BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Master of Public Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

This program clearly meets Regents' standards for graduate degree programs. The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimous approval for the new degree program. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: University of Cincinnati Department of Public Health Sciences, College of Medicine seeks approval for a Master of Public Health degree.

Program Purpose/Mission: The Master of Public Health degree provides an impressive approach to public health education and training. The proposed program presents a timely and needed theme of evidence-based public health practice within the context of a combined theoretical and applied curriculum for a Health Promotion and Education program. The program will prepare individuals, including health professionals, for careers in public health practice and research. Special emphasis will be given to ensure training within a multidisciplinary environment to foster appreciation for, and ability to function effectively within, the evolving public health workforce and public health environment. Future plans are to collaborate with Ohio's other MPH programs to efficiently and effectively safeguard and improve the health of all Ohioans.

Enrollments: It is anticipated that most enrollees will be part-time, with 12-15 FTEs in early classes, beginning Fall 2008, and 40-50 FTEs per class post-accreditation. Enrollments will be approximately 175 students (108 FTE) after 5 years, with a "steady state" enrollment of 70 new students per year (30 full-time and 40 part-time).

Curriculum: The courses in the MPH core curriculum must all have a specific public health focus, and all students are required to complete the courses in the core (28 quarter hours). The curriculum will consist of a minimum of 60 quarter hours and, when undertaken on a full-time basis, will require an estimated five quarters to complete. It will have a series of core courses, a series of concentration courses, and an experiential Practicum and Capstone experience. The core MPH education areas of knowledge are: Biostatistics and Research Methods, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Sciences, Health Policy and Administration and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: The program will be overseen by the Chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences, and administered by the MPH Program Director, a senior faculty member of the Department. The anticipated faculty to student ratio in the initial five years of the program is: Year 1, 1/1, Year 2, 1/3, Year 3, 1/5, Year 4, 1/6, and Year 5, 1/6. This ratio is consistent with the faculty/student ratios in Ohio's other MPH programs. Efforts to recruit additional MPH credentialed faculty, as well as those with experience teaching in public health programs, are ongoing. Physical space for the program will be provided through the Department of Public Health Sciences with a newly relocated facility, Stetson Place, with more than 14,000 square feet of useable space. Unique Cincinnati resources for the program include the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the EPA's Breidenbach Research Labs and the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center that have allowed UC to develop strong partnerships in critical areas upon which the new Department of Public Health Sciences and the MPH can build.

Evidence of Need: The Greater Cincinnati region's public health infrastructure is in need of the academic base for practice that an MPH program represents, recognizing a nationwide need to expand and strengthen the public health workforce. Students graduating from the accredited course of study will be able to apply their public health knowledge to engage in effective, evidence-based public health practices and generate innovative solutions to public health challenges.

End of Comment Period: December 3, 2007
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	12/6/07
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date