

Thomas Jefferson and Widener Universities Announce Joint Degree Program in Law and Public Health

Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) and Widener University have established two new joint degree programs in law and public health. The programs were approved last month by the TJU Board of Trustees. Candidates for the joint degree may enter the program from the Master in Public Health (MPH) program at Jefferson or from the Widener Law School and may start in the next academic year. Enrollees in this program will obtain one of two joint degrees, a Doctor of Jurisprudence-Master of Public Health degree (JD-MPH) or a Master of Jurisprudence-Master of Public Health degree (MJ-MPH).

Individuals with joint degree are being sought after by hospitals, health departments, health associations, voluntary organizations, and other health institutions. MJ-MPH candidates are typically individuals who seek a career in health administration and will benefit from expertise in legal topics like confidentiality, bioethics, risk management, disability law, etc. Many MJ graduates are nurses. JD-MPH candidates are typically individuals who sit for the bar exam and become legal counsels to medical institutions, businesses, and organizations. They may choose private law practice. The combination of a legal education with public health core subjects like biostatistics, epidemiology, health behavior, management and policy, and environmental health is of high value to health associations and institutions.

Joint degree students will study at both TJU in Philadelphia and Widener University in Delaware over the course of several years. The MPH may be completed in a little over a year and a joint degree will require 3-7 years, depending on which degree the student chooses and whether the student studies on a full- or part-time basis. Students will apply to both schools. Information may be obtained from the admissions office at Widener Law School or through Jefferson College of Graduate Studies. For more information, contact Jennifer Ravelli at 215-503-0174.