

2.0 Instructional Program

2.11 Joint Degrees. If the program offers joint degree programs, the required curriculum for the professional public health degree shall be equivalent to that required for a separate public health degree.

***Interpretation.** Public health programs, in cooperation with other degree-granting units in the institution, may offer joint, coordinated, concurrent or dual degrees, such as the MD/MPH, MBA/MPH and MPH/MSW. For the purposes of these criteria, all of these terms are synonymous and refer to programs of study that the program advertises to students as allowing them to complete a public health degree along with, or in concert with, a second, separate degree program.*

The required curriculum of the public health component of these joint degrees must be comparable to the curriculum in the separate public health degree. Any “course sharing” that allows courses or other experiences from the non-public-health degree to replace courses that would otherwise be required for a separate public health degree must be identified and supported by a competency-based analysis. Thus, the program must document that the curriculum for a joint degree addresses all of the competencies associated with the standalone public health degree.

Required Documentation. The self-study document should include the following:

- a. Identification of joint degree programs offered by the program. The instructional matrix in Criterion 2.1.a may be referenced for this purpose.
- b. A list and description of how each joint degree program differs from the standard degree program. The program must explain the rationale for any credit-sharing or substitution as well as the process for validating that the joint degree curriculum is equivalent.
- c. Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the program’s strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion.