

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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September 23, 2011

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Jean Standard, Chair, University Curriculum Committee
RE: Executive Summary of Proposal for New Minor in Public Health

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached proposal from the Department of Health Sciences for a new Minor in Public Health.

The Minor in Public Health reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the public health field and the Department of Health Sciences. This new minor is designed to provide students with a breadth of course work related to public health. The department already offers minors in Environmental Health and Safety, as well as in two aspects of Health Education. These are more narrowly focused minors within specific disciplines. It is envisioned that majors in life and social sciences will complete the minor to gain a background for employment in public health or for graduate work in this field. Majors in other aspects of Health Sciences may benefit from the minor as well.

The Department of Health Sciences provided a substantial rationale for proposing the new minor:

- The workforce need for qualified public health professionals is compelling. According to the Association of Schools of Public Health, more than 250,000 additional public health workers will be needed in the United States by the year 2020; of which an additional 22,800 are projected to be needed in Illinois.
- Public health, broadly defined, encompasses many disciplines operating in a variety of work settings. One of these is traditional government-operated, public health programs at the local, state, or federal levels. These programs mitigate environmental public health hazards, establish health services, and conduct educational programs for a wide range of community members.
- Professionals with public health skills are also needed in a variety of other work settings, such as healthcare, business and industry, insurance, and communications.
- The Minor in Public Health introduces students to public health issues and can strengthen their credentials for public health employment and graduate studies.
- No new courses are needed for this minor. Only one additional section of HSC 258 Epidemiology will need to be taught each year. This will be funded through the Department of Health Sciences with the assistance from the College of Applied Science and Technology for additional instructional capacity when needed.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add the new Minor in Public Health.

Enclosures
jr