

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Full Board

AGENDA ITEM: 36 – C

DATE: April 1-2, 2015

SUBJECT: New Program: USD Minor in Public Health

The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a baccalaureate minor in Public Health through the School of Health Sciences, Department of Health Sciences. The minor will provide opportunities for students across disciplines to study public health concepts, as well as preparing students for careers as local, national, and international public health professionals.

According to the US Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities through 2022 for health services managers will grow by 23% while opportunities for health educators and community health workers will grow by 21%.

The minor consists of 18 credit hours and requires the creation of one new course. USD estimates graduating 25 students per year with the minor after full implementation.

USD requests authorization to provide the minor to distance students via online delivery.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve USD’s new program proposal for a Minor in Public Health as described in Attachment I.

**South Dakota Board of Regents
New Baccalaureate Degree Minor**

University:	University of South Dakota
Title of Proposed Minor:	Public Health
Degree(s) in which minor may be earned:	Baccalaureate programs
Existing related majors or minors:	None at the baccalaureate level; at the graduate level, the Master of Public Health
Proposed Implementation (term):	Summer 2015
Proposed CIP Code:	51.2201

University Approval

To the Board and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

James W. Abbott

1/16/2015

President of the University

Date

1. Do you have a major in this area? _____ Yes X No

2. If you do not have a major in this area, explain how the proposed minor relates to your mission.

The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer the baccalaureate minor, Public Health through the Department of Health Sciences in the School of Health Sciences. The proposed minor will be implemented primarily using existing resources. One new course proposal focusing on communicable diseases is included in the proposal as a required course for completion of the minor.

The proposed minor relates to USD's mission (SDCL 13-51-1 and SDBOR 1:10:1) to provide service to the State of South Dakota, the region, and beyond through its authorized programs in arts and sciences, business, education, fine arts, health sciences, and medicine. The Public Health minor affords students the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to better serve the public health needs of the people of the state and region.

3. How will the proposed minor benefit students?

The minor will provide students across disciplines the opportunity to demonstrate competency in a concentrated study of public health concepts, with notation on their official university transcript. Completion of the minor will enhance student/graduate employability as well as candidacy for continued education at the graduate level.

The Public Health minor is compatible with a variety of majors, including but not limited to Health Sciences. Students interested in population-based health practice with a focus in areas majors such as Addiction Studies, Social Work, Sociology, Kinesiology and Sport Science, Health Services Administration, Medical Biology, International Studies, Native Studies, and Sustainability will benefit from the addition of a minor in Public Health. The envisioned content will provide a foundation for students seeking entry level employment within some of the Public Health Career pathways; likewise, the minor would provide a foundation for those interested in

pursuing additional specialized training, certifications (such as the Certified Health Education Specialist), or an advanced degree in Public Health.

In recent years, the number of students studying public health at the undergraduate level has grown considerably. This growth reflects the demand for people trained to address health promotion and to institute prevention strategies in diverse settings. National concerns such as the obesity epidemic; rise in chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease; disaster management; and the emphasis on wellness have generated new jobs and increased demand for those with public health education. Career paths for those interested in public health are varied. Specifics include, epidemiology and biostatistics for those interested in working with numbers and data, environmental health for science oriented individuals, health education for those wanting to work in communities to develop strategies for prevention of disease or disaster, health administration for those with business and management interests, and health policy for those desiring to create public health policy.

Public health professionals serve local, national, and international communities as protectors of the public's health. A variety of jobs exist within the public health sector. Generalist positions that graduates with a public health minor will be prepared to pursue include public health education and health services management. Health Services Managers, for example, require a bachelor's degree for entry. They are responsible for planning, directing and coordinating the medical and health services offered in communities and to specific population groups (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/medical-and-health-services-managers.htm>).

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook through the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014) from 2012 to 2022, employment of health services managers is projected to grow 23 percent and the employment of health educators and community health workers, 21 percent (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm>). These rates are faster than average for all occupations. Continued growth is attributable to efforts to improve health outcomes, reduce health care costs, and expand education to individuals and communities regarding healthy habits and behaviors.

4. Provide estimated enrollments and completions in the table below and explain how the estimates were developed.

	Fiscal Years*			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Estimates	FY_2016	FY2_2017	FY3_2018	FY4_2019
Students in the minor (fall)	15	30	35	45
Completions by graduates			15	25

* Do not include current year.

The estimates are based on fifteen students declaring a minor in year one and completing the minor in year two. An additional 15 students will declare an undergraduate public health minor in year two, thus a total of 30 students seeking the minor during year two. Years three and four enrollments are anticipated to increase by a modest five students per group each year.

This is believed to be a conservative estimate, based on enrollments in the first public health course offered fall 2014. There are seventeen students enrolled in HSC 315 Introduction to Public Health. No advertising or marketing of the course or other public health courses has been conducted, yet the course has attracted a significant number of students across various majors. Just as the HSC 315 course appeals to students with diverse foci, it is anticipated that the minor in Public Health will be an attractive option for students in a variety of disciplines.

In addition, students within the online Health Sciences major have expressed interest in public health coursework during the past two years. Currently, there are over 200 online HSC majors; a portion of these online learners will likely opt to pursue the Public Health minor.

5. What is the rationale for the curriculum?

An undergraduate minor in Public Health will provide students across disciplines and health profession interests the opportunity to enter into public health as new professionals or as prospective graduate students. Students completing the minor will cultivate a broad appreciation of public health through the core requirements and have options to pursue further in-depth study in related areas through the elective coursework. As a result, the minor will train students for entry level public health careers, prepare students to enter a Master of Public Health program such as the new joint USD/SDSU MPH program, or can be used as a pre-professional program for students who go on to pursue additional formal education in a variety of medical fields.

Association of American Colleges and University (AACU) and Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) resources were used to conceptualize and develop the curriculum for this minor. Three public health courses comprise the recommended core for all undergraduate programs; all three are active courses at USD (HSC 315, HSC 320, and HSC 325) and were designed in accord with the suggested curriculum framework for the public health core coursework.

1. Recommendations for Undergraduate Public Health Education
http://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/PublicHealth/Recommendations_for_Undergraduate_Public_Health_Education.pdf
2. Curriculum Guide for Undergraduate Public Health Education (Version 3.0).
http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.aptrweb.org/resource/resmgr/undergraduateph/curriculum_guide_version3.pdf

6. Complete the tables below. Explain any exceptions to BOR policy being requested.

A. Distribution of Credit Hours

Public Health Minor	Credit Hours	Percent
Requirements in Minor	12	67
Electives in the Minor – A total of six (6) cr. hours	6	33
Total	18	100%

B. Required Courses in the Minor

Prefix	Number	Course Title	New*	Hours
HSC	315	Introduction to Public Health	N	3
HSC	320	Introduction to Epidemiology	N	3
HSC	325	Global Health	N	3
MLS	415	Communicable Diseases and Public Health	Y	3
Subtotal, required				12

* New: Y= yes, N = no.

C. Elective Courses in the Minor: List courses that may be taken as electives in the minor. Indicate any new courses to be added specifically for the minor.

Prefix	Number	Course Title	New*	Hours
Choose one course from the following elective options:				
HLTH	300	Foundations of Health Education	N	
HSC/ NATV	330	Native People's Health Care, Promotion and Policy	N	
HSC	380	Health Literacy and Culture Care	N	
HSC	440	Major Issues in Health and Human Services	N	
REL	250	World Religions	N	
SOCW	480	Social Work with Aging Populations and People with Disabilities	N	
SPCM	440	Health Communication	N	
SUST	203	Sustainability and Science	N	
Choose supporting elective(s); advisor approval required				
Subtotal, elective				6

7. What outcomes will be expected for all students who complete the minor? How will these outcomes be achieved?

The AACU Association for Prevention Teaching and Research *Recommendations for Undergraduate Public Health Education* (Riegelman, R.K. & Albertine, S.) provides a comprehensive list of learning outcomes/competencies designed to be achieved in an undergraduate generalist degree program. They recommend that minor or certificate programs select the most pertinent learning outcomes based on the specific curriculum included in the school's minor program. The outcomes are as follows:

1. Explain the population health perspective and the methods used by public health to define and address population-wide/social concerns and the needs of vulnerable populations through the provision of essential services.
2. Apply options for intervention frameworks, including when (primary, secondary, and tertiary), who (individual, at-risk group, general population) and how (education, motivation, obligation, intervention) to intervene.
3. Explain principles of epidemiology necessary to understand health and impairments of health including the uses of rates, the meaning of causation, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions.
4. Explain from a global perspective the burden of disease, social-economic determinants of health, the links between health and development, and approaches to global cooperation to monitor, promote, and protect health.
5. Explain the way biological, environmental, and social/cultural factors interact in disease production and understand how these influences can impact prevention strategies.
6. Explain the impacts of the physical environment on health and use these explanations to understand human actions that alter, detect, and/or minimize these impacts.
7. Describe the current U.S. public health and health care delivery systems.

Electronic Portfolios are a requirement for all B.S.-seeking students in the health sciences discipline. The portfolio will be required for completion of the public health minor and will be used to assess student achievement of the seven outcomes identified above. Electronic portfolios support the development, demonstration and valid assessment of the personal, professional, and academic capabilities gained in the specified minor program as well as from other completed coursework for each student. The portfolio should make evident the integration of learning from required and elective courses, as well as other coursework completed as a part of the student's degree program. Portfolio pieces additionally evidence the particulars of work completed in fulfillment of course requirements, as well as the content-mastery achieved. Finally, reflective practice will be required with the intent to support student thought regarding linkages to community action and to social justice. Reflective practice facilitates further integration of curricular learning and emerging professional practice in the public health arena.

8. What instructional technologies will be used to teach courses in the minor?

Instructional delivery will include face-to-face classroom engagement using smart classroom technology and experiential learning. In addition to face-to-face classes, the minor will be available through online course delivery. Although not all elective courses are available online, the current offerings are sufficiently varied, so as to pose no concern for distance students. The electronic portfolio is an integral component; Google Docs is the recommended medium for creating and storing this portfolio.

9. Is the University requesting authorization to provide the minor to students at an off-campus location or by distance delivery? If yes, explain.

USD requests authorization to provide the minor to distance students via online delivery. There is interest among distance students who have taken health sciences classes to pursue public health as a career option. The minor in public health will increase students' marketability as they look to employment with public health agencies within their own communities and states. The minor will additionally provide an opportunity to learn about public health principles, in order to make informed decisions regarding the pursuit of graduate work in the public health field.

10. Costs, Budget & Resources: Explain the amount and source(s) of any one-time and continuing investments in personnel, professional development, release time, instructional technology and software, other O&M, facilities, etc. needed to implement the minor.

The new minor proposal includes a request to create one new course. It is currently being developed by the Chair of Medical Laboratory Sciences as a component of her scholarship of teaching (MLS 415 Infectious Diseases and Public Health). All other required and elective courses are available through USD. A minor course modification request will be submitted for authorization to offer HSC 315, HSC 320, HSC 325 and HSC 330 via online delivery. MLS 415 will be developed for online delivery as well. The School of Health Sciences will work with Continuing and Distance Education to schedule and establish course authorship contracts for development of the approved courses for online delivery. This one-time CDE investment is approximately \$15,000.

Riegelman, R.K., Albertine S., Persily N.A.*, Kaelin M.W., & Cashman S. (*deceased). *The Educated Citizen and Public Health. Curriculum Guide for Undergraduate Public Health Education (Version 3.0)*.
http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.aptrweb.org/resource/resmgr/undergraduateph/curriculum_guide_version3.pdf

Riegelman, R.K., & Albertine, S. (2008). *Recommendations for Undergraduate Public Health Education*.
http://www.aacu.org/public_health/documents/Recommendations_for_Undergraduate_Public_Health_Education.pdf