

Clemson University (Clemson) – Medical University of South Carolina  
(MUSC)

Accelerated Pathway to the Master of Public Health degree  
In Biostatistics

Student Intent to Participate Form

**Part A – Description and requirements**

**Program purpose and description:** Clemson and MUSC (through the College of Medicine) have developed the *Accelerated Pathway to the Master of Public Health degree in Biostatistics* program aimed at reducing students' overall educational cost from undergraduate education through graduate school while retaining the most talented students in South Carolina. The Accelerated Pathway to the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Biostatistics agreement facilitates eligibility for outstanding Clemson students to apply for provisional admittance as early as their freshman year at Clemson University. Provisionally accepted students must achieve all progression criteria to retain their status. When progression criteria are all achieved and approved by MUSC, their status will move to full acceptance. This Accelerated Pathway agreement differs from others established between Clemson and MUSC. In this pathway students complete four full academic years at Clemson, taking 12 semester hours of approved graduate courses, then transition to the MUSC campus following Clemson graduation. MUSC will accept the 12 semester hours of approved graduate courses toward completion of one of three MPH degrees. The “approved graduate courses” to be taken at Clemson vary by degree as outlined below. This ‘4+1’ agreement affords Clemson students a more accelerated route to entering the workforce and reduces their education-related debt.

**Student progression requirements – per MUSC:**

Clemson accelerated program students, provisionally accepted into the MPH program, must meet or exceed all of the following progression requirements to remain in the program and provisionally accepted:

1. As prerequisite to provisional admission in the accelerated program, Clemson students must hold a cumulative GPA of  $\geq 3.4$ . Students must maintain this GPA expectation throughout their instruction at Clemson University.
2. Clemson students must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). If taking the GRE, students must score  $\geq 50^{\text{th}}$  percentile. In 2017, this translates to a 151 score in verbal, 153 score in quantitative, and 4.0 in analytical sections. Students should take the GRE in the summer between the junior and senior year. Students who score below the required thresholds are encouraged to retake the examination prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the senior year, which is the deadline for completing the GRE.

**Required courses for the MPH in Biostatistics:**

- a. Earn a grade of B or higher in an introductory statistics course (e.g. STAT 2300, STAT 3090) typically taken during the sophomore year. Transfer courses or AP credit is acceptable for this requirement.

- b. Earn a grade of B or better in a Calculus III course at Clemson. Credit from a transfer course is acceptable for this requirement.
- c. Earn a grade of B or higher in HLTH 8030 – Theory and Determinants of Health (or other Clemson graduate course approved by MUSC); course will substitute for a MPH core course (i.e. PHHBP 700 Social and Behavioral Science).
- d. Earn a grade of B or higher in STAT 8010 – Statistical Methods (or other Clemson graduate course approved by MUSC); course will substitute for a MPH core course (i.e. BMTRY 700 Introduction to Clinical Biostatistics).
- e. Earn a grade of B or higher in HLTH 8090 – Epidemiological Research (or other Clemson graduate course approved by MUSC); course will substitute for a MPH core course (i.e. BMTRY 736 Foundations of Epidemiology I).
- f. Earn a grade of B or higher in HLTH 8110 – Health Care Delivery Systems (or other Clemson graduate course approved by MUSC); course will substitute for a MPH core course (i.e. PHGEN 710 Introduction to Health Systems and Policy).

### **Internship:**

A formal internship experience is recommended, but not required, for the MPH degree program. Clemson undergraduate students must complete an internship experience if required by their undergraduate degree program (e.g. BS Health Science).

### **Application process:**

Clemson students, as early as their freshman year (after grades are posted for one semester) through their junior year, interested in this Accelerated Pathway are expected to meet with the BS-MPH Program Coordinator, a faculty member in the Clemson University Department of Public Health Sciences. The Coordinator will interview the student to assess interest and preparation, review progression requirements, and discuss the application process.

Following the student interview with the Clemson University BS-MPH Program Coordinator, students who meet the GPA requirement above may file their *Intent to Participate Form* with the Registrar's Office (with copy to the BS-MPH Program Coordinator) any time between their freshman and junior year at Clemson. Once properly submitted, the Clemson accelerated student will be provisionally admitted to the MUSC MPH program.

Clemson accelerated students that have been provisionally admitted must complete a formal MUSC MPH application between July 1st following their junior year and before March 1st of the senior year. In addition to the application, the Clemson student must complete supplemental reference materials specific to the MPH program. These forms are available within the application and are also sent through email once an application is submitted. Applicants are required to submit official transcripts from each post-secondary school attended and all materials must be received by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the senior year.

The Clemson accelerated students retain their provisional acceptance status until completing all progression requirements. When the progression requirements have been met, and formal application has been properly submitted and accepted by MUSC faculty, the students' status will change to full acceptance.

### **Interaction between MUSC and Clemson accelerated students and faculty**

MUSC MPH program faculty will try to travel to the Clemson campus and meet with the provisionally accepted students at least once per year. Provisionally accepted students are expected to meet with the MPH program faculty member during his/her visit.

The academic progress of each provisionally accepted student will be reviewed each summer by the Clemson University BS-MPH Program Coordinator and a MUSC MPH faculty member. Provisionally accepted students who fail to meet progression requirements will be removed from the accelerated program and the provisional acceptance status will be terminated. The designated MUSC MPH faculty member may, at his/her discretion, waive a progression requirement should an unusual and extenuating circumstance present.

Once provisional admittance has been terminated, the student cannot reapply through the accelerated pathway program. However, the student may apply or reapply through the normal admissions process.

### **Student responsibilities – per Clemson:**

- a. Complete the *Intent-to-Participate* form as developed by Clemson University. A blank copy of an initial Intent-to-Participate form is attached for information purposes. Clemson University retains discretion to modify this form, as it deems appropriate at any time.
- b. If after filing this *Intent-to-Participate* form with the Clemson University Registrar's Office or other designated office, the student desires to withdraw from the program or attend another college or university, the student must notify the Registrar's Office or other designated office that he/she is withdrawing from the program.
- c. Be responsible for understanding and following the requirements for the Clemson and MUSC degrees, and the specific requirements for their intended major at Clemson University.
- d. Meet all eligibility and progression requirements for the accelerated pathway program as outlined above.
- e. Follow all MUSC application for admission processes and timelines.
- f. Keep their Clemson academic advisor updated on their status in applying or participating in the accelerated program.

### ***Part B – Request and Advisor Acknowledgement***

**Student request:** By signing below, I

; CU identification #

- indicate my intent to participate in the

*Accelerated Pathway to the Master of Public Health degree in Biostatistics* program. I understand that I must meet and maintain all student eligibility requirements in order to participate. I also understand that upon provisional admission into the program, I must achieve all progression guidelines or could be removed from the program.

### **Part C – FERPA Permission**

I agree that Clemson University has my permission to share this *Intent to Participate* form, my name and contact information, my GPA and other academic records with MUSC as part of my participation in the program and for program evaluation purposes. I understand that I can request a copy of records provided to MUSC by contacting the Clemson University Registrar's Office. This FERPA permission remains in place until I revoke this permission in writing.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

#### **Student's Academic Advisor Acknowledgement:**

I understand that the student identified above desires to participate in the *Accelerated Pathway to the Master of Public Health degree in Biostatistics* program. Upon provisional admission into the program, the student must achieve all progression guidelines or could be removed from the program.

Academic Advisor's Name:

Advisor's Signature:

Date: