

# Kansas State University

## Interim Report

**In the Summer 2014 accreditation decision letter, the Council asked that the program implement a plan to comprehensively analyze data from students and alumni, including alumni satisfaction, and to implement changes based, specifically, on the data collected. (The report must include initial data and accompanying narrative and / or committee meeting minutes.)**

The program addressed the concerns in several ways:

- (1) In August 2014, the program director collaborated with the university's Office of Educational Innovation and Evaluation (OEIE) to provide a summative analytical report of all past assessment materials to the MPH Board of Directors, the MPH Executive Council, the MPH Faculty Advisory Council, and the MPH Curriculum Review Committee. The report (Attachment 1) was also shared in September 2014 with MPH faculty, students and graduates. This report was considered and used by all governance entities toward program-related decisions. The current and future program budgets will include continuing analytical support and recommendations from the assessment experts at OEIE.
- (2) Working with OEIE, the program director developed a comprehensive plan for programmatic assessment, to routinely survey various stakeholders in a definite timeline, and to continue to share the results with the governance entities. The partnership with OEIE now includes more assistance from their assessment experts to analyze our survey data each year. The table below maps out the survey assessment tool, frequency and timing of all MPH surveys.

Assessment Tool	Frequency	Timing
Mid-Program Student Survey	Annually	Early to Mid -Fall
Graduate Exit Survey	Each Semester	After Graduation
Alumni Survey	Annually	One year after Graduation
Employer Survey	Bi-Annually	Mid-Spring
Field Experience	Each Semester	After Presentation

- (3) New surveys were completed during Fall 2014: Mid-program students, Graduate Exit, Alumni and Field Experience. The survey results (Attachment 2) were shared with and discussed among various groups of faculty and administrators, as demonstrated in meeting minutes (Attachments 3-6). The program's governance entities plan to routinely use programmatic assessment data in any decisions related to resources, courses, curriculum, policies and procedures.
- (4) Working with OEIE, the program developed an MPH Assessment database for all completed surveys since 2010. Dashboard Reports for Scale Questions are now available for any survey and for any year (or group of years). This provides a quick analytic tool for any period of time, for any potential issue and related discussions within the program's governance. For an overview of how the Dashboard Reports work see Attachment 7.

While survey results have been overall favorable, some examples of actions taken in response to surveys include:

- (1) Additional field experience opportunities for students within the state of Kansas;
- (2) Increased options for some core courses, in format delivery (resident and online) and semester availability. For core courses MPH 701 and 720, students have increased delivery and availability options;
- (3) Financial incentives (additions to restricted fee accounts) for faculty advising;
- (4) Annual curriculum reviews, which consider survey data as well as student evaluations and other data, and the subsequent course and curriculum changes.

**The Council also requested that the program broaden and increase the content of the environmental health sciences core course, beyond the scope of environmental toxicology, to also include sufficient knowledge of biological and physical factors that affect the health of a community.**

After discussions with MPH faculty and administrators, the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology proposed a new 3 semester credit hour course, patterned after the course taught at the University of Kansas Medical School for their MPH program and other CEPH accredited programs. The new course, MPH 802 - Environmental Health (Attachment 8), is a replacement for MPH 806 as the core course in environmental health sciences. The MPH Faculty Advisory Council has approved the course as a new core course, to replace MPH 806, and initiated the curriculum change, to be effective for students admitted in Fall 2015 and any subsequent semesters. The university's Graduate Council has approved the course and curriculum additions as well. The new course (MPH 802 – Environmental Health, 3 credit hours) will be offered in Fall semesters, beginning 2015, for new and returning students.

In addition, because of the practical skills value of DMP / MPH 806 (Environmental Toxicology) to public health practitioners, the MPH faculty and Graduate Council have approved its inclusion in the Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses and Food Safety and Biosecurity areas of emphasis curricula.

**The Council also requested that the program uniformly present learning objectives on each course syllabus and ensured that linkages to correlating competencies are clarified.**

The program has addressed these concerns in multiple ways:

- (1) Based on recommendations from the MPH program director and MPH Curriculum Review Committee, all MPH-designated course syllabi have been changed to uniformly present learning objectives. The most recent syllabi from all core courses are included in the attachments (Attachment 9).
- (2) The program director completed the September 2014 revision of the MPH Graduate Student Handbook, to include all student area of emphasis course requirements to clarify the linkages between the required competencies and the associated course requirements. The specific linkages are included in Chapter 12, pages 60-78 of that document (Attachment 10).

(3) The linkages between competences and courses have been mapped extensively and are included in each emphasis area curriculum on the website and in handouts students may download (see the PDFs at the top of each webpage listed below).

- Food Safety and Biosecurity: [http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/areas/food\\_safety.html](http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/areas/food_safety.html)
- Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses: <http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/areas/disease.html>
- Public Health Nutrition: [http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/areas/human\\_nutrition.html](http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/areas/human_nutrition.html)
- Public Health Physical Activity: [http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/areas/physical\\_activity.html](http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/areas/physical_activity.html)

In addition, in the Fall and Spring student orientation / group counseling sessions, the program director emphasized the linkages between the courses and the required competencies with new and returning students (Attachment 11).

(4) As a university requirement, the competencies and course alignment matrices from the core and each emphasis area are included as part of our Assessment of Student Learning webpage - <http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/about/learning-outcomes/> .

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. OEIE Summative Report
2. Fall 2014 Survey Data / Reports
3. Minutes – Executive Council Fall 2014
4. Minutes – Faculty Advisory Council Dec 2014
5. Minutes – Executive Council Spring 2015
6. Minutes – Board of Directors Spring 2015
7. MPH Dashboard Reports
8. Syllabus for newly proposed course: MPH 802, Environmental Health
9. Syllabi for all MPH courses (701, 720, 754, 806, 818, 854)
10. MPH Graduate Student Handbook (September 2014 Version)
11. Presentation from new and returning student orientation / group counseling