

MPH Program Update – September 2010

Welcome to the new and returning students! We begin our eighth academic year at Kansas State University, and for Fall 2010, we had 19 new admissions to our MPH degree program and four to our graduate certificate program. There are currently 68 MPH students and five graduate certificate students enrolled in classes this semester. This compares to 26 total students in Fall 2008 and 38 students in Fall 2009.

Congratulations to our new Graduates! In August, the university conferred the MPH Degree to two more individuals: Ms. Jennifer Lygren-Snyder and Mr. Samuel Ornelas. This brings our total number of K-State MPH Graduates to 37.

Changes in MPH Faculty: Welcome to Drs. Katie Heinrich, Samara Joy Nielsen, Brian Lindshield, and Walter Renberg, our newest MPH Faculty members. Drs. Heinrich and Nielsen are also now a part of the MPH Coordinating Committee.

MPH Coordinating Committee Members: There have been some changes on the MPH Program Coordinating Committee, and the current members (and the area of emphasis they represent) are:

- Food Safety and Biosecurity: Dr. Dan Fung and Deanna Retzlaff;
- Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses: Drs. Justin Kastner and Bob Larson;
- Public Health Nutrition: Drs. Betsy Barrett, Samara Joy Nielsen, and Sandy Procter;
- Public Health Physical Activity: Drs. Katie Heinrich and Mary McElroy.

Drs. Beth Montelone and Kimathi Choma represent One Health Kansas and Pathways to Public Health on the coordinating committee. We have invited a student representative to be a part of the committee, and the Kansas State University Public Health Club is working with us to find one.

Accreditation Status: Dean Shanklin and Dr. Cates attended an Accreditation Orientation in Washington D.C. in July 2010, and we are now the process of writing our self-study document, as we also aim to correct deficiencies. We will host a consultant from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) on March 8, 2011, and the Kansas State preliminary Self-Study Document will be due to CEPH on June 8, 2011. The CEPH on-site visit will occur November 8-9, 2011, with a decision on our accreditation to be determined in Spring 2012.

Curriculum Changes coming: As part of the accreditation self-study, we have identified the need for changes to our curriculum. The following are two we have identified:

- For those who are admitted to the MPH Program for Spring 2011 and beyond: There will be a minimum requirement of 3 hours for field experience for all students. This change primarily affects those students who choose six hours of thesis research for their capstone project / culminating experience.
- For those who are admitted to the MPH Program for Fall 2011 and beyond: A minimum of three hours of biostatistics will be required of all students. A new biostatistics course (yet to be developed) will replace Statistics 702 / 703 as the core course in this area. This new requirement will not apply to those admitted to our program before Fall 2011.

Assistance: Please call (785-532-2042), email (mphealth@ksu.edu), or visit us any time (311 Trotter Hall), especially if you want or need assistance in any matters. It is a pleasure to work with all of you. Thanks for all the hard work!