Article 13 Combined and Joint Degree Programs

13.01 Joint and Combined Degree Programs Generally

(1) The Associate Dean for Student Affairs oversees all joint and combined degree programs.

(2) Combined degree program: A combined degree program is one in which a student applies to both programs with a single application process.

(3) Joint degree program: A joint degree program is one that requires two separate application processes.

(4) Most joint and combined degree programs will require a leave of absence for graduate studies. (See Article 10)

(5) The leave structure of all combined and joint degree programs is governed by the Office of Student Affairs.

13.02 The Medical Sciences Training Program (MSTP) MD/PhD Program

(1) The program allows for the clinical study of medicine combined with graduate education and doctoral research in any of a wide variety of disciplines.

(2) The program is structured such that:

(a) The Foundation Phase is completed in the first year and a half of the program.

(b) The summer before the first year of the program is used to expose students to potential research areas.

(c) The summer after the first 10 months of Foundation Phase and before the next Fall semester begins is further used to expose students to potential research areas.

(d) After completing the Foundation Phase, students may be registered for the Application Phase during the spring semester before starting graduate school in the fall semester.

(d) The final two years of the program are devoted to clinical medicine.

(e) Students may receive up to eighteen credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree.

(f) Students who enroll in the Longitudinal Advanced Practice Selective will not be required to repeat it in the Individualization Phase.

(g) Students are exempt from the Science of Medicine selective but must replace it with another 6 credit hour elective.

13.03 The MD/MPH Joint Degree Program

(1) Medical students may enroll in the Master of Public Health or the Master of Science in Public Health degree programs in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.
(2) The academic records of students applying to the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH program are reviewed by the Educational Resources Coordinator and must have the approval of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

(3) Students with histories of either academic or professional difficulty may not be approved for the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program.

(4) Students in the MD/MPH or MSPH Program will typically enroll in graduate school after completing the Foundation Phase, the Application Phase, and the first four months of the Individualization Phase.

(5) Students in the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program may receive six credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree for medically relevant graduate school courses if they complete their MPH or MSPH degree by August of the Individualization Phase.

(6) Students in the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program are not required to take the Advanced Practice Selective but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this selective.

(7) Students in the MD/MPH or MD/MSPH Program are not required to take the Science of Medicine Selective but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this selective.

13.04 The MD/MBA Joint Degree Program

(1) Medical students may enroll in the Master of Business Administration program in the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School.

(2) Students seeking admission to the MD/MBA Program will need to take either the GMAT or the GRE.

(3) Students in the MD/MBA Program will typically enroll in graduate school after completing the Foundation Phase, the Application Phase, and the first five months of the Individualization Phase.

(4) Students in the MD/MBA Program may receive twelve credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree for medically relevant graduate school courses.

(5) Students in the MD/MBA, who participate in the healthcare concentration, are not required to take the Advanced Practice Selective but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this selective.

(6) The program is typically structured such that:
   (a) Students complete the Application Phase, and March to July of the Individualization Phase, prior to enrolling in graduate school.
   (b) Students are enrolled in the Kenan-Flagler Business School during their fourth year.
   (c) Students are enrolled in the SOM and in the Kenan-Flagler Business School during fifth year. They will not be required to take the Capstone Course, but if they do not take the Capstone Course, they must replace it with an elective.
13.05 The MD/DDS Joint Degree Program

(1) Dental students may apply to the MD/DDS program. (see The UNC SOM Medical Student Transfer Policy)

(2) Students in the MD/MBA Program may receive twelve credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree.

(3) Students in the MD/DDS Program are not required to take the Capstone Course, but must replace it with an elective of their choice, if they opt out of taking this course

13.06 The MD/MA Program

(1) Medical students may enroll in the interdisciplinary Master of Art Program concentrating in literature, medicine, and culture. This program is run jointly by the College of Arts & Science and the School of Medicine.

(2) Students in the MD/MA program may study a variety of disciplines including anthropology, English, history, journalism, philosophy, public health, religious studies, social medicine, and social work.

(3) Students in the MD/MA Program will typically enroll in graduate school after completing the Foundation Phase, the Application Phase, and the first four months of the Individualization Phase.

(4) The MD/MA Program is typically either an intensive 12-month program or may be spread out over two academic years.

(5) Students in the MD/MA Program may receive six credit hours of elective credit toward the MD degree for medically relevant graduate school courses if they complete their MA degree by August of the Individualization Phase.

13.07 Other Joint Degree Programs

(1) Medical students may work toward joint degrees in medicine and another graduate or professional school, including programs at other universities.

(2) The School of Medicine allows medical students to seek approval to complete a graduate program in any area that is relevant to medicine, including MD/PhD, MD/MPH, MD/MSPH, MD/MBA, or MD/JD degree combinations.

(3) Students must obtain approval in advance from the Office of Student Affairs to enroll in a joint degree program.

(4) Students in joint degree programs, with advanced written approval from the Office of Student Affairs, may receive up to six hours of elective credit towards the MD degree, for medically relevant graduate school courses, in a one-year graduate degree program or up to twelve hours of elective credit towards the MD degree, for medically relevant graduate school courses in a two- or three-year graduate degree program.

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