ACADEMIC REQUEST FORM (LEVEL I AND II) (4/16)

Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form. Deadlines and instructions can be found on the Office of the Provost's curriculum website.

Proposals for a NEW degree or center require notification in advance of this proposal. See the Office of the Provost’s curriculum website for information.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

The Health and Human Performance Department and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGE REQUESTED

A Master in Public Health (MPH) degree option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences is proposed. This degree option capitalizes on the intellectual strengths and resources across two academic units, the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP) and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences (SPCHS) at The University of Montana-Missoula. The proposed integrative program will lead to a distinct 42 credit graduate degree that can be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

III. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Annie Sondag, HHP
Phone/Email: 243-5215/annie.sondag@umontana.edu
Requestor: Kari Harris, SPCHS
Phone/Email: 243-4685/kari.harris@umontana.edu
Program Chair: Scott Richter, HHP
Program Chair: Tony Ward, SPCHS
Other Affected Programs:
Dean: Dean Evans, CEHS
Dean: Dean Humphrey, CHPBS

Signature Date
Kari Harris 8-15-2016

Signature Date
Scott Richter 9-12-2016

Signature Date
Sept 9, 2016

Signature Date
Humphrey, Reed 2016.09.04

Signature Date
Scott Whitehurt, Gradute School 9-11-16
IV. TYPE OF PROPOSAL

Any additional required forms are listed after each type of proposal and must accompany this form. Proposals for a new degree or center require notification in advance of this proposal. See the Office of the Provost’s curriculum website for information and instructions.

Level I Proposals:

☐ 1a. Placing a program into moratorium (Program Termination Form)
☐ 1b. Withdrawing a program from moratorium
☐ 2. Adding, retitling, terminating or revising a campus certificate of 29 credits or fewer
☐ 3. Adding a BAS/AA/AS Area of Study
☐ 4. Offering an existing program via distance or online delivery
☐ 5. Retitling an existing postsecondary educational program
☐ 6. Terminating an existing postsecondary educational program (Program Termination Form)
☐ 7. Consolidating existing postsecondary educational programs (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 8. Adding a new minor where there is a major or option in a major (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 9. Revising a program substantially (e.g. changing program focus) (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 10. Adding a temporary Certificate or AAS Degree Program Approval limited to 2 years

Level II Proposals:

☒ 11. Establishing a new postsecondary educational program (Curriculum Proposal and Reviewed Intent to Plan Form)
☐ 12. Exceeding the 120 credit maximum for baccalaureate degrees Exception to policy 301.11
☐ 13. Forming a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit (Curriculum Proposal or Center/Institute Proposal and Reviewed Intent to Plan Form)
☐ 14. Eliminating or consolidating a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit.
☐ 15. Retitling a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit.

V. CIP CODE (CLASSIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS)

The BOR requires a CIP Code (Classification of Instructional Programs) for tracking and reporting of degrees. Use the CIP Code website to identify the most applicable code: 51.2207

VI. METHOD OF DELIVERY

Will more than 50% of the proposed program be delivered via online or distance methods?
☐ Yes ☒ No

VII. CATALOG LANGUAGE
VIII. JUSTIFICATION

Provide enough information that someone without specialized knowledge can make an informed decision.

The MPH in Community Health and Prevention Sciences would be offered in collaboration with UM’s Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP) and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences (SPCHS). Both programs provide related graduate programs that would be retained. HHP offers an “on-campus” MS option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences, which is a research-focused degree that prepares students for PhD-level training in behavioral sciences. SPCHS offers an “on-line” generalist MPH degree that provides training across the five core public health content areas (i.e., biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, biostatistics, and social and behavioral sciences).

Faculty from both programs would contribute expertise to the new MPH degree option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences. This allows UM to meet the accreditation requirement to have three faculty members for each MPH concentration. In addition to taking nine courses (27 credits) in community health and prevention sciences offered by HHP, students would attain additional public health core content by taking five of the existing MPH generalist on-line courses (i.e., biostatistics, epidemiology, health services, environmental health, and ethics, 15 credits). The new option provides a distinct combination of courses and training that will prepare new practitioners in public health focused on community and behavioral sciences.

This new concentration would add a second MPH degree option that complements the current MPH generalist degree. The generalist degree draws students who are working full-time, unable to attend traditional on-campus courses, and are typically part-time students. The current campus-based MS in Community Health and Prevention Sciences (CHPS) is a research-oriented degree with an empirical thesis track, whereas the proposed MPH option trains practitioners in public health and has practice-based capstone projects. The proposed MPH option also includes coursework across all core content areas in public health that is not requisite in the current MS degree in CHPS.

The new option provides students the opportunity to develop greater depth of expertise in one of the core content areas in public health—social and behavioral sciences. This concentration will be especially attractive to students interested in health promotion, health education, program planning, and program evaluation. Courses in the new degree option would be delivered in a prescribed sequence to a cohort of full-time students. The blend of on-line and on-campus courses makes the new option attractive to students who want an on-campus experience that provides more in-person opportunities to work collaboratively with faculty mentors. The new concentration will be of interest to new public health practitioners and students recently graduated from undergraduate programs.
I. SUBMISSION
Submit a hard copy of this form with all required signatures to the Office of the Provost. Please also submit an electronic copy of this Word document, along with all other required BOR forms (in Word) to jasminezink.laine@mso.umt.edu

- After approval by the Provost, the proposal will be submitted to the Faculty Senate Office.
- After approval by the appropriate Curriculum Committee (ASCRC or Graduate Council), the full Faculty Senate must approve the proposal.
- Upon Faculty Senate approval, the Office of the Provost will submit the proposal to OCHE for the next possible OCHE/BOR meeting.
  - Note that BOR and internal UM deadlines require submission quite in advance of the BOR meeting.
- The Office of the Provost will notify the proposer once the change has been approved by OCHE/BOR.

ACADEMIC REQUEST FORM

VI. CATALOG LANGUAGE
Attach the current or proposed catalog language with any changes clearly identified.

HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT

Scott Richter, Chair

The Master in Science (MS) in Community Health and Prevention Sciences option prepares students with knowledge and skills related to assessing individual and community needs prior to planning, implementing, and evaluating programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles and environments. All courses in the MS in Community Health and Prevention Sciences option are delivered on campus in a face-to-face format. Individuals who will be most successful in the community health option are those who are deeply interested in the interrelationship among all aspects of health (social, emotional, mental, spiritual and physical) and in the social and behavioral sciences. In addition, success in this field requires imagination and creativity in applying scientific knowledge to strategies for individual and community change through a wide range of educational, environmental and political approaches. This degree prepares students to conduct research and/or to be successful in a PhD program. An empirical thesis or professional paper project is required. Graduates of this program will be prepared to take the National Certification Exam for Health Education Specialists.

The Master in Public Health (MPH) in Community Health and Prevention Sciences option is designed to prepare public health practitioners with expertise in social and behavioral sciences. The MPH provides training in the five core public health content areas: biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, biostatistics, and social and behavioral sciences. This concentration will also provide students with depth of knowledge and skills in health promotion, health education, program planning, and program evaluation. Courses are taken in a prescribed sequence to a cohort of full-time students using a blend of on-line and on-
campus courses. Offered as a collaborative program with the Department of Health and Human Performance and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences.

Graduate options include Exercise Science, Community Health and Prevention Sciences (MS or MPH option), Athletic Training and a generalist degree in Health and Human Performance. For more information regarding the department's graduate program refer to either:  

**HHP 593 - Professional Portfolio**

Credits: 3. Offered autumn and spring. Prereq., HHP 598 and HHP 599, consent of instructor. Integrates the student’s practice experience and knowledge gained through course work, practicum, and possibly professional papers and research with the goals and learning objectives of the M.P.H. program into a portfolio. Students will present and defend their portfolio to illustrate their growth as a professional public health practitioner at the end of their M.P.H. program. Offered credit/no credit only. Level: Graduate

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Tony Ward, Associate Professor and Chair**

Accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2012, the School of Public and Community Health Sciences is a multi-disciplinary program that offers the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree and a graduate Certificate of Public Health (C.P.H.).

The **Master in Public Health (MPH) Generalist option** provides on-line web-based instruction allows both traditional students and working professionals to pursue the degree. The MPH provides training in the five core public health content areas: biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, biostatistics, and social and behavioral sciences. The program is designed to prepare public health practitioners who will use global insight to improve the health of the people of Montana and other rural areas.

The **Master in Public Health (MPH) in Community Health and Prevention Sciences option** is designed to prepare public health practitioners with expertise in social and behavioral sciences. The MPH provides training in the five core public health content areas: biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, biostatistics, and social and behavioral sciences. This concentration will also provide students with in depth of knowledge and skills in health promotion, health education, program planning, and program evaluation. Courses are taken in a prescribed sequence to a cohort of full-time students using a blend of on-line and on-campus courses. Offered as a collaborative program with the Department of Health and Human Performance and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences.
1. Overview

A. Provide a one paragraph description of the proposed program. Be specific about what degree, major, minor or option is sought.

A Master in Public Health (MPH) degree option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences is proposed. This degree option capitalizes on the intellectual strengths and resources across two academic units, the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP) and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences (SPCHS) at The University of Montana-Missoula. The proposed integrative program will lead to a distinct 42 credit graduate degree (Master in Public Health with a concentration in Community Health and Prevention Sciences) that can be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

2. Institutional and System Fit

A. What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?

The MPH in Community Health and Prevention Sciences would be offered in collaboration with UM’s Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP) and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences (SPCHS). Both programs provide related graduate programs that would be retained. HHP offers an “on-campus” MS option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences, which is a research-focused degree that prepares students for PhD-level training in behavioral sciences. SPCHS offers an “on-line” generalist MPH degree that provides training across the five core public health content areas (i.e., biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, biostatistics, and social and behavioral sciences).

Faculty from both programs would contribute expertise to the new MPH degree option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences. This allows UM to meet the accreditation requirement to have three faculty members for each MPH concentration. In addition to taking nine courses (27 credits) in community health and prevention sciences offered by HHP, students would attain additional public health core content by taking five of the existing MPH generalist on-line courses (i.e., biostatistics, epidemiology, health services, environmental health, and ethics, 15 credits). The new option provides a distinct combination of courses and training that will prepare new practitioners in public health focused on community and behavioral sciences.

B. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution? If so, please describe.

This proposal will not require changes to any existing programs.

C. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution (if appropriate).
Montana Board of Regents
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

This new concentration would add a second MPH degree option that complements the current MPH generalist degree. The generalist degree draws students who are working full-time, unable to attend traditional on-campus courses, and are typically part-time students. The current campus-based MS in Community Health and Prevention Sciences (CHPS) is a research-oriented degree with an empirical thesis track, whereas the proposed MPH option trains practitioners in public health and has practice-based capstone projects. The proposed MPH option also includes coursework across all core content areas in public health that is not requisite in the current MS degree in CHPS.

The new option provides students the opportunity to develop greater depth of expertise in one of the core content areas in public health—social and behavioral sciences. This concentration will be especially attractive to students interested in health promotion, health education, program planning, and program evaluation. Courses in the new degree option would be delivered in a prescribed sequence to a cohort of full-time students. The blend of on-line and on-campus courses makes the new option attractive to students who want an on-campus experience that provides more in-person opportunities to work collaboratively with faculty mentors. The new concentration will be of interest to new public health practitioners and students recently graduated from undergraduate programs.

D. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?

The addition of this new degree option is consistent with the mission of the new UM Health and Medicine program (UMHM) that serves as the virtual home for all health-related courses, programs, clinics and laboratories across campus. The proposed option is also consistent with the UM Academic Alignment and Innovation Program, which calls for growth in Health and Human Performance and Public Health graduate programs. Finally, the proposed program meets UM’s strategic plan’s “Initiatives and Goals” to cultivate discovery and learning in graduate education by: 1) growing graduate education to enhance the intellectual atmosphere and create cultural and economic impacts in Montana and, 2) increasing the number of graduate students in Montana.

E. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System. In cases of substantial duplication, explain the need for the proposed program at an additional institution. Describe any efforts that were made to collaborate with these similar programs; and if no efforts were made, explain why. If articulation or transfer agreements have been developed for the substantially duplicated programs, please include the agreement(s) as part of the documentation.

The new program would be housed at the University of Montana-Missoula. UM-Missoula is the only university or college in the MUS that offers a MPH degree. There are degree programs within the Montana University System that provide similar academic content as some courses in the proposed new degree option. However, none offer a program of study leading to a MPH degree. For example, the Department of Health and Human Development at Montana State University Bozeman currently offers related programs of study leading to Master of Science (MS) degrees in: (1) Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, (2) Family and Consumer Sciences, and (3) Food, Family, and Community Health Sciences. Additionally, Montana State University Bozeman has requested authorization to establish a Master of Science (MS) degree in
Community Health, which is part of a broader request to restructure the degree programs offered by the Department of Health and Human Development. Montana State University Billings also offers a degree program in Master of Health Administration (MHA). To reiterate, none of these other programs in the Montana University System lead to a MPH degree, none include courses in the five core public health content areas (i.e., biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, biostatistics, and social and behavioral sciences), and none can be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

3. Program Details

A. Provide a detailed description of the proposed curriculum. Where possible, present the information in the form intended to appear in the catalog or other publications. NOTE: In the case of two-year degree programs and certificates of applied science, the curriculum should include enough detail to determine if the characteristics set out in Regents’ Policy 301.12 have been met.
Montana Board of Regents
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

The table below presents the course and sequence for the MPH degree option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences. Students would be able to complete the 42 credit degree in four semesters and one summer term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Year</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
<th>Department Offering the Course</th>
<th>Mode of Delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>HHP 540 Community Health Promotion Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HHP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>HHP 544 Community Based Participatory Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HHP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Elective (negotiated with HHP Faculty)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PUBH 510 Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SPCHS</td>
<td>On-line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PUBH 560 Environmental and Rural Health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SPCHS</td>
<td>On-line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>HHP 541 Program Planning in Community Health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HHP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>HHP 485 Theories of Health Behavior and Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HHP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>PUBH 570 Ethical Issues in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SPCHS</td>
<td>On-line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PUBH 530 Public Health Admin &amp; Mgmt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SPCHS</td>
<td>On-line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Elective (negotiated with HHP Faculty)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PUBH 520 Fundamentals of Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SPCHS</td>
<td>On-line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>HHP 599 Professional Paper</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HHP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>HHP 598 Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HHP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.

We anticipate that three new graduate students in the year after formal approval (Fall 2018) will enroll in the new degree option. Thereafter, we anticipate three to five students will enroll in the program each year. Applications would be evaluated by an Admissions Committee comprised of faculty drawn from both programs.

4. Need

A. To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?
Montana Board of Regents

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

The new MPH degree option will increase the number of graduate students served by UM. The interests and needs of some prospective graduate students are not met by either of the existing degree programs, but would be met by the new option. Specifically, many graduates of the Community Health and Prevention Sciences option in HHP seek employment in the field of public health. With the implementation of the new program, students would be able to earn a MPH degree in community health from a public health program that is nationally accredited. Graduating from a nationally accredited program would no doubt enhance HHP graduates’ marketability and increase their prospects for gainful employment. In addition, some students in the current on-line MPH program, particularly those with no prior public health work experience, would benefit from the enhanced incidental learning, research opportunities, and community building that can occur in face-to-face learning environments.

B. How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?

Community health and prevention practice is a growing field. New employment opportunities are partly a result of the reimbursement changes associated with the Affordable Care Act. For example, the US Bureau of Labor projects a 13% growth in employment of health educators, which is faster than average for all occupations. The need is driven by efforts to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs by addressing health behaviors and environments with an increased focus on prevention. The 2014 annual mean salary for health educators ranges from $42,540 to $55,260.¹

The new MPH option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences could serve as a feeder program for the new PhD in Public Health, thus enhancing graduate work at UM. Collectively these programs would increase UM’s public health visibility both regionally and nationally.

C. What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?

Currently, there are no on-campus accredited MPH programs in Montana or in its neighboring states of South Dakota and Wyoming. Each year several prospective graduate students express written and verbal interest in an on-campus MPH program focused on community health rather than a fully on-line program. Some of these students have opted not to attend UM. In other cases, faculty in both programs have partly accommodated students’ interest by adjusting some of the electives in each of the existing programs. A new degree option would better meet these students’ curriculum needs and provide the MPH degree that is highly regarded, recognizable, and can be accredited.

5. Process Leading to Submission

Montana Board of Regents  
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

A. Describe the process of developing and approving the proposed program. Indicate, where appropriate, involvement by faculty, students, community members, potential employers, accrediting agencies, etc.

The concept of offering prospective graduate students a choice of enrolling in an on-line MPH program or enrolling in a blended on-line/on-campus MPH program has been a point of discussion since the inception of the current MPH program. Consensus among faculty and administrators was to ensure that the on-line program was well established and accredited before considering the addition of a blended option. Given the current success of the on-line program and its fully accredited status, discussions regarding a second, blended option were initiated. A working group comprised of faculty from the SPCHS and HHP initially developed the proposal. The proposal was then reviewed and approved by the respective department review processes. Next, the preliminary proposal was reviewed and approved by the Deans of the College of Education and Human Sciences and the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. Finally, the UM Provost reviewed and approved the preliminary proposal.

6. Resources

A. Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

No additional faculty resources are required at this time. As with the current generalist MPH, program tuition charges would support the accreditation activities and overall delivery of the program. The tuition surcharge would be adjusted and aligned to annual tuition increases throughout the program lifespan.

B. Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program? If yes, please describe the need and indicate the plan for meeting this need.

Over time more students may be drawn to the new MPH option, which might put strain on the current capacity on some courses and subsequently, faculty within both units. Additional resources or reconfiguring of course offerings may be necessary if the new MPH option in Community Health and Prevention Sciences experiences rapid and sustained growth. The Dean of College of Education and Human Sciences has agreed to provide resources for release time for HHP CHPS faculty for program development such as accreditation of the new track in the existing MPH program and evaluation. It is possible that a new faculty line (or lines) would be needed within the next few years if the program grows as anticipated. Meetings with HHP CHPS faculty and the Dean of College of Education and Human Sciences have produced agreement that, when future funding is available and/or a current line opens up, an additional line for the CHPS program is a priority.

7. Assessment

A. How will the success of the program be measured?

The new option will be evaluated at the end of each academic year. Important questions and data will include the following:

- How many applicants were received for the new MPH option?
- How many applicants were admitted into the new MPH option?
Montana Board of Regents
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

- How many students enrolled in the new MPH option?
- How many students dropped out of the new MPH option, and what were their reasons?
- How many students graduated with the new MPH option?
- How many students met the identified competencies for the new MPH option?
- How many students applied for and passed the national certification exam for health educators (Certified Health Education Specialist)?
- What were the types and locations of students' employment upon graduation?