

Board Meeting
January 31, 2019

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION,
SPRINGFIELD

Action: Establish the Master of Public Health in Environmental Health, College of Public Affairs and Administration

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the UIS Senate recommends the establishment of the Master of Public Health (MPH) in Environmental Health in the College of Public Affairs and Administration.

As graduate programs in Public Health and the Public Health profession have become increasingly specialized, national accrediting bodies in the field are recommending two distinct fields of study: the MPH Generalist program and the MPH in Environmental Health program. UIS currently has a well-established MPH Generalist program that gives students the option of completing an Environmental Health concentration. This proposal would transform that existing concentration into a separate degree program. The establishment of the MPH in Environmental Health as a new, separate, and distinct field of study follows the recommendations of national accrediting bodies and is aligned with current best practices in the field.

The MPH in Environmental Health will combine classroom and clinical experiences to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of risk assessment and risk quantification of environmental issues that may affect human health. Upon completion of the 48 credit hour degree, students will demonstrate technical skills in areas such as food, air, and water protection services. The degree will be offered in both face-to-face and online formats. Graduates of the program will meet the needs of growing local, regional, and national demand for environmental health specialists who focus on a variety of issues such as climate change, natural and technological disasters, and homeland security preparation.

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 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.