



Faculty Senate Office
Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

facsen@miami.edu
web site: www.miami.edu/fs
P: 305-284-3721
F: 305-284-5515

MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Richard L. Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Williamson'.

Date: May 12, 2014

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2013-47(B) – Establish a Joint Master Degree in Public Health (MPH) (Miller School of Medicine) and Latin American Studies (LAS) (College of Arts and Sciences)

The Faculty Senate, at its April 23, 2014 meeting, unanimously approved the proposal to establish a Joint Master Degree in Public Health (Miller School of Medicine) and Latin American Studies (College of Arts and Sciences). On May 6, the Medical School Faculty Council unanimously approved the creation of this combined Master's Degree. This dual degree was created in response to the growing need for public health professionals with knowledge of Latin America. This 60-credit dual degree provides a reduction in overall credits for each individual degree, so that select elective courses are counted in both programs. It does not permit the reduction in core-required coursework of either individual program.

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

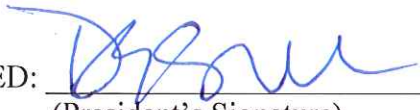
This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

RLW/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Pascal Goldschmidt, Senior Vice President and Dean, Miller School of Medicine
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Ariel Armony, Professor, Center for Latin American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences
Julie Kornfeld, Assistant Dean, Public Health, Miller School of Medicine
Belkys Torres, Lecturer, College of Arts and Sciences

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2013-47(B) – Establish a Joint Master Degree in Public Health (MPH) (Miller School of Medicine) and Latin American Studies (LAS) (College of Arts and Sciences)

APPROVED:  DATE: 6/11/2014
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dean Bachas/Goldschmidt

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Proposal for a Joint Degree in Public Health (MPH) and Latin American Studies (LAS)

1. Rationale

The Latin American Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Miami and the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine propose the following *Joint Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Arts in Latin American Studies (MLAS)* program. This dual degree program is intended as a response to the growing need for public health professionals with detailed knowledge of Latin America and communities of Latin American extraction in the United States and elsewhere. The aim of this innovative program is to train students for a career in public health with a focus on social policy, health management, and health care in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in Latin American and Caribbean expatriate communities in the United States. This program will fill an urgent need for public health professionals with the training and expertise needed to meet the growing public health challenges both in Latin America and the Caribbean and in expatriate communities in the United States and Canada. We anticipate that as Latin American economies continue to expand, the need for expertise and professionalism in public health in the region will likewise continue to grow and the proposed program will be able to tap into this rapidly emerging market in a manner that is both timely and of great benefit to both the region and this institution.

The program will be constructed alongside our current Master programs and will thus draw on the existing strengths of both MPH and LAS, allowing us to combine the expertise of professionals and academics working on related topics both in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health in the School of Medicine. In this manner, we will be able to offer a balanced set of courses to allow students entering the program to not only complete the core requirements of both currently extant programs, but also to take advantage of a specifically tailored curriculum that will effectively prepare students for careers in public health with a strong foundation in Latin American and Caribbean cultural and political realities affecting public health and related issues.

We envision a program that will offer both the necessary foundations in general knowledge in public health and Latin American Studies, and pragmatic options to specialize in specific tracks ranging from 'immigration and public health' to more regionally focused specializations such as 'public health in Brazil.' These options will be made available from course offerings that are currently on the books, as our research has indicated very clearly that the necessary course offerings and expertise are present in the College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Public Health Science at this time.

This program offers a synergistic approach to respond to a growing demand for public health professionals with detailed knowledge of Latin America. This is a uniquely competitive UM degree program that provides a reduction in cost and time for highly talented students.

As is common in dual degree programs, this dual degree provides a reduction in overall credits for each individual degree program. This allows enrolled students to benefit from the synergy between the two programs. To be clear, it does not permit the reduction in core-required coursework of either individual degree program. Rather, it provides for select elective courses to be counted in both programs. The "Comparison Table" below details how this proposed program compares with similar dual degree programs across the nation.

The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is a professional degree for students who require a broad general academic experience in public health. The MPH degree is a 45 semester-hour program that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health and consists of 18 credits of core coursework, 21 credits of electives, and 6 credits for the capstone/culminating experience. The proposed dual degree program requires the same 6 core courses (18 credits) that are required for all entering MPH

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students. It also requires 4 elective courses (12 credits). The reduction in remaining credit hours (15 credits) is comparable to other existing joint MPH programs at the University of Miami. For example, the existing UM JD/MPH program is made up of 33 credits from the 45 credit MPH curriculum and 82 credits in law courses. Similarly, the joint UM MD/MPH program is comprised of 36 credits of MPH coursework combined with 90 credits in medical courses. The table below clearly establishes the reduction of MPH credits to be the standard in comparable dual degree programs.

The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies is a 30-credit interdisciplinary degree program characterized by a high degree of flexibility in allowing students to create course of study focused on Latin American and the Caribbean that serves the interests of the student. The 30-credit degree program consists of 12 credits of core coursework, 3 credits in a research methods course, 9 credits of electives, and 6 credits for the master's thesis or comprehensive exam. The proposed dual degree requires the same 4 core LAS courses (12 credits) that are required for all entering MA students in the LAS program. It also requires two elective courses in LAS (6 credits). Finally, the proposed degree requires the completion of a capstone experience that combines 3 LAS credits and 3 MPH credits. The reduction of credits from 30 to 21 credits is exactly that of comparable dual degree programs, as evidence in the table below.

In addition to the course work outlined above, this dual degree requires that students demonstrate advanced language competency in Spanish, French, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole. Students may establish proficiency by passing two courses (6 credits) taught in the target language at the 500-level or above, or by passing a language competency exam.

The resulting combined 60 credit hours was selected carefully with an eye towards ensuring that students would complete all core required coursework in both degree programs, while allowing for a unique and desirable UM program that would be cost effective and attractive for competitive applicants.

**Joint Degree in Public Health (MPH) and Latin American Studies (LAS)
 Number of Credits - Comparison Table**

	MPH # of credits	LAS # of credits	Total # of credits if earning two individual degrees	Joint Degree MPH/LAS # of credits	Reduction of the # of credits for Joint Degree
University of Miami	45	30	75	60 total	20%
San Diego State University	51	30	81	63 total	22.2%
Arizona State University	47	36	83	63 total	24%
University of New Mexico	42	36	78	63 total	19.2%
Indiana University-Bloomington	43	30	73	64 total	12.32%

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2. The MPH and MALAS Programs

The programs, as they currently exist, are as follows:

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is a professional degree for students who require a broad general academic experience in public health. Students will acquire competency in the fundamental areas of public health: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, health services administration/health economics, and social and behavioral sciences. Coursework will include instruction in research design and conduct, data analysis and policy analysis, communications, program planning and administration, public health systems and the organization of health services in the United States and Latin America, recognition and analysis of ethical issues in public health and professional practice, the needs of special populations, and the integration of these core disciplines in public health decision making. The MPH degree is a 45 semester-hour program that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. The 45-credit degree program consists of 18 credits of core coursework, 21 credits of electives and 6 credits for the capstone/culminating experience.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (MALAS)

The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies is a 30-credit interdisciplinary degree characterized by a high degree of flexibility in allowing students to create course of study focused on Latin American and the Caribbean that serves the interests of the student. Combining core courses offered by the program with a large variety of co-listed and cross-listed courses offered by departments, programs, and units throughout the University of Miami, the program is able to offer a tremendous amount of diversity in courses available for credit towards this degree. This allows students to combine course offerings from around the university into a cohesive course of study that allows them to specialize in an area, topic, country, theme, or issue of their choosing and thus to tap into the many resources available at the University of Miami for students with a passion for Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Resources

Given that this joint program builds on two extant programs at the University of Miami and will internally meet the separate requirements of both programs, few new resources will be required. The basic courses that students will need to complete to meet the requirements for graduation in both the MPH and LAS programs are available at this time, as are the needed library and laboratory resources. To ensure that students are exposed to Latin American societies, we will require students to take one course with a study abroad component (LAS504) and for this purpose, we will require a course on location taught by UM faculty. In addition, we will design a new regular course (LAS581) focused on public health in Latin America and the Caribbean. Effectively, the course of study in each of the separate programs will be managed and administrated by the directors of the respective programs, and students wishing to complete this joint degree will need to be admitted separately by each program. In practice, students in the joint degree program will be considered MA students in LAS as well as MPH students in MPH.

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4. Curriculum

The proposed curriculum will be as follows:

MPH CORE COURSES (18 CREDITS)

EPH 500 Introduction to Public Health (3)*

EPH 501 Medical Biostatistics I (3)*

EPH 521 Fundamentals of Epidemiology (3)*

EPH 520 Health Education and Behavior (3)*

EPH 631 Public Health Administration (3)*

EPH 541 Environmental Health (3)*

**these courses are core required courses of the MPH program per accreditation*

MPH ELECTIVES (12 CREDITS)

Choose four courses from the following:

EPH 512 Global Health (3)

EPH 540 Urban Environment and Public Health (3)

EPH 580 Ecology and Control of Vector-Borne Disease (3)

EPH 644 Evaluation of Health Programs and Public Health Interventions (3)

EPH 647 Community-Based Participatory Research (3)

EPH 584 Global Outbreak Investigations (3)

EPH 650 Health Economics & Policy Evaluation (3)

EPH 571 Maternal and Child Health (3)

EPH 641 Research Methods (3)

LAS CORE COURSES (12 CREDITS)

LAS 501 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (3)

LAS 502 Research Design in Latin American Studies (3)

LAS 581 Graduate Seminar on Public Health in Latin America and the Caribbean (3)

LAS 584 Public Health Seminar on Location—Travel Course (3)

ELECTIVES (6 credits)

Six credits worth of Regional Fundamentals in Latin America must be taken. These electives may be chosen from appropriate offerings in LAS, INS, POL, HIS, APY, or GEG. Regional Fundamentals are those courses that have a clear regional or sub-regional focus (e.g. Andean Region; the Caribbean; South America; Central America; Southern Cone; Brazil; South Florida) rather than a specific country focus. For this joint degree, we will require that the six (6) credits of electives in POL, LAS, INS, APY, GEG, or HIS be used to meet this requirement. The LAS Academic Director may approve courses from other departments.

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CULMINATING (CAPSTONE) EXPERIENCE (6 credits)

EPH 680 Supervised Public Health Field Experience (3)

LAS 710 Thesis or LAS 597 Competency Exam (3)

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS (6 credits)

Students must demonstrate advanced language competency in Spanish, French, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole. Students may establish proficiency by passing two courses taught in the target language at the 500-level or above, or by passing a language competency exam. A major indigenous language of Latin America may be substituted for either Spanish or Portuguese. Students may petition for a waiver of examination if they have gained language competency in another manner (i.e. native speaker, upper division coursework in target language, Peace Corps service, IB credits or Defense Language Proficiency Test).

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 60

Expected time to completion: five semesters.

5. Requirements

The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies program consists of two core Latin American and Caribbean seminars, two regional fundamentals, and a minimum of three additional seminars to be taken as electives. Students are also required to take one additional research methods course at the 500-level.

1. The core seminars are: LAS501 "Interdisciplinary Seminar in Latin American and Caribbean Studies" and LAS502 "Research Design in Latin American Studies."
2. Regional Fundamentals are those courses that have a clear regional or sub-regional focus (e.g. Andean Region; the Caribbean; South America; Central America; Southern Cone; Brazil; South Florida) rather than a specific country focus. For this joint degree, we will require that the six (6) credits of electives in POL, LAS, INS, APY, GEG, or HIS are used to meet this requirement.
3. The Research Methods requirement for the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies will be met through EPH 501 "Medical Biostatistics I" or EPH 641 "Research methods."
4. In addition to the course work outlined above, the requirements of the MA in Latin American studies stipulates that students demonstrate advanced language competency in Spanish, French, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole. Students may establish proficiency by passing two courses taught in the target language at the 500-level or above, or by passing a language competency exam. A major indigenous language of Latin America may be substituted for either Spanish or Portuguese. Students may petition for a waiver of examination if they have gained language competency in another manner (i.e. native speaker, upper division coursework in target language, Peace Corps service, IB credits or Defense Language Proficiency Test).

6. Admission

Given that this will be a joint degree between the Master of Public Health and the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies, prospective students must be admitted by both programs and thus meet the admissions requirements of both. In practice, students who meet the basic requirements for the MPH program also meet the basic requirements for the MA in LAS. These requirements are listed below:

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1. Online Application and non-refundable application fee of 65 USD. Unofficial copies of the requirements below should be uploaded with your online application.
2. Official transcripts from all previously attended colleges and universities. All foreign transcripts must be official and submitted in the original language. If the original language is not English, an official translation must be submitted along with the transcript.
3. Official GRE test scores. The Graduate School currently requires a minimum combined score of 300 under the new scoring system (1000 under the old scoring system). Alternatively, applicants to the program can submit MCAT, LSAT, GMAT and DAT. Applicants to the program who hold advanced degrees (MD, PhD, JD) are encouraged, but not required, to submit test scores.
4. Resume/Curriculum Vitae including employment, activities, community service, education, academic or professional honors.
5. Statement of purpose detailing your academic interest in the program as well as your future career goals.
6. Three letters of recommendation from people who are best able to assess your ability to be successful in a public health degree program. Ideally, your recommenders are recent professors, researchers or employers in a related field.

7. Administration

Progress of students will be overseen by the Academic Director of the Latin American Studies Degree Programs and by the Director of the Master in Public Health. As the programs remain separate programs, working together to produce a joint degree, each Graduate Director retains full responsibility for the portion of the joint degree that falls within their program. However, the Graduate Directors of both MPH and LAS will cooperate to ensure that students pursuing the joint degree remain on track for both programs and to ensure that courses that are counted towards both degrees meet the requirements for both degrees.

8. Comparable Programs

San Diego State University:

http://latinamericanstudies.sdsu.edu/graduates/ma_las_ph.html

Joint Master of Arts in LAS and Master in Public Health (MA/MPH)

The GSPH and the Center for Latin American Studies offer a concurrent graduate program leading to a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology, Environmental Health, or Health Promotion and a Master of Arts (MA) in Latin American Studies. This concurrent program offers preparation in the fields of public health and Latin American studies for the purpose of promoting health, preventing disease, and enhancing the delivery of social and health services for Latino communities. Students must complete the thesis or publishable article option. Foreign language competency is the same as the MA in LAS. The program consists of 63 units of joint programming as follows:

- 4 core seminars in Public Health (12 units) and two from LAS (6 units);
- 15 units of prescribed electives from LAS taken from at least two different Departments;
- 6 units of culminating experience (3 units of 797 Research and 3 units of 799 Thesis);
- 24 units from PH concentration (Epidemiology, Environmental Health or Health Promotion).

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Arizona State University

<http://publichealth.arizona.edu/academics/dual-degrees>

The MPH/MA Dual Degree Program allows students to earn a Master of Public Health and a Master of Arts degree in Latin American Studies (LAS). This dual degree program offers students the opportunity for interdisciplinary study allowing them to customize their dual degree by selecting any one of seven MPH concentration areas and by taking electives addressing issues relevant to Latin American populations. The minimum number of required units varies based on the MPH concentration. A minimum of 50% of credit hours must be unique to each degree and cannot be used for dual credit. Students work with academic advisors in both programs to determine their specific course requirements.

Latin American Studies (LAS) MA Requirements (36+ graduate units) LAS 500, Introduction to Latin American Studies (3 units) LAS Interdisciplinary Seminar - approved by LAS Director (3 units) Primary discipline or thematic area, including 3 units of a research methods course if doing a thesis (15 units) International public health courses with assignments focusing on Latin America or U.S. – Mexico border (9 units) Language requirement met by Spanish 330 and Portuguese 305 or Spanish 251 and Portuguese 325 or equivalency exam. Thesis or Public Health/LAS Internship – 6 units to be completed through: 6 unit thesis or 3 – 6 units Public Health/LAS Master's Report "Internship" and/or approved elective course work. (6 units)

Master in Public Health Requirements (42 – 47 units)

Core Courses (15 units)

CPH 573A Basic Principles of Epidemiology (3)

CPH 574 Public Health Policy and Management (3)

CPH 575 Environmental and Occupational Health (3)

CPH 576A Biostatistics for Public Health (3)

CPH 577 Sociocultural and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (3)

Internship Preparation Workshop (required; non-credit)

Internship

CPH 909 Master's Report "Internship" (3-9 units)*

Required Concentration Courses (18 - 26 units)*

The list of required courses can be found in this catalog listed under each of the MPH disciplines. These requirements may change from year to year and are specific to the year of acceptance into the MPH program.

Electives (3-12 units)* – Approved by Faculty Mentor

*The number of units and prerequisite courses varies based on the MPH concentration. A minimum of 50% of credit hours must be unique to each degree and cannot be used for dual credit.

The University of New Mexico

<http://catalog.unm.edu/catalogs/2012-2013/colleges/arts-sciences/latin-am-studies/graduate-program.html>

M.A.L.A.S./M.P.H.: The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies and Masters of Public Health dual degree program is intended to prepare graduates to improve the health of Latin American populations and Latino populations in the United States, with a primary focus on New Mexico, the Southwest, the United States/Mexico border region, and regions south of the border. It supplements the M.P.H.

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program with in-depth study of languages, cultures, and societies that will help prepare graduates to work effectively either in Latin America, or with Latin American immigrant populations within the United States.

The dual degree requires 63 graduate credit hours, as compared to the 78 hours of graduate credits required to complete the two degrees separately. A minimum of 42 hours are required in Public Health courses, and a minimum of 21 hours are required in Latin American Studies courses. At least 13 hours of the M.P.H. component must have significant content related to Latin America or Latin American immigrant communities in the United States, to enable the student to integrate the content and practice of the two degrees.

Applicants for the dual degree program must apply separately to and meet the entrance requirements of each program. For acceptance into the M.P.H. program, applicants are required to have completed two years of work or volunteer experience in the public health field, including community development, research, health education, health science, health promotion or other health-related work. M.A.L.A.S./M.P.H. applicants may complete one year of the required experience while beginning the M.A.L.A.S. degree program.

The M.P.H. component of the dual degree requires a minimum of 42 credits as follows:

- PH 501, 502, 506, 508, 509, 511, 513, and STAT 538;
- PH 507 or 510, PH 505 or 552, PH 596 or 597;
- M.P.H. studies with LAS content (13 hours) as follows: PH 583 or 560; PH 598; the M.P.H. culminating experience chosen from PH 596 or 597 (2 -3 credit hours); and Public Health courses with Latin American/U.S. Latino content or courses throughout the university with demonstrated content on Health and Latin America (6 credit hours).
- Electives to complete the 42-credit requirement may be taken in the M.P.H. program or selected from throughout the university.

Courses approved to meet the minimum requirement of 9 credit hours of integrated content or M.P.H. electives include PH 560, CJ 550, CJ 555, SOC 540, SOC 595. Students may seek approval from the M.P.H. Program Director and the LAII Associate Director for Academic Programs to count other graduate courses with demonstrated health and Latin American content toward their elective hours.

Coursework for the M.A.L.A.S. component of the dual degree includes a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours in each of two areas of concentration, selected from among Anthropology, Art History, Brazilian Literature and Culture, Communication, community and Regional Planning, Economics, Gender Studies, History, Human Rights, International Management, Political Science, Religion and Philosophy, Sociology, Southwest Studies, Spanish American Literature, and Spanish Linguistics. The combination of areas must ensure that the program is interdisciplinary. For example, students selecting Anthropology with an emphasis in Ethnology as one concentration may not select Anthropology with an emphasis in Archaeology as the second concentration. Students also are required to have no more than one interdisciplinary concentration. For example, a student may not choose both Human Rights and Gender Studies. The remaining 3 graduate credits for LAS may be completed as electives. Of the total 21 hours for LAS, students must complete at least 6 hours of graduate seminar course credits. To maintain and improve language proficiency during graduate studies, students who are not concentrating in Brazilian Literature and Culture, Spanish American Literature, or Spanish Linguistics will be required to take an upper-division language course: Spanish 307 or above; Portuguese 311 or above; or a course in one of Latin America's indigenous languages. If the course is available for graduate credit, it can count as one of the student's elective courses.

Exit requirements for the dual degree include a comprehensive examination in one area of concentration in Latin American Studies, a master's exam in Public Health and either PH 596 Professional Paper or PH 597 Public Health Integrative Experience. The Integrative experience or the professional paper must address a public health topic related to Latin America or Latin American

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populations in the U.S. The professional paper will be supervised by a committee of 3 faculty members, including at least one Latin American Studies faculty member from outside the M.P.H. program.

Indiana University – Bloomington

<http://www.indiana.edu/~clacs/academics/dualdegrees.shtml>

Master of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Master of Public Health

This dual degree program takes advantage of the ability of students to specialize in Latin American and Caribbean-related public health issues in a way that enables specific coursework to be counted toward elective and research requirements for both degrees. The dual degree pairs a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies with a Master of Public Health (MPH) that includes a Behavioral, Social and Community Health Concentration (BSCH).

This 64-credit dual degree program provides for each student to complete the minimum requirements for each degree independently, with 43 credits counting toward the MPH degree and 21 credits counting toward the MA degree. Follow the link for more on MPH coursework.

Students pursuing the dual degrees will be required to select readings and independent research projects that are focused on issues related to public health in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The instructor of such credit generating mechanisms within each academic unit will help students to select appropriate courses. The public health internship must be focused on issues related to public health in the Latin American and Caribbean region and must be jointly approved by the respective academic advisor in each degree program.

MPH students are required to complete a comprehensive exam and other requirements as described under HPER C-650. As the MPH students are not required to complete a thesis, the thesis process, if chosen, will be administered by the Latin American and Caribbean program in accordance with their established policies and procedures. The student's thesis committee must include a representative from each academic unit. Refer to further thesis requirements.

Students interested in pursuing the dual degree will submit written notice of their intent to pursue the dual degrees to the Director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Coordinator, Master of Public Health program. Students will submit full applications for admission to both graduate programs using existing systems. A prospective dual degree student must be admitted to both degree programs by the faculty of that program using existing admissions systems; this may occur via simultaneous application for admission to both programs, or a student may apply for the second degree no later than one year after matriculating into one of the two-degree programs.

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

<http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/pgmrq/latinam.asp>

The School of Public Health and the Latin American Studies Program have arranged an articulated degree program, organized to permit specializations within the MA. and the MPH degrees, with the award of both degrees after approximately three years of graduate study. Qualified students apply to the graduate adviser of the Latin American Studies MA degree program and to a relevant area of public health, such as (1) environmental and nutritional sciences, (2) epidemiology, (3) health education, (4) population and family health.

Potential applicants should contact the Graduate Adviser, Latin American Studies, and/or the Public Health/Latin American Studies Articulated Degree Program Adviser, School of Public Health.