

: JP: COMMUNITY HEALTH, BS & EPIDEMIOLOGY, MPH

In Workflow

1. U Program Review (dforgacs@illinois.edu; eastuby@illinois.edu; aledward@illinois.edu)
2. 1581 Committee Chair (carlo1@illinois.edu; jjenkns@illinois.edu)
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10. Senate (jtempel@illinois.edu)
11. U Senate Conf (none)
12. Board of Trustees (none)
13. IBHE (none)
14. DMI (eastuby@illinois.edu; aledward@illinois.edu; dforgacs@illinois.edu)

Approval Path

1. Wed, 31 Mar 2021 18:25:30 GMT
Deb Forgacs (dforgacs): Approved for U Program Review
2. Wed, 31 Mar 2021 18:29:54 GMT
Kristi Carlson (carlo1): Approved for 1581 Committee Chair
3. Wed, 31 Mar 2021 19:12:39 GMT
Kim Graber (kgraber): Approved for 1581 Head
4. Wed, 31 Mar 2021 19:20:14 GMT
Reggie Alston (alston): Approved for KY Committee Chair
5. Wed, 31 Mar 2021 19:26:35 GMT
Reggie Alston (alston): Approved for KY Dean
6. Wed, 31 Mar 2021 19:28:56 GMT
John Wilkin (jpwilkin): Approved for University Librarian
7. Thu, 01 Apr 2021 20:05:43 GMT
Allison McKinney (agrindly): Approved for Grad_College
8. Thu, 01 Apr 2021 21:28:55 GMT
Kathy Martensen (kmartens): Approved for Provost

New Proposal

Date Submitted: Wed, 31 Mar 2021 18:03:56 GMT

Viewing:: JP: Community Health, BS & Epidemiology, MPH

Changes proposed by: Kristi Carlson

Proposal Type

Proposal Type:

Joint Program (ex. Master of Public Health & PhD. in Community Health)

Proposal Title:

If this proposal is one piece of a multi-element change please include the other impacted programs here. *example: A BS revision with multiple concentration revisions*

Establish the Joint Program in Community Health, BS & Epidemiology, MPH

This is related to the JP: Kinesiology, BS & Epidemiology, MPH key= 1051
JP: Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, BS & Epidemiology, MPH Key: 1052 proposals

EP Control Number

EP:21.106

Official Program Name

JP: Community Health, BS & Epidemiology, MPH

Effective Catalog Term

Fall 2021

Sponsor College

Applied Health Sciences

Sponsor Department

Kinesiology and Community Health

Sponsor Name

Justine Kaplan

Sponsor Email

justinek@illinois.edu

College Contact

Reggie Alston

College Contact Email

alston@illinois.edu

Program Description and Justification

Provide *abrief* description and justification of the program, including highlights of the program objectives, and the careers, occupations, or further educational opportunities for which the program will prepare graduates, when appropriate.

The Department of Kinesiology & Community Health requests a new BS in Community Health-MPH in Epidemiology joint degree. The goal is to mirror the successful existing joint degree for BS in Community Health-MPH in Public Health by allowing students to earn the MPH in Epidemiology. Students enrolled in the joint programs will obtain both degrees following the completion of 164 hours, which is the sum of 128 required to complete the BS degree and 48 hours to complete the MPH degree, minus 12 of those hours which will be applied to both degrees. (Note: The BS-MPH in Public Health

that exists already on campus is a joint degree with the MPH in Public Health, which is focused on health behavior and promotion. This trains students for jobs in disease prevention, health education, program management, and more. This is a proposal for creating a joint degree with the BS and the newer MPH in Epidemiology. The BS-MPH in Epidemiology trains students for jobs as epidemiologists, data analysts, evaluation roles, and more. Students will apply either to the BS-MPH in Public Health or the BS-MPH in Epidemiology. This is standard for MPH degrees across the nation, where students earn an MPH in a subject field of focus.)

The courses that apply to both degrees are CHLH 410: Public Health Practice, CHLH 469: Environmental Health, and a 400-level elective course the student can choose from an extensive list of options which is featured on the MPH website (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zpgl2clz4v88NXV7na8zTo6sLOwU2Krg/view?ts=5dade7e2>). Academic advisors for the CHLH, IHLT, and KIN programs receive information from the MPH Program about the admissions process, timeline for application, and the courses that apply to both degrees to help possible future applicants to the program prepare. In addition, the advisors are familiar with the required courses that count towards the BS and MPH degrees and help students plan accordingly. There are also FAQ sections on the MPH website for each of the BS degrees (CHLH, IHLT, and KIN) to help them plan in this manner. When a student is admitted to the BS-MPH in Epidemiology program they continue to receive academic advising from their undergraduate advisor while in the BS, and they also begin receiving academic advising from the MPH program. Those two advisors connect whenever needed to support the student. This ensures the student is receiving support to complete the BS and transition into the MPH in Epidemiology.

The benefit of the program to students is that it allows them to complete both degrees in 5.5 years versus 6, saving them both a semester of time and tuition. This joint degree benefits the campus by attracting and incentivizing talented students to stay at Illinois to complete their MPH as opposed to enrolling elsewhere.

Graduating students leave with training in advanced epidemiology, advanced biostatistics, and computer packages for health research. This is a valuable skill set applicable in many fields. Graduates with an MPH in Epidemiology work in careers as epidemiologists in public health departments (city, county, state, federal), hospitals, and research centers. They work as consultants and health data analysts for the government and healthcare businesses, including clinics, hospitals, insurance companies, and pharmaceutical companies. Some students will also choose to pursue further education in doctoral research studies or clinical education such as pursuing their MD, NP, or PA degree. The fields all benefit from someone with the strong foundation in public health, epidemiology, and biostatistics the graduates from this program will have.

Even before the COVID pandemic, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that the job of Epidemiologist is projected to have a 5% growth rate between 2018-2028. (Source: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/epidemiologists.htm#TB_inline?height=325&width=325&inlined=qf-outlook) Median salary for epidemiologists is \$69,660 per year. The same bureau lists median annual wages for epidemiologists in top industries in which they commonly work. This ranges from \$61,790 in academia to \$82,250 in hospitals to \$98,800 in scientific research and development services. (Source <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes191041.htm#>)

Is this program interdisciplinary?

No

Identify the existing programs to be joined:

Corresponding Program(s)
Community Health, BS
Epidemiology, MPH

Academic Level

Graduate
Undergraduate

CIP Code

51.2208; 26.1309 - 51.2208; 26.1309

Is This a Teacher Certification Program?

No

Will specialized accreditation be sought for this program?

Yes

Describe the plans for seeking specialized accreditation:

The MPH Program is already nationally accredited by CEPH, the Council for Education on Public Health. This accreditation includes the MPH (in Public Health) and the MPH in Epidemiology. The addition of the MPH in Epidemiology was approved and accredited by CEPH in October 2019. Extensive reporting, assessment, evaluation, and tracking occurs as part of being a nationally accredited program. Very detailed curriculum competency alignment, tracking, and reporting happen throughout the year to ensure the program is meeting the 30+ individual competencies CEPH requires. In addition, an active External Advisory Committee and student governance advisory committee are both required, and are active entities supporting the MPH program.

Institutional Context

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Describe the historical and university context of the program's development. Include a short summary of any existing program(s) upon which this program will be built.

Explain the nature and degree of overlap with existing programs and, if such overlap exists, document consultation with the impacted program's home department(s).

There is an existing BS-MPH program in the department, available with a BS in Community Health, Interdisciplinary Health, and Kinesiology and the MPH in Public Health. The program has been granting degrees for nine years, and it is the most popular way students earn an MPH through our program. The MPH in Epidemiology began in Fall 2020, with support to launch the program coming from a campus Investment for Growth proposal. The intention was to develop both the MPH in Epidemiology and the BS-MPH in Epidemiology.

While the MPH in Public Health and MPH in Epidemiology share some common foundational coursework, they are very distinct degrees that lead to distinct career paths. Thus, there is value in adding the BS-MPH in Epidemiology opportunity on campus to allow current undergraduate students an option for completing this important degree at Illinois.

University of Illinois

Briefly describe how this program will support the University's mission, focus and/or current priorities. Demonstrate the program's consistency with and centrality to that mission.

Public health is a vital field, as the world has seen with dramatically more clarity during the COVID pandemic. The field of public health generally, and epidemiology specifically, is strongly aligned with the University's mission and priorities. This program will encourage and foster scholarship, discovery, and innovation, and the degree is training students for a lifetime of working to provide positive societal impact.

State of Illinois

Indicate which of the following goals of the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Strategic Initiative are supported by this program: (choose all that apply)

High Quality Credentials to Meet Economic Demand - Increase the number of high-quality post-secondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.

Describe how the proposed program supports these goals.

Epidemiologists, and more broadly employees with skills in health data analysis, are in high demand. Even before the COVID pandemic, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that the job of Epidemiologist is projected to have a 5% growth rate between 2018-2028. (Source: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/epidemiologists.htm#TB_inline?height=325&width=325&inlined=of-outlook) Median salary for epidemiologists is \$69,660 per year. The same bureau lists median annual wages for epidemiologists in top industries in which they commonly work. This ranges from \$61,790 in academia to \$82,250 in hospitals to \$98,800 in scientific research and development services. (Source <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes191041.htm#>).

Admission Requirements

Desired Effective Admissions Term

Fall 2021

Provide a brief narrative description of the admission requirements for this program. Where relevant, include information about licensure requirements, student background checks, GRE and TOEFL scores, and admission requirements for transfer students.

- To be eligible, students have completed their junior year of the BS in Community Health.
- Students must have 3.0 or higher overall GPA to receive admission.
- Students can apply to the program at two different times- the summer before they begin their senior year or at the end of the fall term of their senior year. Application dates vary slightly year to year tied to semester start dates. The upcoming cycle of applications will be due August 1st and December 15th.
- Applications for admission will be reviewed by program staff and an admissions committee, comprised of faculty and staff from the department who teach and advise MPH students.
- Applications are reviewed holistically, looking at GPA and performance in courses, experiential opportunities (work, volunteer experiences, internships), personal statement, and recommendation letters.
- Upon acceptance, students will be admitted to the joint program and meet with their MPH advisor to determine which courses will be taken in their senior year that will apply to both degrees. (During their undergraduate degree, the joint degree students also continue to meet with their undergraduate advisor.)
- Students admitted to the graduate program must maintain an overall 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing.

Describe how critical academic functions such as admissions and student advising are managed.

The MPH Program has a current process for managing admissions and student advising, and that will expand to include the BS-MPH in Epidemiology.

Admissions: An MPH admissions committee, comprised of the MPH Director, MPH Assistant Director, and faculty and program staff members who join the committee meet approximately three times per year for functions such as determining the recruiting and marketing plan for the year, establishing goals for recruiting and matriculation, and refining and implementing the applicant review plan for each year. The committee members have a lead role in reviewing applications and making admissions determinations, and other faculty who teach in and advise students in the MPH Program also participate in reviewing applications throughout the year. Reports about the admissions process and meeting minutes from committee meetings are submitted to the accrediting body for review periodically.

While the MPH program uses SOPHAS (a national centralized recruiting and application system for the public health field) for most applications, applicants to the BS-MPH program apply directly to the Graduate College on Slate since they are all internal applicants and the marketing and recruiting aspects of SOPHAS are not needed for them.

The MPH is also supported in admissions work by the Graduate Office Administrator for the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health. This team member is the primary interface between the Department and the Graduate College and provides valuable assistance.

Student Advising: Each MPH student receives three types of advising support.

1. Each student receives academic advising from the MPH Assistant Director. This includes assistance with getting started in the program, course registration, and checking if graduation requirements are being met.
2. Students are also assigned to a faculty mentor based on their shared interests. Students meet with the faculty adviser at least once per year to help build connections with faculty, learn about opportunities in research and community service, and help develop connections and networks for finding internship and job opportunities.
3. Lastly, students receive career advising. This begins in the Public Health Professionalism course students take in their first year, that helps expose students to the wide breadth of careers available in the field of public health and develops networking, resume and cover letter writing, and related

professional skills such as communication and leadership. This transitions into one-on-one career advising as students enter their final year of the program to help them hone in on finding jobs in their interest area, fine-tune resumes and cover letters, practice interviews, and gain additional support as needed, such as with salary negotiation. Career advising is provided by the MPH Director and Assistant Director.

Enrollment

Number of Students in Program (estimate)

Year One Estimate

3

5th Year Estimate (or when fully implemented)

10

Estimated Annual Number of Degrees Awarded

Year One Estimate

3

5th Year Estimate (or when fully implemented)

10

Delivery Method

This program is available:

On Campus

Budget

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Resource Implications

Facilities

Will the program require new or additional facilities or significant improvements to already existing facilities?

No

Technology

Will the program need additional technology beyond what is currently available for the unit?

No

Non-Technical Resources

Will the program require additional supplies, services or equipment (non-technical)?

No

Resources

For each of these items, be sure to include in the response if the proposed new program or change will result in replacement of another program(s). If so, which program(s), what is the anticipated impact on faculty, students, and instructional resources? Please attach any letters of support/acknowledgement from faculty, students, and/or other impacted units as appropriate.

Faculty Resources

Please address the impact on faculty resources including any changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc. Describe how the unit will support student advising, including job placement and/or admission to advanced studies.

The Investment for Growth grant funding that is helping to launch the MPH in Epidemiology should provide the additional faculty support needed for this joint degree, as well as for the MPH in Epidemiology more broadly. One of the new faculty began in Fall 2020, a search for a second faculty member is occurring in AY20-21. These new faculty, combined with existing faculty, will be able to cover the required core courses, courses specific to the MPH in Epidemiology, and the other existing teaching requirements for the MPH and Community Health degrees. We anticipate that class sizes will increase by 5-10 students per class. Since most MPH courses held now are small (20=30 students or less), accommodating the additional students seems very reasonable. Should faculty need additional TAs, that adjustment will be made within the Department. Student-to-faculty ratios will change, but are presently very low, most years with a 3:1 ratio. If this changes, and even doubles or triples (6:1, 9:1), these ratios are still very realistic. Student advising services, including academic and career advising, are described above in the Advising Services section.

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

As a relatively small program, starting with an estimated three students and growing to approximately 10 students by year five of matriculating students into the program, we do not see an impact on library resources. As a small program (under 5 students per year), we do not see an impact on library resources. The University Library already has the appropriate print and digital collections, as both of these degrees already exist and their needs are met. The main resource the MPH students use is PubMed and the related journals (AM J of Public Health, Am J of Preventive Medicine). Most resources used for the MPH program come from readily available online resources for the profession.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

No

Financial Resources

How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

Tuition Rate: The tuition rate for the MPH in Epidemiology is already established at graduate base tuition + \$3,000 for the year. This is a competitive price in line with similar R1 public school tuition in the state (ex: UIC), and significantly lower than private school tuition (ex: Loyola or Northwestern).

Self-Supporting: The existing MPH in Epidemiology, as well as the MPH in Public Health, is a self-supporting program, and most MPH degrees offered throughout the US are operated in this manner. This is consistent with most professional and practitioner degrees offered in the country as well. In addition, the MPH in Epidemiology program is being launched with funding from the Investment for Growth program on campus, which specifically targets programs that can offer important benefit to students and show financial sustainability for campus.

Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources?

No

Are you seeking a change in the tuition rate or differential for this program?

Yes

If yes, please enter your college budget office contact information and have them contact provostbudget@illinois.edu for next steps.

Suzanne Rinehart, srinehar@illinois.edu (NOTE: The tuition for the BS in Community Health part of this joint degree is already established. The tuition for the MPH in Epidemiology, which is graduate base tuition + 3K per year, is also already established. We plan to keep the tuition the same for both parts of this joint degree.)

Market Demand

What market indicators are driving this proposal? If similar programs exist in the state, describe how this program offers a unique opportunity for students:

Epidemiologists, and more broadly employees with skills in health data analysis, are in high demand. Even before the COVID pandemic, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that the job of Epidemiologist is projected to have a 5% growth rate between 2018-2028. (Source: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/epidemiologists.htm#TB_inline?height=325&width=325&inlined=of-outlook) Median salary for epidemiologists is \$69,660 per year. The same bureau lists median annual wages for epidemiologists in top industries in which they commonly work. This ranges from \$61,790 in academia to \$82,250 in hospitals to \$98,800 in scientific research and development services. (Source <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes191041.htm#>).

The BS-MPH in Epidemiology, which allows current undergraduates to begin working towards their graduate degree in their senior year and complete their degree in an accelerated manner, is unique in the state to our knowledge.

What type of employment outlook should these graduates expect? Explain how the program will meet the needs of regional and state employers, including any state agencies, industries, research centers, or other educational institutions that expressly encourage the program's development.

Epidemiologists, and more broadly employees with skills in health data analysis, are in high demand. Even before the COVID pandemic, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that the job of Epidemiologist is projected to have a 5% growth rate between 2018-2028. (Source: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/epidemiologists.htm#TB_inline?height=325&width=325&inlined=of-outlook) Median salary for epidemiologists is \$69,660 per year. The same bureau lists median annual wages for epidemiologists in top industries in which they

commonly work. This ranges from \$61,790 in academia to \$82,250 in hospitals to \$98,800 in scientific research and development services. (Source <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes191041.htm#>).

MPH students conduct an Applied Practice Experience (internship) and Integrative Learning Experience (capstone) project, which gives them hands-on experience working in the field and connections with potential employers. Students are able to choose these hands-on experiences so they are tailored to their unique interests and career goals. This builds skills as well as networking connections to help facilitate their job placement.

What resources will be provided to assist students with job placement?

Students receive career advising. This begins in the Public Health Professionalism course students take in their first year, that helps expose students to the wide breadth of careers available in the field of public health and develops networking, resume and cover letter writing, and related professional skills such as communication and leadership. This transitions into one-on-one career advising as students enter their final year of the program to help them hone in on finding jobs in their interest area, fine-tuning resumes and cover letters, practicing interviews, and services such as assistance with salary negotiation. Career advising is provided by the MPH Director and Assistant Director.

Program Regulation and Assessment

Briefly describe the plan to assess and improve student learning, including the program's learning objectives; when, how, and where these learning objectives will be assessed; what metrics will be used to signify student's achievement of the stated learning objectives; and the process to ensure assessment results are used to improve student learning. (Describe how the program is aligned with or meets licensure, certification, and/or entitlement requirements, if applicable).

There is no required licensure or certification in this field, however the MPH Program is nationally accredited by CEPH, the Council for Education on Public Health. (The addition of the MPH in Epidemiology was approved and accredited by CEPH in October 2019.) Extensive reporting, assessment, evaluation, and tracking occurs as part of being a nationally accredited program. Very detailed curriculum competency alignment, tracking, and reporting happen throughout the year to ensure the program is meeting the 30+ individual competencies CEPH requires. In addition, an active External Advisory Committee and student governance advisory committee are both required, and are active entities supporting the MPH program.

Is the career/profession for graduates of this program regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

Program of Study

"Baccalaureate degree requires at least 120 semester credit hours or 180 quarter credit hours and at least 40 semester credit hours (60 quarter credit hours) in upper division courses" (source: <https://www.ibhe.org/assets/files/PrivateAdminRules2017.pdf>). For proposals for new bachelor's degrees, if this minimum is not explicitly met by specifically-required 300- and/or 400-level courses, please provide information on how the upper-division hours requirement will be satisfied.

All proposals must attach the new or revised version of the Academic Catalog program of study entry. Contact your college office if you have questions.

Catalog Page Text

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

for the Community Health, BS

General Education

Code	Title	Hours
Communication Arts		
	Composition I and an approved speech performance course; or CMN 111 and CMN 112	6-7
	Advanced Composition (CHLH 304 fulfills requirement)	3-4
Quantitative Reasoning I & II		
	From approved campus list (must include a course in statistics from approved campus list) (CHLH 244 and CHLH 421 fulfills requirement)	6
Humanities and the Arts		
	From approved campus list (CHLH 260 fulfills 3 hours of requirement)	9
Social and Behavioral Sciences		
	From approved campus list	9
Natural Sciences and Technology		
	From approved campus list	9
Cultural Studies¹		
	One course from Non-Western Cultures approved campus list.	3
	One course from U.S. Minority Cultures approved campus list	3
	One course from Western Cultures approved campus list	3
	Foreign Language: Completion through the third level of the same language in high school or college	
Total Hours		51-53

Code	Title	Hours
Community Health Program Core Requirements		
CHLH 100	Contemporary Health	3
CHLH 125	Orientation KIN & Comm Health	1
CHLH 201	Public Health Research Methods	3
CHLH 210	Community Health Organizations	2
CHLH 250	Health Care Systems	3
CHLH 274	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
CHLH 304	Foundations of Health Behavior	4
CHLH 410	Public Health Practice	4
CHLH 421	Health Data Analysis	3
Kinesiology and Community Health Department Core Requirements		
CHLH 101	Introduction to Public Health	3
KIN 122	Physical Activity and Health	3
Correlate Areas (see Correlates List Tab)		18
Each student completes correlates that are planned with the assigned advisor. These courses are designed to enhance and support career goals.		
Electives		9-11
Concentration Requirements		18
Total Hours		128

¹ Courses in cultural studies may be completed through other categories where appropriate.

Course List

for the Epidemiology, MPH

Code	Title	Hours
CHLH 410	Public Health Practice	4
CHLH 469	Environmental Health	3 or 4
CHLH 550	Health Policy: United States	4
CHLH 568	Computer Packages in Health Research	2
CHLH 572	Principles of Epidemiology	4

CHLH 573	Biostatistics in Public Health	4
CHLH 576	Analytical Epidemiology	4
CHLH 578	Applied Epidemiology	4
CHLH 581	Professionalism in Public Health (2 semesters)	2
CHLH 582	Advanced Biostatistics	4
CHLH 587	MPH Applied Practice Experience	4
CHLH 589	MPH Integrative Learning Experience	2
Electives	2 courses, 3-4 hours each	8
Total Hours	(minimum required)	48

Other Requirements

Required Courses:	Required Hours
Minimum 500-level hours Required Overall:	12 (8 within the unit)
Minimum GPA	3.0

EP Documentation

DMI Documentation

Program Reviewer Comments

Deb Forgacs (dforgacs) (Wed, 10 Feb 2021 16:30:14 GMT):Rollback: Requested

Kristi Carlson (carlo1) (Thu, 18 Feb 2021 21:58:51 GMT):Rollback: Minor revisions

Deb Forgacs (dforgacs) (Mon, 22 Feb 2021 15:12:54 GMT):Rollback: requested

John Wilkin (jpwilkin) (Wed, 31 Mar 2021 17:17:09 GMT):Rollback: Can you confirm that we have appropriate digital and print collections for the program?

Reggie Alston (alston) (Wed, 31 Mar 2021 17:19:25 GMT):Rollback: See Wilkins question in comments section.

Kristi Carlson (carlo1) (Wed, 31 Mar 2021 18:18:06 GMT):We have edited the proposal to address the question posed by the library.

Key: 1053

