Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

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Board Meeting

May 22, 2025

# RENAME, REORGANIZE, AND REVISE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, CONCENTRATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, 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 University of Illinois Chicago Senate, the School of Public Health, and the Graduate College, recommends the renaming, reorganizing, and revision of the Master of Science in Public Health, concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

Through this proposal, the School of Public Health seeks to revise and reorganize the existing concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (EOHS) within the MS in Public Health, while renaming the program as the Master of Science in Environmental Health. The proposal also converts two existing secondary concentrations within the MS in Public Heath, concentration in EOHS into the concentration in Industrial Hygiene and the concentration in Occupational Safety within the MS in Environmental Health.

The new degree will largely follow the current program requirements, although some modifications are being made for consistency with accreditation expectations. The total number of credit hours required will remain unchanged (48 for the degree; 53 for students completing the concentration in Industrial Hygiene; 52 for students completing the concentration in Occupational Safety), and there are only minor clarifications being made within the admission requirements language. Students in the concentrations will now complete a project rather than writing a thesis, although the thesis requirement continues for students earning the MS in Environmental Health alone.

Degree requirements are grounded primarily in STEM courses. Students are expected to conduct independent applied research, focused on either developing novel analytical approaches or investigating disease etiology or health disparities using sophisticated analyses of environmental data. The methods applied in these research endeavors are deeply rooted in established mathematical and scientific concepts and methods. Students are expected to test hypotheses using rigorous quantitative and analytical procedures and in compliance with established research and scientific methods, or to develop, implement, evaluate, and apply new mathematical and statistical techniques for use in public health research. The work also requires the use of data analysis software and programing tools.

The University of Illinois Chicago’s (UIC) budget allocation process provides funding based on the tuition revenue generated by programs. No additional investment of funds beyond tuition revenue will be required. The existing faculty and staff associated with the current program will be sufficient to support the newly designated degree program.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.