



Council *on* Education *for* Public Health

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CEPH's Revised Accreditation Criteria Seek to Empower the Future of Public Health

SILVER SPRING, Md. – October 24, 2016 – The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is pleased to announce adoption of revised accreditation criteria for schools of public health and public health programs.

The revised criteria ([Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health and Public Health Programs, amended October 2016](#)) introduce a new framework for assessing the quality of student learning and seek to focus more explicitly on schools' and programs' efforts to promote student success and advance the field of public health. Throughout the revision process, the Council focused on three major aims: 1) ensure the quality of public health education, 2) increase flexibility and opportunities for innovation and 3) simplify and reduce the accreditation reporting burden.

Tennessee Health Commissioner John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, provided a value practice perspective throughout the process. "As an employer, I think the criteria set us up for greater success in recruiting people who can be adaptable and innovative, that have an experiential context to draw from and who are bright, resourceful and eager to continue learning and humble in their approach to creating a healthier population," he said.

"The Council received hundreds of thoughtful comments and ideas from a variety of stakeholders throughout the four rounds of revisions, and we are excited to have reached substantial consensus given that some of the revisions are quite significant," explained CEPH Executive Director Laura Rasar King, MPH, MCHES.

Highlights of the revisions are as follow.

- Moved curricular expectations from a course-based topical framework to a framework based on knowledge and skills for practice to ensure that every public health student, no matter the degree level, graduates with a solid foundation in important practice competencies
- Eliminated many prescriptive requirements to allow for greater innovation and flexibility based on a school or program's mission and context
- Reduced reporting requirements in many areas to focus on student achievement and other outcomes rather than inputs

The revised criteria document is the product of a process that spanned more than two years and built on the substantial work done by other organizations and work groups to reflect the current and future needs of the practice community. Although not an exhaustive list, the Council considered the findings and recommendations from the following efforts:

- [Framing the Future's Blue Ribbon Employers Advisory Board Report](#)

- [Framing the Future's MPH Expert Panel](#)
- [NBPHE's Job Task Analysis](#)
- [ASTHO's Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey](#)
- [Council on Linkages Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#)

“These criteria are the result of many years of listening to both academic and practice partners and monitoring trends in public health,” said CEPH Board President Donna Petersen, MHS, ScD, CPH. “We are proud of all the work that has been done and are ready to take the next steps that will create leaders for a healthier world.”

Dreyzehner added, “Congratulations to the Council for a layered, robust and thoughtful process that produced criteria promising to lead future generations of public health students toward practical competence wherever their sought-after skills take them.”

The CEPH website includes resources for schools and programs and will continue to be updated and expanded as new opportunities develop. Currently, schools and programs can access an implementation schedule, a training timeline, a data elements comparison between 2011 and 2016 criteria, the data templates and a history of the criteria revision process.

CEPH looks forward to working with each school and program as it transitions to the new criteria.

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The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs offered in settings other than schools of public health. These schools and programs prepare students for entry into careers in public health. The primary professional degree is the Master of Public Health (MPH) but other baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees are offered as well. Visit www.ceph.org for more information.