

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**  
**Consent**

**AGENDA ITEM: 4 – G**

**DATE: December 6-8, 2016**

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**SUBJECT: Request to Seek Accreditation – SDSU**

Board of Regents [Policy 1:10 Relationship of Curriculum and Instruction to Statutory Objectives](#) specifies that “Each campus must seek and receive Board approval before applying for initial accreditation or an expanded scope of accreditation for academic programs.” In accordance with Board policy, South Dakota State University requests approval to seek accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for its Master of Public Health program (Attachment I). CEPH is the only independent agency recognized to accredit graduate schools and programs of public health.

Amongst several direct benefits, accreditation through the CEPH will enhance the regional and national reputation of the program, and will provide assurance that the curriculum covers essential skills and knowledge graduates will need to enter the current job market. Beyond the expenditures outlined in the request, SDSU does not anticipate any additional enhancement costs associated with obtaining accreditation.

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**DRAFT MOTION 20161206\_4-G:** I move to approve SDSU’s request to seek accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for its Master of Public Health program.

## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

### Request to Seek Accreditation Under BOR Policy

1. **Institution:** South Dakota State University & The University of South Dakota

2. **Program(s) seeking accreditation:** Master of Public Health

3. **Level of program(s) involved in accreditation:**

Certificate	x	Master's Degree
Associate Degree		Doctoral Degree
Bachelor's Degree		

4. **Accrediting Agency:** Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)

*NOTE: Use additional pages if needed to address the following questions.*

**5. What are the advantages of accreditation?**

The goal of public health programs in general is to prepare individuals who will serve as practitioners, researchers and instructors who are competent to carry out broad public health functions in local, state, national and international settings. The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is the only independent agency recognized to accredit graduate schools and programs of public health. The accreditation criteria outlined by CEPH links student learning with application in practice or research settings. CEPH assists programs in evaluating the quality of their instructional, research and service efforts and ensures they align with current standards of public health practice. CEPH accreditation of the joint USD-SDSU MPH program will have direct benefits to various stakeholders:

- Program accreditation will enhance the regional and national reputation of the program and represents peer recognition.
- Accreditation promotes ongoing self-evaluation and continuous improvement.
- It can serve as a basis for determining eligibility for federally funded programs and grants.
- It will continue to advance the field of public health by promoting standards of practice and rigorous preparation.
- Program accreditation will assure that educational requirements reflect the current training needs of the profession.
- Accreditation can enhance employment opportunities for graduates or support graduates looking to continue their education at the doctoral level.
- Accreditation will provide assurance that the curriculum covers essential skills and knowledge graduates will need to enter the current job market.
- Program accreditation will provide assurance the the program has been evaluated and had met accepted standards established by and with the profession.
- Accreditation promotes the health, safety and welfare of society by assuring competent public health professionals.

**6. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:**

- A) **Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation.**

**Application Fee:** \$2500 will be invoiced for the initial application fee, and annually thereafter until accreditation is achieved.

**Consultation Visits:** \$1750 per day per CEPH consultant. A one day visit from one CEPH consultant is anticipated for this program.

**B) Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits.**

**Accreditation Review Fee:** \$3000. This amount includes: a) \$1500 for review of preliminary self-study and b) \$1500 for site visit logistical arrangements.

**Other Costs:** In addition to the fees outlined, actual travel and living expenses must be reimbursed for all individuals involved in consultation visits and on-site evaluation visits.

**C) Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE).**

**Annual Support Fee:** \$5250 per calendar year for an accredited public health program, sponsored by more than one university, with one degree level. This fee will begin after accreditation has been granted.

The joint USD-SDSU MPH program has 3 full-time and 1 part-time faculty, a full-time Program Coordinator, and support staff from the USD School of Health Sciences and the SDSU College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

Existing MPH program staff will be responsible for managing the application and accreditation process.

After careful review of the CEPH accreditation standards, current faculty and staff resources are adequate and no additional funds will be requested in seeking accreditation at this time.

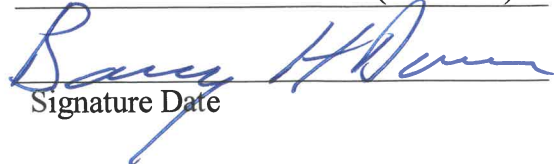
**7. What is the source of the resources needed?**

Costs associated with the accreditation application and site visit will be covered through the MPH delivery fee as well as existing funds directed to the program at startup. Ongoing costs associated with CEPH accreditation will be covered through the MPH delivery fee account.

**8. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?**

The initial accreditation application will be submitted after Board of Regent's approval to seek accreditation is obtained. The MPH program anticipates submitting the application for accreditation by December 29, 2016 with a site visit taking place in September 2019.

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Institutional Authorization (President)

  
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Signature Date