

Board Meeting  
January 16, 2020

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN EPIDEMIOLOGY, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Public Health in Epidemiology.

The proposed Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology will build on the success of the existing, nationally-accredited MPH program in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health. The existing program focuses on health behavior and promotion, so the addition of epidemiology, a highly qualitative area of public health, will bring additional depth and breadth to the MPH program's offerings. The proposed program will be nationally accredited, as is the existing MPH, by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Demand for health data careers is growing rapidly. Education in utilizing computer software packages for health research, understanding causes of health conditions, analyzing possible interventions, and understanding how to implement

research is vital to the health care sector. The MPH in Epidemiology will prepare students for exactly this type of role. There are currently only three accredited MPH programs in epidemiology in the state of Illinois, all in Chicago, leaving the entire downstate area lacking in these advanced educational opportunities. Epidemiology is the most sought-after MPH area of study among both domestic and international students. The proposed program will help meet this demand, providing graduates with a skill set that can be used in a multitude of settings.

Epidemiology has been an area of strength in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health for the past ten years, with a cohort of epidemiologists on faculty. These faculty conduct epidemiologic research that provides opportunities for student learning and training, with much of their work designed to better understand health disparities, test possible interventions, and translate research findings into action.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

