

OAKLANDUNIVERSITY
GRADUATE COUNCIL

December 12, 2012

TO: Susan Awbrey, Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

FROM: Darlene Schott-Baer, Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education

RE: **Master of Public Health Degree**

On behalf of the Graduate Council, I am pleased to forward a recommendation that Oakland University implement the proposed new Master of Public Health degree effective Fall 2013.

The Master of Public Health program at Oakland University is a generalist, professional program that delivers the core and cross-cutting competencies established by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). The program as proposed is designed to be modular and scalable and responsive to changing needs. While obviously not currently an accredited program, Oakland University's proposed MPH program is committed to adhering to the principles and expectations of the two main governing organizations – CEPH and ASPH – to best position itself for future accreditation. The requirement for the proposed MPH is 44 credits. If students successfully carry and complete a normal load, it will be possible to graduate in two calendar years. Students enrolled in the program will be expected to complete 20 credits of MPH core required courses, 8 credits of cross-cutting core courses, 8 credits of required culminating courses, and 8 credits of elective courses.

There is a great need in our region for more specialized training in public health and improved delivery of health promotion interventions. The proposed MPH program would graduate students specially trained to meet this need. The proposed Master of Public Health Program will educate students to improve the health of individuals and communities by strengthening the foundational skills, core capacities, diversity, preparation and responsiveness of public health professionals. These public health professionals may be employed in a variety of settings including, but not limited to, international health organizations, federal government agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, state and local health departments, voluntary and philanthropic organizations, corporations and worksite wellness sites, local hospitals and non-profit organizations.

The Michigan Department of Technology forecasts Oakland County job growth rates of 16.6%, 25.1%, and 11.9% for healthcare practitioners/technical occupations, healthcare support occupations, and community/social service occupations, respectively, in the decade between 2008 and 2018, indicating strong growth potential in local jobs for Oakland University students graduating with a MPH degree. A total of 454 students completed the questionnaire with the majority enrolled in the School of Health Sciences (56.6%), and smaller numbers drawn from the School of Nursing (22.2%) and College of Arts and Sciences (9.0%) among other units. Fifty-five percent indicated interest in the MPH degree. The vast majority of potential employers responded that there is a need for the MPH program at OU; specifically, 12.5% said it was a great need, and 25.0% said moderate need. Just over 30% indicated that their

organization would be very interested in serving as a potential internship or employment site for students enrolled in the MPH program.

Concerns related to the budget were expressed by members of Graduate Council, however, the potential popularity of the program for both full and part-time students and the strong number of undergraduate students currently enrolled (Fall 2012 = 1243) in the Health Sciences program countered those concerns.

The members of Graduate Council approved the proposal for the new Master of Public Health degree in the School of Health Sciences by a unanimous vote on December 12, 2012.

CC: Michelle Piskulich, Associate Provost

Fall 2013-Requested Admission term; Major Code 6300; Program Code MP6300; Graduate Catalog 2013-14