

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
THE FACULTY SENATE

PROGRAM REVISION APPROVAL FORM

50 COPIES REQUIRED

PROGRAM TITLE: 4+1 Degree in Epidemiology

PLEASE CHECK:           GRADUATE            UNDERGRADUATE

DEPARTMENT: Public Health

HEAD/CHAIR: Dr. Ed Stanek

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE: School of Public health and Health Sciences

DEAN: Dr. Marjorie Aelion

Submission Date: 2/2010

Proposed Starting Date: 9/1/2010

**I. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT**

**A. Describe the Proposal.**

The Undergraduate Public Health Sciences Program is only three years old but since the program's inception, there has been strong interest by the students in creating a 4+1 EPI - M.S. degree program. Meanwhile, the Epidemiology (EPI) Program has had a strong history of preparing young future public health professionals for a career in public health. This 4+1 EPI - M.S. degree program proposal will allow our brightest undergraduates to receive their masters one year after they receive their bachelor of science.

**B. Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the Proposal.**

How a 4 + 1 EPI M.S. Degree will work:

Undergraduate Major Requirements:

As an undergraduate the potential 4+1 student will take 10 courses in their the first year, 11 courses in their second year, and 12 courses in their third year. The 4th year the student will take 12 courses. All these courses will count only towards their undergraduate degree but five of these courses will be prerequisites for the M.S. in Epidemiology. They are:

540 Introductory Biostatistics

630 Principles of Epidemiology

632 Applied Epidemiology

796 Epidemiology & Biostatistics Seminar (1 credit - Fall & Spring Semester)

Masters in Science in Epidemiology Requirements:

The M.S. degree in Epidemiology will be a 34 credit or a 12 course program. The courses are:

2 graduate EPI elective courses over the summer and 1 elective course during the Fall or Spring semester). Plus:

631 Epidemiological Investigation

640 Intermediate Biostatistics

691F Data Management

698 Practicum

737 Advanced Methods in Epidemiology

743 Analysis of Categorical Data

796 Epidemiology & Biostatistics Seminar (1 – credit)

Only one of the following courses: 620 Principles of Public Health Practice; 565 Environmental Health Practices or 601 Principles of Community Health Education

699 Masters Thesis

Important Issues:

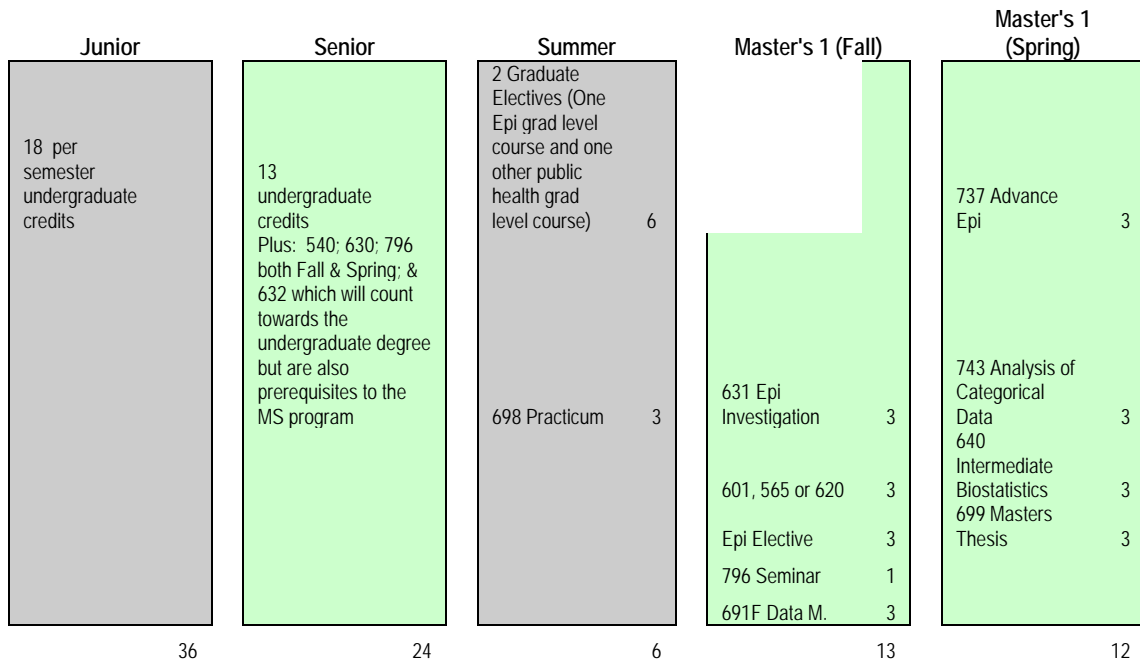
- There is no change in requirements from the established M.S. degree in Epidemiology.
- Most Masters in Public Health 4+1 programs across the country have very selective application requirements, because of credit logistics, only strong students will be able to finish in the allotted time. Consequently, students at the end of their 2nd year will apply for the 4+1 program and only students that have a 3.5 GPA or above will be accepted. The student will still have to apply for the graduate program their senior year before they continue the with the M.S. program

**II. PURPOSE AND GOALS**

Describe the Proposal's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.

**Epidemiology, prepare students to unravel complex health issues by the study of the distribution of the spread of disease, social factors and other risk factors. Through the design and conduct of research studies, biostatisticians extend basic knowledge of disease processes leading to prevention strategies, and aid in the development and evaluation of such prevention strategies. The discipline makes heavy use of biostatistics, along with the core areas of public health with related health science disciplines. The faculty fosters a unique environment in which practical involvement in transdisciplinary research collaborations enhance learning and provide a dynamic, rewording environment.**

**Appendix I – Sequencing the 4+1 EPI courses for the M.S.**



**Another way of seeing the grid for credit distribution is:**

Year	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Summer	Graduate
1 <sup>st</sup> Sem-Credits	15	15	18	12	2 Grad Electives And Practicum	13 (can vary)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem	15	18	18	12		12 (can vary)
Cum	30	63	96	120	9	154