



Joint Degrees

The Feinberg School of Medicine offers several joint degree options to meet the goals of today's MD students who are motivated to increase the breadth and scope of their studies and expertise. These programs complement the medical school curriculum and offer opportunities to explore different areas that are relevant to the medical profession in fields such as healthcare quality and patient safety, areas in which Northwestern is a leader.

The Feinberg School of Medicine offers the following joint degree programs for MD students.

MD/MA

MD/MPH

MD/MS

MD/PhD

The MD/MA and MD/MPH are combined degree programs that can be completed in the same four years as the MD degree. The MD/PhD requires three to four years of doctoral study that is pursued between the first two and the second two years of studies for the Doctor of Medicine degree.

Joint Degrees

MD/MA

The Medical Humanities & Bioethics Program offers a Master of Arts degree examining medicine and its ethics through various academic disciplines. The four-year MD/MA combined degree was designed to fit around Feinberg's medical education program. In the M1 and M2 years, students attend classes and lectures offering cultural, philosophical, legal, literary, and historical insight on the field of medicine. After taking the M3 year off for clinical rotations, M4 students return to work with a faculty member to write their master's thesis paper. The program provides a rigorous master's level education that aims to give students a richer view of medicine. Graduates will be able to use their multidisciplinary knowledge and skills in their teaching, advising, and ethical decision making.

MD/MPH

The MD/MPH degree is an integrated, medical and public health program designed for medical students enrolled in the Feinberg School of Medicine. The MPH Program is part-time and consists of evening classes. Core MPH courses are held on the Chicago campus; a few electives are offered in Evanston. Students ordinarily complete the requirements for both degrees in four years. The program includes

required coursework in behavioral science, epidemiology, environmental health, health industry management, biostatistics and research. Electives are offered in epidemiology and biostatistics, public health issues in the community, public health law, and research methodology. In the summer after the first year of study, MD/MPH students gain field experience during an 8-week project with an agency in the Chicago area. During the fourth year of medical school, there is a research study or community project (200 contact hours required) as well as a written and oral presentation.

MD/MS

The Feinberg School of Medicine is a leader in healthcare quality and patient safety education and research. Northwestern University was the first institution in the country to offer a master's degree in these important fields. The combined MD/MS degree program is designed for Feinberg medical students. The program is part-time so it can be integrated into the four-year, full-time medical school curriculum and be completed in 18 months.

Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)

MSTP students complete Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of

Philosophy (PhD) degrees in an integrated program of training spanning 7 to 8 years. The fields of study for the PhD degree cover all areas of biology and medicine. In addition to coursework, research and clinical training leading to the MD and PhD degrees, students also participate in a number of MSTP-specific courses and activities and are active in community outreach. Most MSTP graduates pursue residency training and careers as medical school professors, combining research, teaching, and clinical practice.

Some pursue careers in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries or as scientists at research institutes.

"Improving patient safety and providing quality healthcare is one of the most urgent issues facing the healthcare system today... I have been fortunate to learn how to care for patients within the framework of quality and safety at the outset of my medical career, and I hope my practice of medicine will be all the better for it. The master's program in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety – and the students in it – have constantly reminded me why I want to be a doctor, and more importantly, they have taught me how to become a truly great one."

