

Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes | August 3, 2017

Present: Andriy Bandos, Jessie Burke, Mary Derkach, Patricia Documet, Eleanor Feingold, Nancy Glynn, Nicole Grant, Robin Leaf, Jeremy Martinson, Patricia Opresko, Kimmy Rehak, and John Shaffer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Dr. Patricia Documet, Chair.

Revised Course | EOH 2013, *Environmental Health and Disease*

Dr. Aaron Barchowsky presented an application for a revised core course that accounts for a reduction from 3 to 2 credit hours. This reduction was made to keep the total credit number for the MPH core curriculum from increasing too much. He explained that his course would keep the weekly hour and a half long lecture but would reduce the amount of time students spent doing work online outside of the classroom in order to justify the loss of credit hour. Once the new curriculum is introduced, only a half of an hour of outside work will be required. Students will no longer have to build wikis and instead of participating in an online discussion board weekly, they will have to do so on a biweekly basis.

ACTION: The committee approved the course with no changes.

Update on Overall MPH Core Curriculum, Jessie Burke

Dr. Jessie Burke, Associate Dean for Education, reported that the total credit number for the MPH core curriculum would be 21 credits, as the Foundations course (a reintroduced Overview course) has evolved to a 1 credit course and the Capstone course will stay at 2 credits. The work load for each course could not justify either class being fewer credits. The name of the Capstone course will potentially be changed to Applications. Jessie also mentioned that the syllabi for new or overhauled MPH core classes might be generic when they first are presented at EPCC as the courses are still being developed and changes need to be implemented in fall 2018.

ACTION: No action needed.

Brief Update on DrPH Curriculum Revisions, Jessie Burke

Dr. Jessie Burke, reported that the DrPH committee has been meeting to figure out how to address the new CEPH competencies, especially as many of these competencies are not being addressed in the current DrPH curricula. She has met with Mark Rogers in HPM to discuss HPM's adding a DrPH program as a few of the department's classes already cover a number of the new competencies. The committee has started to map out a plan for course sequencing and intend to develop a case-based year-long course for each new cohort of DrPH students to address the competencies that are not addressed in other required courses. She also mentioned that the committee has contacted alumni in the area and a few have expressed interest in helping to teach this new course.

ACTION: No action needed.

Revised Course | PUBHLT 2015, *Public Health Biology*, Jeremy Martinson

Dr. Jeremy Martinson presented an application for a revised core course, indicating a statement in the beginning of the syllabus that was revised to explain how the class was addressing the new CEPH

competencies. He mentioned that he is rolling out these changes in fall 2017 and spring 2018 and may change the assessment descriptions so that they also include information about which competencies are being assessed. This comment prompted a short discussion about whether there was a need to standardize the presentation of competencies and learning outcomes across the MPH core classes.

ACTION: The committee approved the course with no changes; no decision was made regarding the standardization of competency presentation.

Revised Courses | BIOST 2011, *Principles of Statistical Reasoning* and BIOST 2041, *Introduction to Statistical Methods I*, Rob Krafty

Dr. Rob Krafty presented applications for two revised core courses which he explained had previously been revamped within the last two years to distinguish them from one another. BIOST 2011 is a terminal course in which students are exposed to statistical literature and perform calculations using statistical programs. He also distinguished that while BIOST 2041 can be a stand-alone course, it also serves as preparation for BIOST 2042 and requires students to perform mathematical equations in addition to calculations through statistical programs. This prompted a brief discussion on whether the statistical programs being used for these courses should be changed. The committee decided that if students have to learn different statistical software programs throughout the course of their MPH program, it would be beneficial. The MPH competencies that are addressed in both courses were explicitly stated within the syllabi. It was also mentioned that the students in BIOST 2041 might need more interpretation experience in order to satisfy CEPH competency 4.

ACTION: The committee approved the courses with no changes.

New Certificate Program | BCHS, *Certificate in Women's and Children's Health*, Martha Terry

Dr. Martha Terry presented an application for a new certificate program which would interest students in Pitt Public Health as well as students studying Social Work and Anthropology. This is a 15-credit program, which includes an Intro to Women's and Children's Health class, two electives, a methods course, a Capstone-like course, and a 200 hour on-site practicum. Committee members questioned the overlap between the certificate and certain degree programs, and Dr. Terry confirmed that a relevant practicum could suffice for both a student's program and certificate. The committee questioned what should happen in the case where the requirements for the certificate also happened to satisfy a student's degree program and recommended something similar to what is done to the Health Equity certificate program be adopted. For instance, 3 extra credits could be taken or an additional experience (e.g., presenting at a journal club) would have to be done in such cases. It was unclear from the application who could enroll in the course, and Dr. Terry explained that non-degree students were also allowed to enroll in the certificate. It was mentioned that Learning Assessment Outcomes for the Provost office would need to be added. Dr. Nancy Glynn mentioned that a number of the Epidemiology courses listed in the proposal are not offered every year, and suggested that that be explicitly stated in the description. There was then a discussion on the scope of the certificate and what was the best name for the certificate, since most of the courses listed focused on women's health issues. Additionally, there was a brief discussion on which other courses available within Pitt Public Health could be added to the program application (e.g., HUGEN courses).

ACTION: The committee voted to conditionally approve the certificate program, contingent upon making a number of changes and additions and presenting them again at a future EPCC meeting. The committee recommended that the scope of the course be more clearly defined: if the focus is on both women's and children's health issues, more classes on the latter need to be added to the curriculum. However, if the focus is primarily on women's health issues, the name of the certificate program should be changed.

Learning assessment objectives should be written and included in the proposal. Administrative criteria, especially regarding permitted credit overlap and who can enroll in the certificate program, needs to be more clearly defined. Additional courses offered in Pitt Public Health, including Public Health Genetics, should be considered and added to the certificate program. Additionally, elective courses not offered yearly should be clearly marked in the syllabus to help with schedule planning.

Revised Course | EPIDEM 2110, *Principles of Epidemiology*, Tom Songer

Dr. Tom Songer presented an application for a revised core course which is responsive for one of the new competency, which is included in the syllabus under Course Objectives. He explained how not much has changed in terms of content in the syllabus and that the homework and some parts of the assessments will secondary competencies but that is not indicated in the syllabus.

ACTION: The committee approved the course with no changes.

Approval of July Meeting Minutes, All

The July meeting minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.