MEMORANDUM

To: John Schmitt
From: Debra Nelson-Gardell
Date: June 6, 2007
Subject: MSW/MPH Dual Degree Correspondence

I've enclosed copies of materials I hope will be of help regarding the System's knowledge of the UA/UAB shared MSW/MPH degree.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dean Ron Rogers
FROM: Lucinda Lee Roff
RE: Coordinated Graduate Degree Programs

I write to follow up on our discussion of April 11 about the possibility of the School's developing coordinated graduate degree programs with the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the UAB School of Public Health.

At the master's level our discussions have focused on a coordinated program that would permit a student to earn both the M.S.W. and M.P.H. in Maternal and Child Health by taking fewer hours than would be required if the student were to complete the requirements for each degree independently. Specifically, we envision an arrangement whereby the student would:

a. meet admissions requirements of the Graduate School of each institution and the M.P.H. and M.S.W. programs

b. be assigned advisors in each program who would help the student work out a program of study that meets the degree requirements of both programs, but where up to 21 hours (of which 9 hours are internship/field education) could be applied simultaneously to both degree programs, thus achieving a time advantage for the student enrolled in the coordinated degree program.

I understand that you think the most efficient mechanism to implement such a degree is an agreement between the two graduate schools about what courses would appropriately count for both degrees. Such courses would be accepted by one graduate school as transfer credit from the other. I further understand that you believe that up to 21 hours (including internship) could be so counted, with an appropriate educational rationale for the courses to be "double counted."

There is also some interest in continuing the practice of encouraging our Ph.D. students to earn the M.P.H. degree at UAB during their doctoral study and counting some of the M.P.H. hours as the doctoral minor. I understand from you that there is no problem with this arrangement, and that we can simply continue to count 12 semester hours of M.P.H. courses as applying as minor credit to the Ph.D. at The University of Alabama. (Additional hours earned at UAB might also be transferred upon recommendation of the Ph.D. program chair.)

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

L. L. R.

dtc

Dr. Ray Sumrall
Dr. Durrenda Onolemhemhen

Dr. Lorraine Klerman
Prof. Betty Glasscock
Dr. Joseph Telfair  
Department of Maternal and Child Health  
School of Public Health  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
1825 University Blvd., Suite 112  
Birmingham, AL 35294-2010

Dear Dr. Telfair:

I am very pleased to tell you that the faculty of the School of Social Work has approved the enclosed proposal for a dual MSW and MPH in Maternal and Child Health degree. This proposal has the support of the dean of our Graduate School and Provost and thus no further action is necessary on this campus to implement it.

We look forward to hearing from you about the response of the faculty in the School of Public Health. I do hope that we will be in a position to implement this program in the near future.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Lee Roff
Dean

LLR/dtr

Enclosure

c:  Dr. Carol Drolen  
    Dr. Ron Rogers  
    Provost Nancy Barrett
PROPOSAL

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA-TUSCALOOSA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

I. Program Overview

The MSW/MPH Dual Degree Program in Maternal and Child Health is a collaborative
effort between the School of Social Work, University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa and the Department
of Maternal and Child Health, School of Public Health, University of Alabama-Birmingham. The
Program offers to persons interested in a career in social work and public health an alternative to
the existing sequential course of study for the two degrees.

The mission of the Dual MSW/MPH Degree Program in Maternal and Child Health is to
train social workers for interdisciplinary practice in public health programs, both international and
domestic, that are concerned with the promotion and improvement of the health of children and of
women in their reproductive years. Examples of such settings are federal, state, and local health
departments; health planning agencies; legislative committees; advocacy programs; and agencies
concerned primarily with research and demonstration activities. Public health programs are
community-based and have the responsibility for the well-being of population groups. The training
program, therefore, places emphasis on population-based solutions to complex health problems
that are multifactorial in origin, rather than on short-term solutions for resolving the immediate
problems of individuals and families. The combined years of study also provides the opportunity
to learn practice skills in direct services to individuals, small groups, and families, followed by
courses in program planning, evaluation and management issues related to maternal and child
health.
Graduates may pursue careers in a variety of social work and/or health settings related to policy and program development; organization of community services; program administration, planning, and evaluation; research; and teaching.

Social workers in public health settings focus on the promotion of positive health behaviors in the development of lifestyles by individuals, families, and groups; enhancement of the environment; and avoidance of health risks. They use the ecological epidemiologic approach in solving community health problems. They assess the health and psychosocial needs of the target population and determine the association between social factors and the incidence of health problems. Their emphasis is on reducing the social stress associated with health problems and determining the social supports that will promote well-being and provide protection against ill health. They have the responsibility to study the extent and distribution of the health problem in the community and participate with members of the public health team from other disciplines in planning programs of intervention on primary, secondary, and tertiary level of prevention. Social workers in public health programs collaborate with other staff members in assuring that all persons in the target population have access to health care and social services which facilitate the provision of health care. Their planning activities include all persons-at-risk in the community, regardless of source of care and whether or not they seek care. Social work promotes and advocates consumer participation in the planning and delivery of health care and the effective integration of maternal and child health and nonhealth social services.

In sum, the dual degree program will: a) provide a solid foundation of training in both social work and public health principles and experiences for individuals interested in leadership positions at the community, state, and national levels; b) provide the opportunity to earn
concurrent graduate degrees in social work from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa and in maternal and child health from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, eliminating duplication of coursework (thus condensing the actual degree time from three years and one summer to two years and two summers; and c) provide this training to individuals with a high probability of, and interest in, working with underserved and rural communities.

II. Rationale

Through this collaboration, the universities can increase the number of highly trained social workers serving the diverse populations. Such a collaboration is a step in enhancing the working relationship between the two major educational institutions. It would also expand the breadth, depth, and scope of the educational opportunities for students statewide.

Training in maternal and child health will allow MSW students to compete more successfully for leadership positions in local, state, and federal social service and public health agencies and to be a unique resource to communities and the populations with whom they are most familiar. They will be provided with the knowledge, skills, and training to function effectively as professional social workers in public health settings, especially those dealing with issues that affect mothers and children. As highly trained professionals, they will be able to direct those programs serving people in targeted communities whose needs demand intervention from health and human service agencies.

III. Proposal

A. Overview

The proposed Joint Program in Social Work and Public Health is designed for students enrolled in the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa, School of Social Work with career goals in
community-oriented health services for families and children. Two graduate degrees - a Master of Social Work (MSW) and a Master of Public Health (MPH) - will be earned in two academic years (including two summers). If both degrees were earned sequentially, the completion period would be three and one-half years. The program will be made possible through modification in the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa School of Social Work's graduate specializations in Children Youth and Families, Health, and Planning and Management and in the University of Alabama-Birmingham, School of Public Health Master's curriculum in the Department of Maternal and Child Health. In the program, students will engage in an intense, integrated learning experience. Classroom study will provide a solid foundation in both social work and maternal and child public health principles while field experiences will emphasize social work practice in settings related to maternal and child health services. This combination will provide graduates with exceptional preparation for employment in state and local health departments, community and migrant health centers, voluntary and home health agencies, hospitals, child advocacy agencies, multidisciplinary human service agencies, and international health programs.

B. Implementation

Students who choose the dual degree plan will be required to first secure admission to the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa School of Social Work (for the MSW) and, at the end of the first semester, separately apply to the Department of Maternal and Child Health, University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Public Health (for the MPH). Acceptance into the MSW program does not automatically insure acceptance into the MPH program and vice versa.

MSW students will discuss with their advisor their desire to pursue the dual degree, and complete the necessary documents for admission into the School of Public Health. Each school's catalogue details the requirements and procedures of admission.
C. Curriculum Requirements

1. Course Requirements

Students in the dual degree program will complete courses in the MPH program and courses in the MSW program. Specific course substitutions will vary depending upon the student's concentrated area of social work study.

Children, Youth and Families

Students in this concentration will complete the required foundation course requirements, except SW520 Research Methods in Social Work. Students will substitute SW520 with the University of Alabama's Maternal and Child Health course BST 601 Biostatistics I. During the Spring semester students will complete BST 602, Biostatistics II in lieu of an elective. Biostatistics II (BST 602) also fulfills the required course SW525, Evaluative Research (Skeleton outlines for SW520 & SW525 and actual course outlines for BST 601 & BST 602 are attached). During the summer, students will complete an Introductory Course to Public Health and Social Work practice. During the second year of MSW study, Children, Youth and Families students will take designated Maternal and Child public health courses in place of social work electives during both the fall and spring semesters. Field Education (SW590 & SW595) will fulfill requirements for practicum in both Child and Maternal Health and Social Work.
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES CONCENTRATION
Course Substitution

Foundation Year

First-Year Required Courses:

**Fall Semester**

**Social Work**

- Introduction to the Social Work Profession and the M.S.W. Program
- SW 500 Social Welfare Policy--History, Programs, and Analysis
- SW 510 Human Development and Behavior across the Life Span
- SW 539 Social Work Skills Laboratory
- SW 540 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families
- SW 541 Social Work Practice with Groups
- SW 542 Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities

**Public Health**

- BST 601 Biostatistics I
- BST 602 Biostatistics II
- Also fulfills MCH 659 Field

**Spring Semester**

- SW 520 Research Methods in Social Work
- SW 544 Models, Methods, and Theories of Social Work Practice
- SW 590 Field Education I

**Concentration Year**

Required Courses--Services to Children, Youth and Families

**Fall Semester**

- SW 515 Psychopathology
- SW 525 Evaluative Research
- SW 543 Family-Oriented Practice
- SW 575 Policies and Legal Aspects of Services to Children and Families
- Elective

**Spring Semester**

- SW 577 Selected Topics in Social Work Practice
- Elective
- SW 595 Field Education II

EPI 600 Introduction to Epidemiology
BST 601 Biostatistics I & BST 602 Biostatistics II
Public Health Courses

Public Health Courses
Also fulfills MCH 659 Field
# PROPOSED JOINED M.S.W./M.P.H.
## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES CONCENTRATION
### (27 month program)

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Courses Required by the School of Social Work
Children, Youth and Families

Foundation Year:

Fall-
SW 500 History and Philosophy of Social Work
SW 510 Human Behavior
SW 540 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families
SW 541 Social Work Practice with Groups
SW 542 Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
SW 539 Seminar

Spring-
SW 544 Models, Methods and Theories
SW 590 Social Work Practicum

Summer Term-
SW 515 Psychopathology

Concentration Year Fall:
SW 543 Practice with Children, Youth and Families
SW 575 Policy and Legal Aspects

Spring-
SW577 Selected Topics

Summer Term-
SW 595 Social Work Practicum

Required Courses in the Department of Maternal and Child Health

Foundation Year:
Fall Quarter-
BST 601 Biostatistics I
Winter Quarter-
BST 602 Biostatistics II
Summer-
MCH (??) Introduction to Public Health/Social Work

Concentration Year:
Fall Quarter-
MCH 600 Issues in Maternal and Child Health
MCH 605 Data Issues
IH 602 Overview of Medicine

Winter Quarter-
EPI 600 Introduction to Epidemiology
MCH 601 Programs and Policies

Spring-
HCO 600 Introduction to Public Health Programs
EHS 600 Fundamentals of Environmental Health
MCH 609 Needs Assessment & Program Planning

Summer-
MCH 659 Field
Services in Health

Students in this concentration will complete the required foundation course requirements, except SW520 Research Methods in Social Work. Students will substitute SW520 with the University of Alabama's Maternal and Child Health course BST 601, Biostatistics I. During the Winter-Spring semester students will complete BST 602, Biostatistics II in lieu of an elective. Biostatistics II (BST 602) also fulfills the required course SW525, Evaluative Research (Skeleton outlines for SW520 & SW525 and actual course outlines for BST 601 & BST 602 are attached). During the summer, students will complete an Introductory Course to Public Health and Social Work practice. During the second year of MSW study, Services in Health students will take designated Maternal and Child public health courses in place of social work electives during both the fall and spring semesters. Services in Health students will also substitute SW/CHS 560 Introduction to Medical Science with IH 602 Overview of Medicine (Skelton and Course Syllabi are attached). Field Education (SW590 & SW595) will fulfill requirements for practicum in both Child and Maternal Health and Social Work.
HEALTH CONCENTRATION
Course Substitution

Foundation Year

First-Year Required Courses:

Fall Semester-

Social Work

Introduction to the Social Work Profession and the M.S.W. Program
SW 500 Social Welfare Policy--History, Programs, and Analysis
SW 510 Human Development and Behavior across the Life Span
SW 539 Social Work Skills Laboratory
SW 540 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families
SW 541 Social Work Practice with Groups
SW 542 Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities

Public Health

BST 601 Biostatistics I
BST 602 Biostatistics II
Also fulfills MCH 659 Field

Spring Semester-

SW 520 Research Methods in Social Work
SW 544 Models, Methods, and Theories of Social Work Practice
SW 590 Field Education I

Concentration Year

Fall Semester-

SW 521 Social Work and Community Health Policy
SW 525 Evaluative Research

SW 548 Introduction to Community Health Care Practice
SW/CHS 560 Introduction to Medical Science Elective

Spring Semester-

SW 522 Health Practice in Primary Settings Elective
SW 595 Field Education II

EPI 600 Introduction to Epidemiology
BST 601 Biostatistics I & BST 602 Biostatistics II
IH 602 Overview of Medicine
Public Health Courses

Public Health Courses
Also fulfills MCH 659 Field
Courses Required by the School of Social Work
Services in Health

Foundation Year:
Fall-
SW 500 History and Philosophy of Social Work
SW 510 Human Behavior
SW 540 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families
SW 541 Social Work Practice with Groups
SW 542 Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
SW 539 Seminar
Spring-
SW 544 Models, Methods and Theories
SW 590 Social Work Practicum
Summer Term-
SW MCH (??) Introduction to Public Health

Concentration Year Fall:
SW 548 Introduction to Community Health Practice
SW 521 Social Work & Community Health Policy
Spring-
SW 522 Health Practice in Primary Settings
Summer-
SW 595 Field

Required Courses in the Department of Maternal and Child Health

Foundation Year:
Fall Quarter-
BST 601 Biostatistics I
Spring Quarter-
BST 602 Biostatistics II
Summer-
MCH (??) Introduction to Public Health/Social Work

Concentration Year
Fall-
MCH 600 Issues in Maternal and Child Health
MCH 605 Data Issues
IH 602 Overview of Medicine
Winter-
EPI 600 Introduction to Epidemiology
MCH 601 Programs & Policies
Spring-
HCO 600 Introduction to Public Health Programs
EHS 600 Fundamentals of Environmental Health
MCH 609 Needs Assessment and Program Planning
Summer-
MCH 659 Field
## PROPOSED JOINED M.S.W./M.P.H.
### HEALTH CONCENTRATION

(27 month program)

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Planning and Management

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Foundation Year

First-Year Required Courses:

**Fall Semester**

**Social Work**

Introduction to the Social Work Profession and the M.S.W. Program
SW 500 Social Welfare Policy--History, Programs, and Analysis
SW 510 Human Development and Behavior across the Life Span
SW 539 Social Work Skills Laboratory
SW 540 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families
SW 541 Social Work Practice with Groups
SW 542 Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities

**Public Health**

Spring Semester-

SW 520 Research Methods in Social Work
SW 544 Models, Methods, and Theories of Social Work Practice
SW 590 Field Education I

BST 601 Biostatistics I
BST 602 Biostatistics II
Also fulfills MCH 659 Field

Concentration Year

**Fall Semester**

SW 504 Budget Development and Fiscal Management
SW 506 Social Planning and Program Development

SW 525 Evaluative Research

SW 536 Management and Administration in the Social Services
Elective

Spring Semester-

SW 557 Selected Topics in Social Work Practice
Elective
SW 595 Field Education II

{MCH 609 Programs and Policies}
{MCH 609 Programs and Policies}
BST 601 Biostatistics I & BST 602 Biostatistics II
Also fulfills MCH 659 Field
Courses Required by the School of Social Work
Planning and Management

Foundation Year:
Fall-
  SW 500 History and Philosophy of Social Work
  SW 510 Human Behavior
  SW 540 Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families
  SW 541 Social Work Practice with Groups
  SW 542 Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
  SW 539 Seminar
Spring-
  SW 544 Models, Methods and Theories
  SW 590 Social Work Practicum
Concentration Year Fall:
  SW 536 Management and Administration in the Social Services
  SW 504 Budget Development and Fiscal Management
Spring-
  SW 577 Selected Topics
Summer-
  SW 595 Field

Required Courses in the Department of Maternal and Child Health

Foundation Year:
Fall Quarter-
  BST 601 Biostatistics I
Spring Semester-
  BST 602 Biostatistics II
Summer-
  MCH (??) Introduction to Public Health/Social Work
Concentration Year:
Fall Quarter-
  MCH 600 Issues in Maternal and Child Health
  MCH 605 Data Issues
  IH 602 Overview of Medicine
Winter Quarter-
  EPI 600 Introduction to Epidemiology
  MCH 601 Programs and Policies
Spring-
  HCO 600 Introduction to Public Health Programs
  EHS 600 Fundamentals of Environmental Health
  MCH 609 Needs Assessment and Program Planning
Summer-
  MCH 659 Field
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E. EQUIVALENCIES

The faculty of the School of Social Work have permitted students to substitute SW520 Research Methods in Social Work & SW525 Evaluative Research with BST 601 Biostatistics I and BST 602 Biostatistics II and EPI 600 Introduction to Epidemiology.

Biostatistics I and II will provide students with the ability to understand and utilize basic biostatistical concepts and tools, to facilitate their capability to seek and utilize biostatistical expertise if and when conducting their own research or reviewing research done by others. These goals are compatible with SW520's purpose to provide the student with knowledge and skills to be a consumer of research and evaluate social work practice, and the goals of SW525 which are to provide the student with the opportunity to design and evaluate a practice or program. Evaluation studies are essential to SW525. Students will be exposed to public health research findings in several of the maternal and health courses. The introduction to epidemiology course (EPI600) will also prepare our graduates for understanding the risks to mothers and infants and in design and evaluation of research related to maternal and child health.

For students in the social work services to health concentration, they will be permitted to substitute SW/CHS 560, Introduction to Medical Sciences with IH 602, Overview of Medicine. As in SW/CHS 560, IH 602 introduces the student to definitions and usage of common medical terms, provides information to help students to obtain basic understanding of human anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the major organ systems, and acquaints the student with major human diseases and their current status with regard to magnitude, etiology, natural history, screening, prevention, diagnosis, control and treatment.
For students in the planning and management concentration, SW506, Social Planning and Program Development will be substituted with content from MCH 601, Programs and Policies and MCH 609, Needs Assessment and program planning. SW 506 is designed to aid students in the development of knowledge of planning theory and to aid the student in developing skill in the application of planning methodology. MCH 601 offers students current information related to maternal and child health programs and policies and the opportunity to design research to add to program and policy knowledge; MCH 609 teaches needs assessment, and the use of assessment information to plan and direct public health programs and impact public health policies.

E. ADVISING OF STUDENTS

1. Classes

a. The School of Social Work advisor and registrar will assist with registration for courses within the School of Social Work or School of Public Health. They will monitor that the credit count equals that stated in the plan approved by the Graduate Schools at both institutions.

2. Field Work Education

The field work placement is planned jointly with the student collaboratively by both faculty advisors (in the Schools of Social Work and Public Health). Usually both faculty advisors have made contact with and written (jointly) the confirming letter to the field work agency and/or contact person.

b. The School of Social Work field liaison and the UABMCH faculty member will plan and implement (when possible) two visits (one at the beginning and one at the end) the field
site to meet with the field instructor and the student in order to ensure that the field experience is meeting the expectations of both schools.
MEMO:
Let me know if you need any additional information.

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Dual MPH/MSW Degree with UAB

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**PUBLIC HEALTH CREDIT HOURS:** 39

Social Work Requirements and Credit Hours determined by School of Social Work