

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

M.A.L.A.S./M.P.H.: The Master of Arts in Latin American Studies and Master of Public Health dual degree program is intended to prepare graduates to improve the health of Latin American populations and Latin 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. 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 reduces 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. Preference is given to students who have public health experience, which may be community development, research, health education, health science, health promotion, or other health-related work. Experience can be paid or voluntary.

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

- PH 501, 502, 506, 508, 511, 513, 538, and 552;
- PH 507, 533 or 555;
- M.P.H. studies with LAS content (13 hours) as follows: PH 579; 583; 596 or 597; 598; and Public Health courses with Latin American/U.S. Latino content or courses throughout the university with demonstrated content on Health and Latin America (3 credit hours);
- Related Electives (10 hours) to complete 42 M.P.H. hours: Must include 3 hours of shared PH/LAS content.

Courses that may be taken as shared content electives—depending on specific content when taught—include PH 560, CJ 550, CJ 553, 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 toward their elective hours. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss with their Public Health advisor their particular interests, for example policy, management, or epidemiology, and relevant courses offered throughout the university.

Coursework for the M.A.L.A.S. component of the dual degree includes LTAM 510 - Pro-Seminar in Latin American Studies, and 9 graduate credit hours in each of two areas of concentration, selected from among Anthropology, Art History, Brazilian Literature and Culture, Brazilian Studies, 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. 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: SPAN 307 or above; PORT 276 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 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.