

University of Toronto

Graduate Collaborative Program Proposal

Section 1

Program Proposed:	Collaborative Master's and Doctoral Program in Public Health Policy
Lead Faculty / Academic Division:	Medicine
Lead Faculty / Academic Division Contact:	Avrum Gotlieb, Acting Vice Dean, Graduate Affairs
Anticipated start date of new program:	September 2012
Version Date:	February 29, 2012

Section 2

1. Rationale

The proposed Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy will focus on the academic areas of public health policy development, change, analysis and evaluation. The primary objectives of the collaborative program are four-fold: (1) To build capacity in public health policy research and practice; (2) To provide students and mentors with an environment and resources that support learning across disciplines and substantive areas, with value placed on knowledge translation and exchange, research ethics, and professional development skills; (3) To foster collaborative research; and (4) To contribute to more effective public health policy through collaborations with government and voluntary-sector public health policy opinion leaders.

The proposed Collaborative Program will be cross-disciplinary, bringing together a broad range of disciplines, substantive foci, and theoretical and methodological underpinnings, to synergistically build an engaged community of practice of students and faculty focused on public health policy, therefore contributing to the creation of the next generation of public health policy research leaders and creative agents for change, able to address health issues and challenges. Through the direction of the stellar team of academics and policy makers associated with the Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy, students will be provided with real world skills to address the complex and demanding task of public health policy making (including insight into a wide array of legislative and regulatory interventions, administrative practices, financing and funding decisions, and various forms of soft law e.g., guidelines and informal processes) which operate at the international, federal, provincial and municipal levels and in settings that are cross-cutting (e.g., worksites) and in ways that are both cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral.

Experience since the start of the CIHR Strategic Training Program in Public Health Policy indicates a strong and clear need in the field for training and expertise in public health policy. Scholarship in public health policy is in its infancy and there are no other training opportunities available in Canada that focus specifically on public health policy.

2. Participating Programs, Degrees and Names of Units:

- Exercise Sciences (MSc, PhD), Faculty of Physical Education and Health
- Health Administration (MHSc), Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

- Health Policy, Management & Evaluation (MSc, PhD), Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
- Nutritional Sciences (MSc, PhD) Department of Nutritional Sciences
- Public Health Sciences (MPH, MSc, PhD), Dalla Lana School of Public Health
- Public Policy & Governance (MPP), School of Public Policy & Governance

3. Added Value for Students

The anticipated demand for the Public Health Policy Collaborative Program is high. Student demand has been assessed by examining the number of applicants to the CIHR Strategic Training Program in Public Health Policy (PHP STIHR), currently a not for credit program run through the Dalla Lana School of Public Health which is open to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from across University of Toronto with an interest in public health policy. PHP STIHR funds trainees to undertake academic training in the area of public health policy. During the 2010 – 2011 application cycle, the PHP STIHR received 40 applications from graduate students across 10 graduate departments at the University of Toronto indicating an interest from students to take part in the collaborative, cross-disciplinary learning. The demand for the 2011-12 application cycle continues to grow, with 45 new graduate student applicants and 10 graduate applications for renewal. 48 applications were reviewed, and 27 graduate student fellows were accepted into the program. There is a clear interest among graduate students in the subject area. .

In Canada, key governmental agencies responsible for public health identify public health policy training as a very high priority need. Canada's public health and preventive medicine specialists have identified policy skills as their top priority for continuing education. Furthermore, there is an identified need for cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral learning about policy processes and impacts across public health areas. Although many policy tools are common to a range of public health areas, policy research has been conducted in disciplinary silos precisely because there have not been structures in place to bring researchers and students together across substantive areas. The proposed Collaborative Program will promote cross departmental learning at the University of Toronto, fostering collaborations across disciplines and research foci. This will serve the Collaborative Program students well, as the field is thirsty for public health policy professionals from a variety of academic backgrounds. The formal recognition of the Collaborative Program is key as students move into professional roles

The Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy will be multidisciplinary and will provide insight into a wide array of legislative and regulatory interventions, administrative practices, financing and funding decisions, and various forms of soft law (e.g., guidelines and informal processes) at the international, federal, provincial and municipal levels and both cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral. The Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy will be even more attractive as students will receive formal recognition of their training in public health policy on their transcript.

4. Admission and Program Requirements

Applicants must meet entry requirements of the home graduate program and graduate unit. The application requirements for the Collaborative Program are in addition to the application requirements of the home degree program. In addition to the admission requirements of the home program, the Collaborative Program would also require completion of a Public Health Policy specific online application and free-form essay. Decisions about admissions to the Collaborative Program will be made by the Program Committee which will assess applicants' achievements, reference letters, and research plan (if applicable) Students may complete the collaborative program at the master's or the doctoral level (not both). Two graduate seminar series courses are being proposed for this proposal (see attached) and they will constitute the common learning experience for both degree levels. The SGS Calendar entry below summarizes the full

admission and program requirements for each degree level.

CALENDAR ENTRY

Collaborative Graduate Degree Program in Public Health Policy

Lead Faculty

Medicine

Participating Degree Programs

1. Exercise Sciences (MSc, PhD), Faculty of Physical Education and Health
2. Health Administration (MHSc), Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
3. Health Policy, Management & Evaluation (MSc, PhD), Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
4. Nutritional Sciences (MSc, PhD) Department of Nutritional Sciences
5. Public Health Sciences (MPH, MSc, PhD), Dalla Lana School of Public Health
6. Public Policy & Governance (MPP), School of Public Policy & Governance

Supporting Units

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Overview

The Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy will provide students with exemplary training program in public health policy which will foster synergies and cross-disciplinary learning. It will give students the capacity to engage in current events and contribute to the development, refinement, and evaluation of policies to address society's pressing and emerging public health priorities. The proposed Collaborative Program will be cross-disciplinary, bringing together a broad range of disciplines, substantive foci, and theoretical and methodological underpinnings, to synergistically build an engaged community of practice of students and faculty focused on public health policy. It will contribute to the creation of the next generation of public health policy research leaders and creative agents for change, able to address the health issues and challenges. Through the direction of the stellar team of academics and policy makers associated with the Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy, students will be provided with real world skills to address the complex and demanding task of public health policy making (including insight into a wide array of legislative and regulatory interventions, administrative practices, financing and funding decisions, and various forms of soft law e.g., guidelines and informal processes) which operate at the international, federal, provincial and municipal levels and in settings that are cross-cutting (e.g., worksites) and in ways that are both cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral.

Upon successful completion of the Master's or PhD requirements of the host department and the program, students receive the notation "Completed Collaborative Graduate Program in Public Health Policy" on their transcript and a collaborative program parchment countersigned by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Program Director.

Contact and Address

Web: www.phs.utoronto.ca

E-mail: publichealthpolicy@utoronto.ca

Telephone: (416) 978-6512

Fax: (416) 946-0340

Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy

University of Toronto

155 College St., Suite 534

Toronto, Ontario M5T 3M7

Canada

Master's Degree Level

Admission Requirements

- Acceptance into a participating Master's program
- Completed online application form available on the website
- Curriculum vitae (maximum length 5 pages)
- 2 page free-form essay outlining:
 1. interest in public health policy
 2. aspirations
 3. learning goals
 4. career plans
 5. specific research plans (if in a research program of study)
 6. experience relevant to public health policy
- Letters from 2 references – the letters of reference should describe the student's academic ability and career aspirations and comment on the student's potential benefit from the Collaborative Program

Program Requirements

- Satisfy requirements of home degree program and graduate unit
- Undertake the major paper, thesis or practicum placement with a public health policy focus under the supervision of one of the collaborative program's core faculty members
- Complete two graduate courses (1.0 FCE) in public health policy from the following list:
CHL5300H "Public Health Policy", CHL5308H "Tools and Approaches for Public Health Policy Analysis and Evaluation", HAD 5011H "Canada's Health Care System", or PPG 1001H "The Policy Process"
- Complete the Master's Seminar Series course, SRM3333H

Doctoral Degree Level

Admission Requirements

- Acceptance in a participating PhD program
- Completed online application form available on the website
- Curriculum vitae (maximum length 5 pages)
- 2 page free-form essay outlining:
 1. Interest in public health policy
 2. aspirations

3. learning goals
4. career plans
5. specific research plans
6. experience relevant to public health policy

Letters from 2 references - one letter should come from the prospective supervisor and should describe availability of resources necessary to carry out research, including the type of mentoring the supervisor will be able to provide, comments on academic progress, and the student's potential benefit from the Collaborative Program.

Program Requirements

- Satisfy requirements of home degree program and graduate unit
- Undertake thesis research with a public health policy focus under the supervision of one of the collaborative program's core faculty members
- Complete two graduate courses (1.0 FCE) in public health policy from the following list: CHL5300H "Public Health Policy", CHL5308H "Tools and Approaches for Public Health Policy Analysis and Evaluation", HAD 5011H "Canada's Health Care System", or PPG 1001H "The Policy Process". This requirement will be waived for students who have completed 2 of these 4 courses previously.
- Completion of Graduate Seminar Series course CHL5309H

Completion of program requirements:

All students enrolled in the Collaborative Program must complete the requirements of the Collaborative Program, in addition to those requirements for the degree program in their home graduate unit. The Collaborative Program Director and/or Program Committee is/are responsible for certifying the completion of the Collaborative Program requirements. The home graduate unit is solely responsible for the approval of the student's home degree requirements.

5. Resources

The Collaborative Program's core faculty members are available to students in the home program as advisors or supervisors. If a student's program includes a thesis, it is expected that a core graduate faculty member in the student's home department will be involved in thesis supervision. Core faculty members contribute to the Collaborative Program through teaching, supervising students and participating in the delivery of the seminar series courses. Some faculty may teach courses in the subject area of the Collaborative Program in the home program. Not all core faculty members are active in the Collaborative Program every year and, in many cases, simply remain available to interested students. The list of core faculty members is available in Appendix C. Each participating degree program contributes to the Collaborative Program through student enrolments, although not necessarily every year.

6. Administration

Please see Appendix B: Memorandum of Agreement

7. Governance Process

	<i>Levels of Approval Required</i>
<i>Consultation with Provost</i>	
<i>Decanal Sign Off</i>	
	Graduate unit approval
	Faculty/Divisional Council

Developed: March 18, 2011

APPENDIX B

**School of Graduate Studies
University of Toronto**

COLLABORATIVE GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

December 2011

Memorandum of Agreement concerning a Collaborative Graduate Program in Public Health Policy

1. Brief Description

In order to develop cooperative and multidisciplinary graduate education and research in public health policy, the following collaborating units agree to participate in a Collaborative Program via the following graduate programs and degrees:

- Exercise Sciences (MSc, PhD), Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Health Administration (MHSc), Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
- Health Policy, Management & Evaluation (MSc, PhD), Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
- Nutritional Sciences (MSc, PhD) Department of Nutritional Sciences
- Public Health Sciences (MPH, MSc, PhD), Dalla Lana School of Public Health
- Public Policy & Governance (MPP), School of Public Policy & Governance

2. Admission and Program Requirements and Completion

2.1 Admission Requirements

Each graduate student in the Program shall be enrolled in a participating degree program in the graduate unit in which the research is conducted, which is known as the home graduate unit. The student shall meet the admission requirements of both the home graduate unit and the Collaborative Program.

Master's Degree Level

Admission Requirements

- Acceptance into a participating Master's program
- Completed online application form available on the website
- Curriculum vitae (maximum length 5 pages)
- 2 page free-form essay outlining:
 1. interest in public health policy
 2. aspirations
 3. learning goals
 4. career plans
 5. specific research plans (if in a research program of study)
 6. experience relevant to public health policy.
- Letters from 2 references – the letters of reference should describe student's academic ability and career aspirations, comment on the student's potential benefit from the Collaborative Program

Doctoral Degree Level

Admission Requirements

- Acceptance in a participating PhD program
- Completed online application form available on the website
- Curriculum vitae (maximum length 5 pages)
- 2 page free-form essay outlining:
 1. Interest in public health policy
 2. aspirations
 3. learning goals
 4. career plans
 5. specific research plans
 6. experience relevant to public health policy

Letters from 2 references - one letter should come from prospective supervisor and should describe availability of resources necessary to carry out research, including the type of mentoring the supervisor will be able to provide, comments on academic progress, and the student's potential benefit from the Collaborative Program.

2.2 Program Requirements

The student shall register in the School of Graduate Studies through the home graduate unit and shall:

- a) meet all respective degree requirements of the School of Graduate Studies and the participating graduate unit; and
- b) meet the requirements of the Collaborative Program.

Master's Program Requirements

- Satisfy requirements of home degree program and graduate unit
- Undertake the major paper, thesis or practicum placement with a public health policy focus under the supervision of one of the collaborative program's core faculty members
- Complete two graduate courses (1.0 FCE) in public health policy from the following list:
CHL5300H "Public Health Policy", CHL5308H "Tools and Approaches for Public Health Policy Analysis and Evaluation", HAD 5011H "Canada's Health Care System" or PPG 1001H "The Policy Process"
- Completion of the Graduate Seminar Series Course SRM3333H

Doctoral Program Requirements

- Satisfy requirements of home degree program and graduate unit
- Undertake thesis research with a public health policy focus under the supervision of one of the collaborative program's core faculty members
- Complete two graduate courses (1.0 FCE) in public health policy from the following list:
CHL5300H "Public Health Policy", CHL5308H "Tools and Approaches for Public Health Policy Analysis and Evaluation", HAD 5011H "Canada's Health Care System" or PPG 1001H "The Policy Process". This requirement will be waived for students who have completed 2 of these 4 courses previously.
- Completion of Graduate Seminar Series course CHL5309H

2.3 Program Completion

With the approval of the Collaborative Program Director, the designation “Completed the Collaborative Graduate Program in Public Health Policy” shall be shown on the transcript, upon certification that all requirements of the Collaborative Graduate Program in Public Health Policy have been fulfilled.

3. Role of Participating Graduate Units

Each participating graduate unit shall retain its statutory control over admissions and home program requirements, and its statutory duty to provide adequate research supervision by a member of the graduate faculty in the unit. The home graduate unit shall recommend the granting of the degree. Students in the Collaborative Program normally shall be supervised by a member of the Collaborative Program’s core faculty, or have a core faculty member as a member of the supervisory committee. Participating graduate units will include reference to the Collaborative Program in the SGS Calendar entry, on the department website, and in other related advertising of the home program. Core faculty members shall remain available to contribute to the Collaborative Program through teaching of the core course/s and participating in the delivery of the graduate seminar series courses. Not all faculty members necessarily participate each year and, in many cases, may simply remain available to interested students. Some faculty may teach courses in the subject area of the collaborative program in the home program.

4. Administration of the Program

4.1 Program Director

The Program Committee initiates and recommends the appointment of a new Director to the Dean of SGS, after consultation with chairs/directors of participating graduate units and with the Collaborative Program Director. The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies approves appointments of Directors of Collaborative Programs for terms normally up to five years. An appointment is renewable upon recommendation of the Program Committee in consultation with the chairs/directors of participating graduate units, and approval of the Dean of SGS.

The Director shall be responsible for certifying for each Collaborative Program student that the requirements of the Program have been fulfilled. It is proposed that the inaugural Program Director be Dr. Robert Schwartz.

4.2 Program Committee

The Collaborative Program shall be administered by a program committee consisting of one graduate faculty member from each participating program upon the recommendation of the graduate chair/director. The Program Committee shall be chaired by the Program Director. The Committee shall meet once annually.

The Program Committee shall be responsible for the following activities:

- a) review of all applications and admissions to the Collaborative Program
- b) nominate a Director from among its membership, as required
- c) other, e.g., student counselling, reviewing curriculum, approving advertising, support students to seek additional funding sources (e.g. graduate student funding awards)

4.3 Administration: General

The Program Director will be assisted by the Collaborative Program Committee and a part-time staff administrative assistant (paid for at least until 2015 with funds from the CIHR Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research - STIHR grant; as applicable, the Director and co-applicants will apply for renewal of this CIHR STIHR grant support.). Should the CIHR STIHR grant not be renewed, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health is committed to the continued administration of this program. The administrative office for the Public

Health Policy Collaborative Program will be located within the Dalla Lana School of Public Health – see Supporting Unit section below. Facilities include dedicated meeting space, as required.

The Collaborative Program Committee will meet regularly to admit students, assess each student's individual progress, and develop the Collaborative Program. Graduate units participating in the Collaborative Program may be asked to contribute modestly to the program, based on the numbers of students enrolled.

5. Supporting Unit

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

In addition to having a participating graduate program, the School will provide administrative support, including entering grades and course enrolment on ROSI, and will provide meeting space for Program committees and collaborative student events such as the seminar series.

6. Resource Issues

Currently there is a CIHR Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research (STIHR) grant administered through the Dalla Lana School of Public Health with a focus on public health policy. Funds from the grant pay for the part time administrative assistant and will help fund the events of the graduate seminar series. The Collaborative Program Director and co-applicants will apply for renewal of this CIHR STIHR grant support. Should the CIHR STIHR grant not be renewed, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health is committed to continuing to support the administration and implementation of the core program components of the Collaborative Program at the conclusion of the STIHR funding.

School of Graduate Studies
University of Toronto

COLLABORATIVE GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN
PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
December 2011

SIGNATURE PAGE
UNIT AGREES TO PARTICIPATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL TERMS OUTLINED IN THIS
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Director Designate :

_____ Date: _____
Robert Schwartz, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Participating Graduate Units:

_____ Date: _____
*Louise Lemieux-Charles, Interim Director
Dalla Lana School of Public Health*

_____ Date: _____
*Louise Lemieux-Charles, Director
Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation*

_____ Date: _____
*Mark Stabile, Director
School of Public Policy and Governance*

_____ Date: _____
*Mary L'Abbe, Chair
Department of Nutritional Sciences*

_____ Date: _____

*Ira Jacobs, Dean
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, Graduate Department of Exercise Sciences*

Supporting Unit

_____ Date: _____

*Louise Lemieux-Charles, Interim Director
Dalla Lana School of Public Health*

School of Graduate Studies

_____ Date: _____

*Professor Brian Corman
Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Education*

Faculty of Medicine)

_____ Date: _____

*Avrum Gottlieb, Acting Vice-Dean
Faculty of Medicine*

APPENDIX C

CORE FACULTY RESEARCH SYNOPSES

There must be at least one faculty member from each participating graduate unit. Core faculty in a Collaborative Program must be Graduate Faculty members and must have the approval of their home unit chair/director for cross-appointments to the Collaborative Program.

The following is a list of the Collaborative Program's core faculty and Program Committee members:

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Robert Schwartz

http://www.phs.utoronto.ca/faculty_template_new.asp?GetFile=SRobert

Schwartz, R., Johnson T. Problems, Policies and Politics: A comparative case study of contraband tobacco from the 1990s to the present in the Canadian context. *Journal of Public Health Policy* 31(3) (2010) 342-354

Schwartz R., McConnell A.. Do Crises Help Remedy Regulatory Failures? A Comparative Study of the Walkerton Water and Jerusalem Banquet Hall Disasters. *Canadian Public Administration*, 52(1) (2009) 91-112

Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

Raisa Deber

<http://www.hpme.utoronto.ca/about/faculty/list/deber.htm>

*Mah CL, Guttman A, McGeer A, Krahn M, **Deber R.** (2010) Compulsory school-entry vaccination laws and exemptions: Who is opting out in Ontario and why does it matter? *Healthcare Policy* 5(4): 37-46.

Deber R., McDougall C & Wilson K. (2007). Public health through a different lens. *Healthcare Papers* 7(3): 66-71.

School of Public Policy and Governance

Adalsteinn Brown

<http://www.hpme.utoronto.ca/about/faculty/list/brown.htm>

Lomas J, **Brown AD**, Research and Advice-Giving: A Functional View of Evidence-Informed Policy Advice in a Canadian Ministry of Health. *Milbank Quarterly*, 2009;87:903-92

Veillard JHM, **Brown AD**, Baris E, Permanend G, Klazinga NS. Health system stewardship in the WHO European region: Concepts, function, and assessment framework. *Health Policy*, 2011 (in press)

Department of Nutritional Sciences

Mary L'Abbe

<http://www.utoronto.ca/nutrisci/faculty/Labbe/>

Health Canada. *Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada: Recommendations of the Sodium Working Group*. Ottawa: Health Canada, National Evaluation Division, July 2010.

Pantazopoulos P, Kwong K, Lillycrop W, Wong L, Gao Y, Chalouh S, Samadhin M, NimalRatnayake W, Krenosky S, Dumais L, **L'Abbe M**. Trans and saturated fat on food labels in Canada: Fact or fiction? *Canadian Journal of Public Health* 2011 Jul-Aug;102(4):313-316.

Department of Exercise Sciences

Guy Faulkner

http://www.physical.utoronto.ca/FacultyAndResearch/Meet_the_Faculty/Faulkner.aspx

Faulkner GE, Grootendorst P, Nguyen V, Andreyeva T, Arbour-Nicitopoulos K, Auld C, Cash S, Cawley J, Donnelly P, Drewnowski A, Dube L, Ferrence R, Janssen I, LaFrance J, Lakdawalla D, Mendelsen R, Powell L, Traill B, Windmeijer F. (in press). Economic Instruments for Obesity Prevention: Results of a Scoping Review and Modified Delphi Survey. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*.

Faulkner, G., McCloy, C., Plotnikoff, R., & Tremblay, M. (2011). Relaunching a national social marketing campaign: Expectations and challenges for the 'new' ParticipACTION. *Health Promotion Practice*, 12(4), 569-76.

APPENDIX D

Example of Online Application Form

Section I: Candidate Information

Name of Candidate: _____

Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

Email: _____

Current Degree and Area of Study: _____

Department/School/Faculty: _____

Affiliated Centre/Institution: _____

Start Date of Current Degree/Postdoctoral Program: _____ / _____ / _____
dd mm yyyy

Expected End Date of Current Degree/Postdoctoral Program: _____ / _____ / _____
dd mm yyyy

Title of proposed research study (if applicable):

Section II: Supervisor Information (if applicable)

Name of Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's Institutional Affiliation (Department, Faculty):

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Section III: References

Candidates are responsible for instructing their referees to email letters directly to the Program Administrator at publichealthpolicy@utoronto.ca. Reference letters are to be submitted from:

Name: _____
Institutional Affiliation: _____
Relationship to Applicant: _____

Name: _____
Institutional Affiliation: _____
Relationship to Applicant: _____

Section IV: Declaration

I declare that the information provided in my application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to abide by the regulations governing this award, if granted.

Please check if you would like to be added to the CIHR Strategic Training Program in Public Health Policy mailing list