

# BOARD OF REGENTS

## EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

### RECOMMENDATION

#### NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND DEGREE: MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

#### ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve a New Academic Program and Degree Type: Master of Public Health.

#### STAFF SUMMARY

The *Master of Public Health (MPH)* program prepares culturally competent public health professionals to partner with individuals and communities to prevent disease and injury and promote optimal health for all people.

#### PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

*Rationale* Internal and external factors drive the need for a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. The evolution of health education, health promotion, and public health disciplines caused a philosophical and structural shifts in traditional health education academic programs. Public health is the most recognizable term for encompassing these shared disciplines making the MPH degree the most recognized and valued in terms of employment.

Changes in the profession provided the impetus for the introduction of our BS in Public Health program in 2015-2016. For consistency and accuracy in reflecting the philosophical foundation of our Public Health Education program, it is necessary to be consistent with the degrees offered, thus improving the clarity of mission.

Furthermore, the development of this new degree program better positions program faculty to achieve several goals.

1. Obtain Council on Education for Public Health accreditation for both the undergraduate and graduate public health programs.
2. The creation of an accredited 5-year combined undergraduate-graduate public health degree; the first and only such program in the state.
3. This positions faculty to partner with programs across the University to expand cognate areas (e.g., social work, nutrition, environmental health).

*Program Distinction* Currently, the majority of our peer institutions have an MPH degree, including CMU, WMU, UM-Flint, OU, and UT. Except for UT and UM-Flint, all other programs are generalist degrees. This program is unique among public health graduate programs, given its defined focus on Public Health Education. The advantage to this degree is that students will have achieved the National

Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC) core competencies and be eligible to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam, which many employers require.

Many students expect to engage with the community while pursuing their degrees. The University's proximity to the Washtenaw County health department, as well as health departments in surrounding counties, and the Michigan Department of Community Health in Lansing, offers unique opportunities for student involvement, potential field placement or employment.

*Curriculum Design* The program, as designed, will provide students with an abundance of graduate-level courses and professional experiences to enhance their readiness and level of employability in the public health field. The program will prepare students as masters educated public health education specialists. A program that prepares graduates competent in the NCHEC professional areas of responsibility and professionally prepared health education specialists. This program prepares students to sit for and pass the voluntary CHES exam.

The program requires 36 credit hours of required coursework. Students have the option of completing either an internship, project, or thesis to satisfy the capstone requirement.

*Projected Enrollment* Year one projected enrollment, as indicated by program faculty, is 15-18 students. Faculty project maintaining current enrollment and graduation levels from their existing Master of Science in Health Education (MSHE) program, which will be phased-out when the MPH program is approved. The proposed program includes no new courses; all 36 credit hours are existing courses.

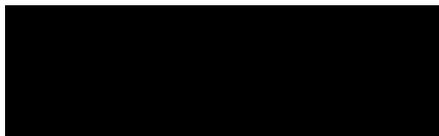
With increased marketing efforts and continued growth in the undergraduate public health major, the anticipation is that enrollment will continue to grow over the next two years. It is reasonable to expect the MPH to be a more attractive degree than the MSHE, thereby increasing prospective enrollment from the community by several students. Also, the current global health crisis as a result of COVID-19 may also spur interest in pursuing a public health degree.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The current Academic Affairs budget will absorb program costs.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



June 1, 2020

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**University Executive Officer**  
**Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.**

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**Date**

## Public Health [MPH]

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**New Program** [The effective date will be determined following consideration by the Academic Officers Committee, Michigan Association of State Universities and the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents.]

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The **Master of Public Health** program prepares culturally competent public health professionals to partner with individuals and communities to prevent disease and injury, and promote optimal health for all people.

### Program Admission

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An applicant seeking admission must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Meet the minimum [Graduate School](#) requirements for admission.
- Hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution.
- Submit three professional letters of recommendation.
- International students must meet minimum graduate school requirements for admission.

[Apply Now](#) →

#### Admission Process

Applications are accepted year-round for enrollment beginning either Fall or Winter semesters.

**A note to International applicants:** Currently, we are not permitted to admit you into this program if you need a student visa to study in the United States. **At this time**, Eastern Michigan University is unauthorized to issue I-20s for this program for students on an F1 visa. *Please continue to check this page to see if this status changes.*

### School Information

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[Health Promotion & Human Performance](#) | Christopher Herman, Ph.D., Director | 319J Porter, 734.487.2815, [cherman2@emich.edu](mailto:cherman2@emich.edu)

### Advisor Information

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Please contact the school for advisor information.

### Degree Requirements: 36 hours

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#### Required Core: 33 hours

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- [HLED 550 - Theoretical and Philosophical Foundations of Health Education](#) 3 hrs
- [HLED 555 - Current Health Issues and Trends](#) 3 hrs
- [HLED 558 - Health Education Methods and Materials](#) 3 hrs
- [HLED 562 - Health Education Program Planning](#) 3 hrs
- [HLED 564 - Health Education for Diverse Populations](#) 3 hrs
- [HLED 570 - Measurement in Health Education](#) 3 hrs

- [HLED 575 - Implementation and Administration of Health Education Programs](#) 3 hrs
- [HLED 695 - Seminar in Health Education](#) 3 hrs
- [HPHP 505 - Basic Statistics in Health Promotion and Human Performance](#) 3 hrs
- [HPHP 677 - Research, Theory and Design in Health Promotion and Human Performance](#) 3 hrs

In addition to the courses listed above, a student will choose one additional HLED course (3 hrs, 500-level and above).  
*Course selection requires advisor approval.*

## Capstone: 3 hours

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Choose one course from the following.

- [HLED 686 - Internship in Community Health Education](#) 3 hrs
  - [HLED 690 - Project in Health Education](#) 3 hrs
  - [HLED 692 - Thesis in Health Education](#) 3 hrs
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