

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) SLO REPORT 2014-15

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Program in the College of Public Health at Eastern Washington University has undergone significant changes over the last year. The MPH was originally designed based on operating four tracks:

- Option 1- Health Services Administration
- Option 2- Health Promotion
- Option 3- Epidemiology
- Option 4- American Indian Health Care & Community

The SLOs associated with the original MPH were:

- Assess population health needs;
- Strategize approaches when organizationally challenged in the public health arena;
- Implement strategies in public health service delivery for culturally diverse client populations;
- Identify various funding streams for public health.

However, for a number of reasons the MPH had to be redesigned. These reasons include relatively small student numbers, which are not unusual for a new course. The small student numbers issue was particularly notable in the context of four different tracks, and the relatively small size of a city like Spokane. Importantly, a redesign was essential given Faculty numbers required for accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). CEPH requires 3 dedicated Faculty devoting .5 or more time to each track of an accredited program. The four-track program therefore would require 12 Faculty. Given the current public sector funding environment this appeared unrealistic.

The redesign was also driven by observations that, at a societal level, Public Health has failed to date to significantly influence and change wider health and allied systems. Public Health has a great deal of evidence concerning the positive benefit of basic preventative ('upstream'), and mediating interventions that remain un-implemented. The redesign therefore focused on developing leadership skills and a Public Health orientation and skill set. It is hoped that by developing, training & equipping MPH students with this combined skill-set they will be able to succeed and progress in wider health and allied systems. As such they may be able to progress to positions of power and influence where they will be able to positively influence the re-orientation and transformation of health, medical and allied services which is so desperately needed.

The new MPH, which started in Fall Semester 2015, therefore specializes in Public Health Leadership. The SLO's for the new MPH are:

- Develop leadership & managerial skills in public health;
- Use ethical and moral principles in professional practice
- Assess population health needs;

- Develop public health research skills;
- Understand and apply evidence-based strategies to inform professional practice;
- Develop cultural sensitivity for working with diverse populations;
- Develop professional communication skills;
- Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.

Given the significant re-orientation of the MPH program, Faculty will focus on evaluating these SLO's over the next academic year.