

Approved by the Board of Trustees
May 20, 2021

Board Meeting
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RENAME, REORGANIZE, AND REVISE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, CONCENTRATION IN EPIDEMIOLOGY, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

Action: Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Epidemiology, School of Public Health and the Graduate College

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Chicago Senate, School of Public Health, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming, reorganization, and revision of the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Epidemiology. The program will become the Master of Science in Epidemiology.

The School of Public Health offers work leading to the M.S. in Public Health with concentrations that reflect the areas of focus of the school's academic divisions: Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Health Policy and Administration. The M.S. in Public Health requires a minimum of 48 credit hours and includes a school-wide core comprised of three courses. The remainder of the degree is completed primarily within a specific discipline (i.e., the concentration). However, the degree that is awarded to

students is the M.S. in Public Health regardless of the concentration pursued or the specific concentration requirements.

Reorganizing and renaming the M.S. in Public Health, Concentration in Epidemiology as the M.S. in Epidemiology will better reflect the program's content. It also makes graduates more competitive candidates for employment in their field of study. In addition, the M.S. in Epidemiology will be eligible for designation as a STEM program, increasing opportunities for accessing external funding from organizations that focus on STEM-related work and attracting prospective students who prioritize the STEM designation in their choice of graduate school.

The M.S. in Epidemiology will continue to educate students in the application of epidemiologic research methods in preparation for research careers. The degree will require a minimum of 48 credit hours, and requires the completion of a master's thesis. Students complete the three school-wide core courses in foundations of public health, introduction to epidemiology, and biostatistics I; required advanced courses in epidemiology and biostatistics, and eight credit hours of thesis research. Epidemiology students are currently able to pursue optional secondary concentrations in cancer epidemiology and occupational and environmental epidemiology. These concentrations will remain options within the M.S. in Epidemiology. Students wishing to complete one of the two concentrations must meet additional requirements.

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. The action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education but IBHE approval is not required.