

EP.08.43
(Rev. 3/4/08)

Title of the Proposal:

Revised Curriculum for the Undergraduate Degree in Community Health
Department of Kinesiology and Community Health (KCH)
College of Applied Health Sciences

Sponsor:

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Brief Description:

The proposed revisions consist of adding three credit hours to the core requirements for the undergraduate degree in community health. A minimum of 128 credits are required to complete the degree. Currently, there are 26 credit hours contained in the degree's core requirements. The core would be expanded by the inclusion of KIN 122 (Physical Activity and Health). Community health majors are presently required to take 10-18 credit hours of free electives. To accommodate KIN 122 in the core, the free elective options in the degree would be reduced by three credit hours. The change in free electives represents a small reduction, and our elective requirements would continue to be comparable to or greater than other majors in the college and university. Since KIN 122 is an introductory and foundation course, there are no prerequisite courses to be included in the revisions. It is also important to note that the minimum hours for the degree would remain at 128 credits. See Appendix A for the new program of study sheet, which includes Kin 122 in the listing of core requirements.

Justification:

Although kinesiology and community health are two large undergraduate programs in the same department, there is not a course from either curriculum in the core requirements of the other. The absence of curriculum sharing is unusual given that both programs prepare students to address health and wellness from the perspective of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and public policy. To capitalize on the wealth of content and quality instruction in kinesiology, KIN 122 is being proposed as an addition to community health's core requirements. Majors in community health would enhance their undergraduate learning experience by exposure to some basic issues, trends, and practices of kinesiology as a science of movement and physical activity. KIN 122 offers an appropriate integration of kinesiology principles with public health initiatives familiar to our students. The inclusion of KIN 122 as a core requirement for community health majors characterizes the cross-disciplinary emphasis promoted within the college and across the university. Within community health, the initiative would expand students' awareness of our department's rich and broad curriculum and foster their growth as health care professionals.

Budgetary and Staff Implications:

A recent census by KCH of the undergraduate community health program estimated the enrollment of majors at over 500 students. Although the registration in KIN 122 would be staggered according to the students' year of classification, the infusion of many students into a kinesiology course would have some staff and budgetary implications. For instance, the course may have an extra 150 registrants per year or 75-80 more students registered each semester. It will be necessary to enlarge course enrollment and provide more teaching assistants or divide the course into two sections.


The intra-departmental nature of the proposed curriculum revisions actually facilitates a response to any budgetary demands. The Head of KCH (Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko) endorses the revision and has pledged

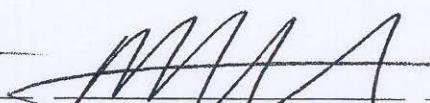
the additional resources and planning needed to accommodate the influx of students. The addition of KIN 122 as a core requirement for majors in community health is viewed by the Head as a curricular gain rather than a budgetary loss. Since Kin 122 does not have a laboratory component, there is no impact on existing laboratory space and/or equipment. The library would not experience a sudden or sustained drain on resources because the revisions only involve new course work for existing students rather than increases in the population of majors. The impact on the undergraduate advisor would be minimal because the revisions only involve one additional departmental course rather than increases in student enrollment.

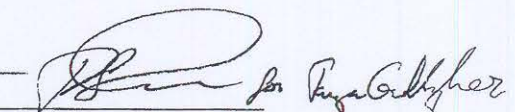
Guidelines for Undergraduate Education:

The proposal for revisions to the undergraduate degree in community health does not erode the quality of learning or jeopardize the guidelines for undergraduate education as defined by the University. Similar to other courses in community health, KIN 122 requires students to demonstrate reading comprehension, effective writing, and critical thinking. Moreover, KIN 122 compliments our curriculum in several ways. For instance, it would reinforce the premise of achieving a healthier life style through behavior change as emphasized in CHLH 304 (Foundations of Health Behavior), and it would place additional focus on models of health promotion delineated in CHLH 410 (Public Health Practice). We predict that the inclusion of Kin 122 as a core requirement will also ignite our students' curiosity about the movement sciences and encourage a desire in them to learn more.

Clearances:


Reginald J. Alston, Ph.D.
Sponsor


Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Ph.D.
Head


Tanya Gallagher, Ph.D.
Dean

Effective Date: August 1, 2008