

Board Meeting  
July 19, 2012

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATES

Establish a Joint Master of Public Health and Doctor of Philosophy in Food Science and Human Nutrition, Human and Community Development (College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences); Nutritional Sciences (Graduate College); Kinesiology, Community Health (College of Applied Health Sciences) or Social Work (School of Social Work), Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Graduate College; the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; the College of Applied Health Sciences; and the School of Social Work to establish a joint Master of Public Health and Doctor of Philosophy in Food Science and Human Nutrition, Human and Community Development, Nutritional Sciences, Kinesiology, Community Health or Social Work.

The joint degree program is designed to create innovative, interdisciplinary, research-based degree programs. The programs will share a focus on interdisciplinary graduate training that prepares future leaders to develop, implement, and evaluate approaches to improving the health of communities. In particular, the new degree programs seek to emphasize improving the health of the most vulnerable community members: children, ethnic minorities, and low-income adults and families. The

programs are intended for students who seek synergism between research skills and practitioner skills in public health.

The proposed joint Ph.D. – MPH degree programs do not require a change in existing coursework, dissertation, or thesis requirements. The proposed program will allow students to apply up to 12 credit hours of coursework to both degrees and is expected to take five years to complete.

Establish a Master of Social Work/Master of Public Health Joint Degree Program,  
Jane Addams College of Social Work and School of Public Health, Chicago

The Chicago Senate with the recommendation of the Jane Addams College of Social Work and the School of Public Health has approved the establishment of the Master of Social Work (MSW)/Master of Public Health (MPH) Joint Degree Program.

The joint program integrates the fields of social work and public health. It combines the theoretical approaches and competencies of social work in understanding and responding to individual and community influences on patterns of health and illness, with the tools and applicability of public health approaches to real world health problems. The need for professionals trained in social work and public health is informed by several national and international trends to improve the health and well-being of urban populations. Social work and public health take highly complementary and often overlapping approaches to advancing individual and community health and well-being.

The joint degree provides interdisciplinary preparation in the fields of social work and public health, leading to the completion of both degrees, typically in less

time than it would take to obtain these degrees independently. The number of shared hours, and thus total hours for the joint program, is dependent upon the student's area of concentration and advisor approval.