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CEPH Adopts Revised Accreditation Criteria

WASHINGTON – July 1, 2011 – 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 are the product of a two-year process,” explained CEPH Executive Director Laura Rasar King, MPH, MCHES. “The Council appreciates the comments and responses received from a variety of constituents. We believe the revisions provide better clarity, consistency and expectations about the requirements for accreditation.”

The revised criteria ([*Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health, amended June 2011*](#) and [*Accreditation Criteria for Public Health Programs, amended June 2011*](#)), in general, clarify the previous (2005) accreditation criteria. The criteria also introduce a new framework for analyzing baccalaureate degrees that are included in schools or programs’ unit of accreditation. Additionally, the criteria introduce a new framework for assessing diversity.

Highlights (rather than an exhaustive list) of the revisions are as follow. Changes that may affect both schools of public health and public health programs appear in regular type. Changes that apply only to schools of public health appear in italics.

- Eliminated or reformulated confusing data requests throughout all criteria.
- Incorporated language from technical assistance and FAQ documents into criteria to make Council interpretation and expectations more explicit. Criteria clarified through this process include Mission, Evaluation and Planning, Competencies, Student Assessment and Doctoral Degrees.
- Condensed two criteria (student diversity, faculty and staff diversity) into a single diversity criterion and moved the new criterion from Criterion 4 to Criterion 1.
- Changed benchmark for graduation rates from 80% for all degrees to 70% for bachelors and masters degrees and 60% for doctoral degrees. Schools and programs that do not meet the target may provide university-specific benchmark data for consideration.
- Simplified reporting on graduates’ employment and further education using more general categories.
- Developed a separate criterion for baccalaureate degrees in public health with attendant curricular expectations.
- Further defined expectations for public health knowledge for academic degree students (eg, MS in epidemiology).
- *Developed a separate criterion for other professional (non-public-health) bachelors degrees that are housed in schools of public health (eg, BS in clinical nutrition).*

- *Reclassified MHA degrees in schools of public health as “other professional degrees” (like those in audiology and physical therapy). MHA degrees were previously subject to the same curricular criteria as MPH degrees.*
- *Better defined expectations for public health knowledge for other (non-public-health) professional degree students in schools of public health.*

CEPH will work with each school and program as the transition to a new set of criteria is made.

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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, masters and doctoral degrees are offered as well.