M.D./PH.D. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All M.D./Ph.D. students must meet with the director of graduate studies in Public Health if they are considering affiliating with PH. Students in this program are expected to meet the guidelines listed below in the time frame outlined. The DGS must approve any variations to these requirements.

TEACHING

One term of teaching will be required. If students teach beyond this requirement, they can be compensated. If a student has served as a teaching assistant elsewhere on campus, this experience may be counted toward the requirement. DGS approval is required to waive the teaching requirement on the basis of previous Yale teaching experience.

ROTATIONS/INTERNSHIPS

Students should do two rotations/internships with potential advisers in YSPH. These short-term research projects will be with a specific principal investigator and can be (1) in a lab, (2) field work, or (3) analysis of an existing dataset. The purpose of these rotations/internships is to learn lab technique and/or to allow the student time to determine if the PI’s research interests are compatible with the student’s research interests. These rotations/internships are usually done during the summer between the first and second year of medical school work. In some cases students may need to defer this until the summer after the second year after taking certain courses and/or completing readings so that they possess the background necessary for a successful rotation/internship.

REQUIRED COURSE WORK

M.D./Ph.D. students are generally expected to take the same courses as traditional Ph.D. students. Departmental requirements may vary; therefore, students should confer with the DGS and/or their Ph.D. adviser.

TIMELINE FOR QUALIFYING EXAM

Students generally will take medical school courses in years one and two. Students can take PH doctoral courses in years one and two before they affiliate if scheduling allows. Once affiliated with the PH program, students will complete all course requirements for the department. This generally takes a minimum of two terms but can take up to four terms after affiliating with PH. The qualifying exam is commonly completed after the fourth term of affiliation with the Ph.D. program in PH but can sometimes be done earlier with approval of the Ph.D. adviser and DGS.

PROSPECTUS TIMELINE

Following completion of the qualifying exam, students should focus on the prospectus, which must be approved by the PH Graduate Studies Executive Committee (GSEC) before the end of the student’s sixth term as an affiliated Ph.D. student in PH.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

To be admitted to candidacy, students must: (1) satisfactorily complete the course requirements for their department as outlined above, achieve grades of Honors in at least two full-term doctoral-level courses, and achieve an overall High Pass average; (2) obtain an average grade of High Pass on the qualifying exam; and (3) have the dissertation prospectus approved by the GSEC. All Ph.D. students must be admitted to candidacy before the start of the fourth year in the Ph.D. program (i.e., before the start of the seventh term).