy, and

social work. The program, based on a trimester calendar, is offered through online courses and short-term intensive sessions designed for working healthcare professionals. It covers a range of bioethical issues including healthcare policy, law, biomedical issues, research ethics, and reproductive ethics. It includes a strong emphasis on practical application in health settings. The curriculum is modeled on the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Core Competencies for Clinical Consultants. In addition to the MS degree, the College/Union program also offers a Certificate in Bioethics, with two specializations: health policy and law; and clinical ethics. The Certificate program was designed in response to the needs reported by hospital administrators and hospital ethics committees. It was specifically designed for health professionals, lawyers, pharmaceutical representatives, and administrators seeking advanced training in bioethics.

MPH degree

The School of Public Health currently offers a Master in Public Health (MPH) degree, which is considered a terminal degree for the front-line public health worker. Students enrolled in the MPH program are expected to choose one of six areas of concentration: social behavior and community health; biomedical sciences; biostatistics; environmental health; epidemiology, and health policy and administration. Students develop an area of concentration through taking several courses in that specific area in addition to the required core courses. Other degrees offered by the School include the DrPH that is offered through the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, as well as MS and PhD programs offered through individual departments (the PhD degree in Health Policy, Management and Behavior is in its final development phase). The School also offers a Certificate in Public Health Fundamentals and Principles aimed primarily at public health professionals. This certificate is composed of six of the core courses required for an MPH degree.

The MPH degree with a concentration in epidemiology prepares graduates in developing skills in the practice and teaching of investigating the causes of disease occurrence in populations, including characteristics of individuals and their physical and social environment. The major goal of the program is to provide understanding of the theory, methods and knowledge of the science of epidemiology for students who plan to be employed in multiple settings, including universities, governmental agencies, health care facilities and private industry.

The MPH degree with a concentration in health administration prepares graduates for beginning level professional public health careers in management, supervisory, and program development in local, state, and federal public health organizations as well as private organizations dedicated to public health issues. The School is committed to develop a competent local and regional workforce to deal with significant public health issues, including AIDS, minority health, injury control, environmental and occupational sciences, cancer prevention, and the politics and economics attendant on the fast changing health care field.

The MPH degree with a concentration in social behavior and community health prepares graduates for careers in quantitative and qualitative research, program planning, implementation, evaluation, health education, health disparities and policy advocacy. Students focus on the health of populations, as well as on the ways in which these factors influence policy development and the organization of public health programs and service delivery in communities.

MS in Bioethics/MPH degree

The proposed dual degree will further advance each program's goal of engaging professionals from other disciplines; in this instance, bioethics students in public health issues and public health students in the challenging area of bioethics. The development of such a degree is timely given that bioethics and public health are crossing paths more than ever. Issues ranging from preventing and treating chronic diseases to the ethical guidelines and implementation of genomics, stem cell research and even public policy issues such as health disparities, cultural competency, and public health preparedness require an understanding of both disciplines. This degree will aim to provide such an understanding and skills to address issues and concerns shared by both disciplines.

Potential Demand for the MS/MPH Degree

It is expected that the first few years of offering the degree will witness a moderate level of student enrollment (1-2 students). However, each institution foresees an increase in enrollment as more students acknowledge the utility of such a degree. The MS/MPH degree is designed to primarily attract public health professionals who are interested in acquiring bioethics-related knowledge and training. It is

expected that prospective students will come from a variety of disciplines and will include public health professionals, administrators, physicians, nurses, lawyers, philosophers, legislators, and research scientists. The availability and accessibility (geographical and financial) of such a degree will provide them the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skill base. Also, being able to complete a significant portion of the degree via distance learning will be of great value to the students.

Graduates of the program will undoubtedly become the “go-to” professionals in their organizations for a host of specialized needs such as guidance on Institutional Review Board issues, serving on ethics committees, and advising policy makers.

Enrollment in the MPH program at the School has been between 50-75 students per year.

Enrollment in the MS in Bioethics program is 10 to 15 students per year, mostly working professionals in health care fields who appreciate the part-time distance-learning program.

General Requirements

Please note: The MS in Bioethics Program is comprised of 12 courses, and a total of 40 credits. Each course is worth an equal number of credits. To compare the College/Union credit system to that of the University at Albany’s credit system, we divided 40 credits by 12 courses, which results in each Bioethics course counting as 3.33 credits. The MS in Bioethics/PhD in Philosophy dual degree proposal, which was approved by the University at Albany Senate, set the precedent for delineating the credits this way. To ease communication with students, it is expected that the number of credits will be rounded to the nearest whole number when marketing the program, and when advising students.

The Masters in Bioethics curriculum is composed of 12 courses (40 credits), consisting of a proseminar, six standard courses, an online clinical practicum, an on-site clinical practicum, a Masters Project and a capstone course. One course, BIE 520, Health Care Policy, will be replaced with the public health course HPM 500, Introduction to Healthcare Organization, Delivery and Financing. As part of the School of Public Health’s accreditation, courses meeting particular MPH competency requirements must be taken by all MPH students. Since there was considerable overlap between BIE 520 and HPM 500, and considering that HPM 500 meets the accreditation requirements, students in the dual degree will be required to take HPM 500. The remainder of the MS in Bioethics courses are required for the dual degree; however, two to four of the courses (6.66-13.32 credits) will fulfill requirements for both the MS and the MPH, including 0-2 electives and the Masters Project I and II. The degree requirements for the MS in Bioethics degree is listed in Table 6.

The School of Public Health has four departments: (1) Health Policy, Management and Behavior, (2) Epidemiology and Biostatistics, (3) Environmental Health Sciences, and (4) Biomedical Sciences. Students in the MPH program are expected to choose one of six areas of concentration that include: social behavior and community health, biomedical sciences, biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, and health administration. Students develop an area of concentration through taking several courses in that specific area in addition to the seven required core courses. The MPH degree consists of 51 credits. The curriculum is composed of seven core courses (21 credits), four to five courses in one of the six designated tracks (12-15 credits), one to two electives (3-6 credits) and two to three internships (6-12 credits: the number of credits required is dependent on the student’s prior experience in public health). The degree requirements for the Master of Public Health, with concentrations in epidemiology, health administration, and social behavior and community health is presented in Table 7.

Specific Requirements

Admissions

To be considered for admission into the MS/MPH program, applicants must be accepted and matriculate in both programs through the admissions process of each program. Students will complete two applications: 1) The University at Albany, SUNY, Degree Application for Graduate Study and 2) The MS in Bioethics application through Albany Medical College/The Graduate College of Union University. On each application, students will designate their program of study as the MS in Bioethics/MPH dual degree program. Students will be allowed to apply to the dual degree program during their first semester, if they

are already matriculated in either the MS or MPH program. There will be a joint admissions committee, with representatives from both institutions, to make admission decisions.

To be considered for matriculated student status in the MS in Bioethics program, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree and have submitted a complete application, including an essay, three letters of recommendation, official transcripts from the institution offering the highest degree attained, the New York State immunization form, and an application fee. The Admissions committee may also require a standardized test.

The admission requirements for the MPH program* include:

1. Basic admission criteria: Must hold a bachelor's degree from a college or university of recognized standing.
 - a. Grade point average of 3.00 or better.
 - b. One year of biology (either basic biology or physiology or microbiology).
 - c. A college level course in mathematics (algebra) or statistics.
 - d. A semester of social sciences.
2. Graduate Record Exam (GRE): All applicants must submit GRE scores to be considered for admission. Scores on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) may be substituted for the GRE. Prospective students may also submit MCAT scores for consideration.
3. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score on the TOEFL prior to being considered for admission. The minimal acceptable score is 600 on the paper-based test or 250 on the computer-based test.
4. Letters of Recommendation: All applicants must submit three (3) letters of recommendation prior to being considered for admission. At least one letter must be from a former university teacher.
5. Statement: All applicants must submit a statement explaining why they wish to pursue a career in public health. There is no limit to the length of the narrative statement. These statements are judged for grammar and spelling as well as for content. The admission committee evaluates not only the academic preparation of candidates, but the degree to which the candidate's goals are appropriate for the program.

* Note: Some concentrations may require more mathematics or science courses than the basic requirements.

Both in-state and out-of-state residents will be encouraged to apply to the dual degree program. Students will be charged tuition separately by each institution. At the University at Albany, students are billed at in-state or out-of-state tuition rates based on their residency status as defined by SUNY Board of Trustees policy.

Required courses for proposed dual degree

The required courses for the proposed dual jointly-registered Master's Program in Bioethics and Public Health are listed in Tables 1-3. All required courses are offered 1-2 times per year.

All Bioethics courses (designated as BIE in the course number) will be offered either on-site at Union College or Albany Medical Center, or online. All public health courses (designated as BMS, EPI, EHT, HPM, SPH and STA) will be taught at the School of Public Health's East Campus, or offered via distance learning, when available.

For the epidemiology concentration, the 77.97-78.63 credit proposed dual degree includes 5 required bioethics courses, 2 bioethics and/or public health electives, 2 clinical practicums (an 8 week online

practicum and a 1 week on-site practicum), 10 required public health courses (including STA 553 which fulfills the quantitative course requirement), 2 electives in epidemiology, a 6 credit public health internship, with an epidemiological focus, and corresponding seminar (0 credit), and a Bioethics Masters Project I and II conducted in a public health setting (6.66 credits).

For the health administration concentration, the 74.97-75.96 credit proposed dual degree includes 5 required bioethics courses, 2 bioethics and/or public health electives, 2 clinical practicums (an 8 week online practicum and a 1 week on-site practicum), 10 required public health courses, 1 quantitative course, a 6 credit public health internship, with a health administration focus, and corresponding seminar (0 credit), and a Bioethics Masters Project I and II conducted in a public health setting (6.66 credits).

For the social behavior and community health concentration, students will take 5 required bioethics courses, 2 bioethics and/or public health electives, 2 clinical practicums (an 8 week online practicum and a 1 week on-site practicum), 10 required public health courses, 1 quantitative course, a 6 credit public health internship, with a social behavior/community health focus, and corresponding seminar (0 credit), and a Bioethics Masters Project I and II conducted in a public health setting (6.66 credits).

Courses and credits that will be used to satisfy requirements for both degrees

Tables 1-3 indicate how credit will be allocated toward each degree. The courses that meet requirements of both degrees are in the center column. Students will choose two electives from the Bioethics and Public Health electives. In addition, the Masters Project I and II of the Bioethics program will count as 6 credits of public health internship, since the student will be required to complete the Masters Project in a public health setting. There will be oversight from the Internship Coordinator at the School of Public Health, and program coordinators and advisors in both the School and College/Union program, to ensure that requirements are being met to satisfy standards of each program. The two programs will work together in identifying practicum opportunities that incorporate both bioethics and public health experiences and will mutually agree upon the project.

Number of semesters required for dual degree completion

A sample curriculum is laid out in Table 4. The degree is expected to take three academic years and three summers to complete. The distance learning option provides greater flexibility than traditional graduate level, dual degree programs. It is expected that each student will tailor their program to best fit their needs. The advisors in each program will assist the student in planning out their course of study. The MS in Bioethics program is based on a trimester calendar. The fall term begins in early September and runs through mid-November. The winter term begins in early January and ends in mid-March. The spring term begins in late March and continues through early June. The MPH program is based on a semester calendar. The fall term begins in late August and continues through late December. The spring term commences in late January and ends in mid-May. During the summer, there are 4, 6 and 12 week offerings, depending on the course. There will be overlap between College/Union's winter and spring trimesters with School's spring semester. Upon successful completion of the dual degree program, students will be granted two separate degrees: an MS in Bioethics from the Graduate College of Union University and an MPH from the School of Public Health, University at Albany, SUNY.

Assuring program quality

Several means exist to assure program quality. First, the MPH degree program is accredited by an external accrediting body, the Council on Education for Public Health. It is reviewed periodically by outside reviewers and must meet rigorous standards. The MS in Bioethics program uses a curriculum designed to satisfy the current core competencies for clinical ethics consultation standards of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities. Faculty members in both programs have formal mechanisms for periodic review of curriculum, including the content and relevance of courses that fulfill degree requirements.

Annual evaluations of the MS/MPH will be conducted in coordination between the School and the College/Union. Revisions will be made as needed to the study plan and other aspects if needed.

Student Advising

Upon entering the MS/MPH program, students will be assigned two faculty advisors: one in the MS in Bioethics program and one in the MPH program. This will assist in ensuring that their needs as students in both programs are met. Training opportunities will be provided to advisors to prepare them in addressing the specific needs of dual degree students. In addition, there will be an administrative contact in each

program to oversee administrative issues related to the dual degree program. With the College/Union program, this responsibility will be based out of each of the Co-Director's offices. At the School of Public Health, this point person will be based out of the Associate Dean for Academic Programs' office. All parties will work closely with one another to keep informed of all administrative issues pertaining to the dual degree program.

Table 1
Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree
Master of Science in Bioethics at the Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union University and
Master of Public Health, Epidemiology concentration, at the School of Public Health,
University at Albany, State University of New York
Allocation of Credits to the Degree Programs

Credits counting toward Master of Science in Bioethics only	Credits counting toward both degrees	Credits counting toward Master of Public Health only
BIE 500 Proseminar in Health and Human Values (3.33 credits**) BIE 510 Biomedical Ethics (3.33 credits) BIE 530 Bioethics & The Law (3.33 credits) BIE 590 Clinical Ethics (3.33 credits) BIE 610 Online Clinical Practicum (3.33 credits) BIE 620 On site Clinical Practicum (3.33 credits) BIE 650 Capstone in Clinical Ethics (3.33 credits)	<i>Bioethics/Public Health Electives (Choose two):</i> BIE 545 Reproductive Ethics (3.33 credits); OR BIE 555 Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity (3.33 credits); OR BIE 565 Empirical Research Methods in Bioethics (3.33 credits) OR Any School of Public Health elective(s) as approved by advisor (3.00 credits for each course) BIE 630 Masters Project I (3.33 credits) BIE 640 Masters Project II (3.33 credits)	BMS 505 Biological Basis of Public Health (3 credits)* EHT 590 Introduction to Environmental Health (3 credits) EPI 501 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology I (3 credits) EPI 502 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology II (3 credits) EPI 503 Principles of Public Health (3 credits) EPI 514 Computer Programming for Data Management and Analysis in Public Health (3 credits) EPI 6XX 600-level epidemiology elective (3 credits) EPI 6XX 600-level epidemiology elective (3 credits) HPM 500 Health Care Organization, Delivery and Finance (3 credits) HPM 525 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (3 credits) STA 552 Principles of Statistical Inference I (3 credits) STA 553 Principles of Statistical Inference II (3 credits) SPH 680 Seminar for Public Health Internship (0 credit; 2 semesters) SPH 69X Public health internship (6 credits)
23.31 credits	12.66-13.32 credits	42.00 credits

*BMS 505, Biological Basis of Public Health, may be waived if the student has a clinical background (MD, certain PhDs, etc.)

**40 credits divided by 12 courses = 3.33 credits per course

Table 2
Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree
Master of Science in Bioethics at the Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union University and
Master of Public Health, Health Administration concentration, at the School of Public Health,
University at Albany, State University of New York
Allocation of Credits to the Degree Programs

Credits counting toward Master of Science in Bioethics only	Credits counting toward both degrees	Credits counting toward Master of Public Health only
BIE 500 Proseminar in Health and Human Values (3.33 credits) BIE 510 Biomedical Ethics (3.33 credits**) BIE 530 Bioethics & The Law (3.33 credits) BIE 590 Clinical Ethics (3.33 credits) BIE 610 Online Clinical Practicum (3.33 credits) BIE 620 On site Clinical Practicum (3.33 credits) BIE 650 Capstone in Clinical Ethics (3.33 credits)	<i>Bioethics/Public Health Electives (Choose two):</i> BIE 545 Reproductive Ethics (3.33 credits); OR BIE 555 Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity (3.33 credits); OR Any School of Public Health elective(s) as approved by advisor (3.00 credits for each course) BIE 630 Masters Project I (3.33 credits) BIE 640 Masters Project II (3.33 credits)	BMS 505 Biological Basis of Public Health (3 credits)* EHT 590 Introduction to Environmental Health (3 credits) EPI 501 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology I (3 credits) EPI 503 Principles of Public Health (3 credits) HPM 500 Health Care Organization, Delivery and Finance (3 credits) HPM 525 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (3 credits) STA 552 Principles of Statistical Inference I (3 credits) HPM 501 Health Policy Analysis and Management (3 credits) HPM 641 Principles of Health Organization Management (3 credits) HPM 650 Strategy and Leadership Applications in Health Management (3 credits) SPH 680 Seminar for Public Health Internship (0 credit; 2 semesters) SPH 69X Public health internship (6 credits) <i>Quantitative Requirement (choose 1):</i> BIE 565 Empirical Research Methods in Bioethics (3.33 credits); OR STA 553 Principles of Statistical Inference II (3 credits); OR HPM 550 Financial Management (3 credits); OR HPM 647 Program Evaluation (3 credits); OR HPM 669 Economic Evaluation (3 credits)
23.31 credits	12.66-13.32 credits	39.00-39.33 credits

*BMS 505, Biological Basis of Public Health, may be waived if the student has a clinical background (MD, certain PhDs, etc.)

**40 credits divided by 12 courses = 3.33 credits per course

Table 3
Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree
Master of Science in Bioethics at the Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union University and
Master of Public Health, Social Behavior and Community Health concentration, at the School of Public Health,
University at Albany, State University of New York
Allocation of Credits to the Degree Programs

Credits counting toward Master of Science in Bioethics only	Credits counting toward both degrees	Credits counting toward Master of Public Health only
BIE 500 Proseminar in Health and Human Values (3.33 credits**) BIE 510 Biomedical Ethics (3.33 credits) BIE 530 Bioethics & The Law (3.33 credits) BIE 590 Clinical Ethics (3.33 credits) BIE 610 Online Clinical Practicum (3.33 credits) BIE 620 On site Clinical Practicum (3.33 credits) BIE 650 Capstone in Clinical Ethics (3.33 credits)	<i>Bioethics/Public Health Electives (Choose two):</i> BIE 545 Reproductive Ethics (3.33 credits); BIE 555 Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity (3.33 credits); OR Any School of Public Health elective(s) as approved by advisor BIE 630 Masters Project I (3.33 credits) BIE 640 Masters Project II (3.33 credits)	BMS 505 Biological Basis of Public Health (3 credits)* EHT 590 Introduction to Environmental Health (3 credits) EPI 501 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology I (3 credits) EPI 503 Principles of Public Health (3 credits) HPM 500 Health Care Organization, Delivery and Finance (3 credits) HPM 525 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (3 credits) STA 552 Principles of Statistical Inference I (3 credits) HPM 521 Introduction to Family and Community Health (3 credits) HPM 627 Public Health Education (3 credits) SPH 680 Seminar for Public Health Internship (0 credit; 2 semesters) SPH 69X Public health internship (6 credits) SPH XXX Public Health elective (3 credits) <i>Quantitative Requirement (choose 1):</i> BIE 565 Empirical Research Methods in Bioethics (3.33 credits); OR STA 553 Principles of Statistical Inference II (3 credits); OR HPM 520 Fundamentals of Research Design (3 credits); OR HPM 647 Program Evaluation (3 credits)
23.31 credits	12.66-13.32 credits	39.00-39.33 credits

*BMS 505, Biological Basis of Public Health, may be waived if the student has a clinical background (MD, certain PhDs, etc.)

**40 credits divided by 12 courses = 3.33 credits per course

Table 4
Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree
Master of Science in Bioethics at the Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union
University and Master of Public Health (Epidemiology concentration) at the School of Public Health,
University at Albany, State University of New York

3-Year Sample Curriculum

Time Frame	Master of Science in Bioethics	Master of Public Health
Year 1 Summer	BIE 500 Proseminar in Health & Human Values	Option: EPI 501 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology I (Online)
Year 1 Fall	BIE 510 Biomedical Ethics	EPI 501 (If did not take during summer; Can also be taken in Spring semester); STA 552 Principles of Statistical Inference I EPI 514 Computer Programming for Data Management and Analysis in Public Health SPH 680 Seminar for Public Health Internship (0 credit)
Year 1 Winter		
Year 1 Spring	BIE 530 Bioethics & The Law	EPI 503 Principles of Public Health STA 553 Principles of Statistical Inference II SPH 680 Seminar for Public Health Internship (0 credit)
Year 2 Summer		SPH 69X Public Health Internship (6 credits)
Year 2 Fall		**BMS 505 Biological Basis of Public Health HPM 500 Health Care Organization, Delivery and Finance HPM 525 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health
Year 2 Winter	BIE 590 Clinical Ethics	
Year 2 Spring	BIE 610 Online Clinical Practicum (10 Weeks) BIE 620 Onsite Clinical Practicum (1 week)	EPI 502 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology II EHT 590 Introduction to Environmental Health
Year 3 Summer	*Elective: BIE 545 Reproductive Ethics	
Year 3 Fall	*Elective: BIE 555 Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity OR BIE 565 Empirical Research Methods in Bioethics OR Any public health elective as approved by advisor	EPI 6XX Epidemiology elective EPI 6XX Epidemiology elective
Year 3 Winter	BIE 630 Masters Project I (conducted in public health setting)	
Year 3 Spring	BIE 640 Masters Project II (conducted in public health setting) BIE 650 Capstone in Clinical Ethics (1 week)	

* Students select two elective courses from Bioethics and Public Health electives.

** If the student has a clinical background (M.D., certain Ph.D.s, etc.), BMS 505, Biological Basis of Public Health, may be waived.

Table 5
3-Year Sample Academic Calendar
for MS in Bioethics/MPH Curriculum

<u>Year 1</u>	MS in Bioethics	MPH
July		
August	Proseminar	
September	1 course	3 courses + Seminar
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		2 courses + Seminar
March		
April	1 course	
May		
June		

Table 5, Continued

<u>Year 2</u>	MS in Bioethics	MPH
July		Public Health Internship
August		
September		
October		3 courses
November		
December		
January		
February	1 course	
March		2 courses
April		
May	Clinical Practicums	
June		

Table 5, Continued

<u>Year 3</u>	MS in Bioethics	MPH
July	1 course	
August		
September	1 course	2 courses
October		
November		
December		
January		
February	Masters Project I	
March		
April	Masters Project II + 1 week Capstone	
May		
June		

Note 1: Due to the nature of each program, there is a great deal of flexibility allowed for students to complete their coursework. This sample is only one of many possible combinations.

Note 2: The number of courses students take at any given time is very reasonable. There is minimal overlap across terms between the two institutions (i.e. the Public Health Fall term courses end before the Bioethics Winter term courses begin).

Table 6
Master of Science in Bioethics at the Albany Medical College and
The Graduate College of Union University

Degree Requirements

The MS degree is comprised of 12 courses, including 2 practica, a thesis project and a capstone seminar. Each course is worth 3.33 credit hours and the degree usually takes three years to complete. The program's short summer sessions and distance learning format is primarily designed to serve the needs of working health professionals.

(40 credits)

BIE 500 Pro-seminar in Health and Human Values, On site

BIE 520 Health Care Policy, Distance Learning

BIE 510 Biomedical Ethics, Distance Learning

BIE 530 Bioethics and the Law, Distance Learning

BIE 545 Reproductive Ethics, Distance Learning, Elective

BIE 555 Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity, Distance Learning, Elective

BIE 565 Empirical Research Methods in Bioethics, Distance Learning, Elective

BIE 590 Clinical Ethics, Distance Learning

BIE 620 Practicum I in Clinical Ethics, On site

BIE 610 On-line Practicum, Distance Learning

BIE 630 Masters Project I, Distance Learning

BIE 640 Masters Project II, Distance Learning

BIE 650 Capstone Clinical Ethics, On site

Table 7
Master of Public Health at the School of Public Health,
University at Albany, State University of New York

Degree Requirements

The program leading to the MPH degree requires 45 to 51 credits, including 6-12 credits of internships, depending on the student's prior experience in public health or related fields. For students with a bachelor's degree and no graduate education or experience in the field, it is expected that at least two years of full time study will be needed to complete the program.

Core Curriculum, 24 Credits*:

EPI 501 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology I (3);
 STA 552 Principles of Statistical Inferences I (3);
 HPM 500 Health Care Organization, Delivery and Financing (3);
 EPI 503 Principles of Public Health (3);
 BMS 505 Biological Basis of Public Health (3);
 EHT 590 Introduction to Environmental Health (3);
 HPM 525 Social and Behavioral Aspect of Public Health (3); and
 One quantitative course that requires the use of computers and/or statistics for analysis of data. The specific courses accepted for each concentration are listed below.

*Students are required to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the eight core courses (EPI 501, STA 552, HPM 500, EPI 503, BMS 505, EHT 590, HPM 525, and one quantitative course)

Internship and Seminar: 6-12 credits

Students will complete at least 6 credits of internship in their area of concentration and at least 3 credits of internships must be in a different area. Students must register for two semesters of SPH 680, Seminar for Public health Internship (0 credit).

Concentration Requirements, 15 Credits

Epidemiology Concentration

Quantitative course: EPI 553 Principles of Statistical Inferences II (3);
 EPI 514 Computer Programming (3),
 EPI 502 Principles and Methods of Epidemiology II (3),
 Two 600 level EPI courses, and
 Choice of one elective in any department as approved by advisor.

Table 7, continued

Social Behavior and Community Health Concentration

Quantitative course (choose ONE of the following):
 STA 553 Principles of Statistical Inferences II (3), OR
 HPM 520 Fundamentals of Research Design (3), OR
 HPM 647 Program Evaluation (3);
 HPM 521 Introduction to Family and Community Health (3);
 HPM 627 Public Health Education (3); and
 Choice of three electives as approved by advisor.

Health Administration Concentration

Quantitative course (choose ONE of the following):
 STA 553 Principles of Statistical Inference II (3), OR
 HPM 550 Financial Management (3), OR
 HPM 647 Program Evaluation (3), OR
 HPM 669 Economic Evaluation (3);
 HPM 501 Health Policy Analysis and Management (3);
 HPM 641 Principles of Health Organization Management (3);
 HPM 650 Strategy and Leadership Applications in Health Management (3); and
 Choice of two electives in any department as approved by advisor.

The Graduate College of UNION UNIVERSITY

Reach a Higher Degree of Excellence

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Telephone: 518.388.6148 | Fax: 518.388.6686

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March 1, 2006

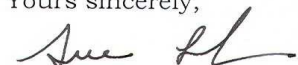
Peter J. Levin, Sc.D., Dean
School of Public Health, University at Albany, SUNY
One University Place, GEC 100
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Dear Dr. Levin

I am writing on behalf of the Graduate College of Union University to endorse our joint proposal for dual MS-MPH degree program in Bioethics and Public Health. Our five-year-old bioethics program, it has graduated two classes and now enrolls over 15 new students per year. Since bioethics is an inherently collaborative and interdisciplinary field, from the time that this program was first envisioned we hoped to launch several joint degree programs with our sister institutions in the Capital District. As it turned out, they too have been excited about the potential for collaboration. We currently offer an MS Bioethics/MSW program with the SUNY School of Social Work and an MS Bioethics/PhD in Philosophy program with the Department of Philosophy at the University at Albany (SUNY).

We are delighted to extend our collaboration with SUNY to the School of Public Health. Together we can offer students interested in an integrated educational curriculum in bioethics and public health the possibility of completing both degrees within three years. This dual degree program can offer internship experiences and career opportunities comparable to the best programs in the country. I believe that the dual degree will prepare public health students to face bioethical dilemmas that they will face after graduation and will prepare bioethics students to understand and address the ethical dimensions of public health medicine in the post 9/11.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Lehrman, President

www.graduatecollege.union.edu



TO: Members of the Graduate Academic Council

FROM: Peter J. Levin, Sc.D., Dean *PJ*

SUBJECT: Master of Science in Bioethics/Master of Public Health Joint Degree

DATE: March 14, 2006

I strongly support the proposed MS in Bioethics/MPH joint degree program which the School of Public Health has developed with the Bioethics program administered by Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union University. The School of Public Health's Academic Committee has approved the joint degree and I fully endorse the program.

Bioethics and public health are increasingly overlapping as issues related to genomics, stem cell research, and public health preparedness are today's hot topics. Preparing public health professionals to address the ethical dilemmas associated with these, and other, public health issues will be a key advantage in ensuring that the social, emotional, and physical needs of the public are being met.

We have been actively involved with the Alden March Bioethics Institute at Albany Medical College and its new Director, Dr. Glenn McGee. This joint degree program is a natural extension of our involvement in the Institute. Our students will have outstanding opportunities to participate in challenging practicums and will have access to faculty who are committed both to public health and bioethics.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 402-0281. I look forward to our School contributing to the advancement of innovative programs at the University at Albany.