BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH)

RECOMMENDATION
This program meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate degrees. There were no concerns identified in the review and approval is recommended.

Request: Kent State University (KSU) requests approval for a Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH).

Program Purpose: The proposed Bachelor of Science in Public Health is a multidisciplinary program designed to prepare students to enter the workforce in entry-level public health positions or pursue graduate and professional programs in public health, business, law or medicine. Public health educators promote, maintain and improve individual and community health. Students who major in this field typically work in areas such as public health departments, voluntary health agencies, human services agencies, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, insurance companies, corporate worksites, wellness centers, community health organizations, family planning clinics and managed care facilities.

KSU has assessed the local and regional public health workforce need to support the degree program. The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services projects growth in public health related occupations for Ohio, particularly in the economic development regions served by northeastern Ohio. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that public health ranks among the fastest growing industries nationally, and regional data support the growth potential for these industries in northeastern Ohio.

Background: The BSPH will be administered by the newly established College of Public Health. Public Health is a multidisciplinary field comprising arts, sciences, education, health and human services. During the college's first year of planning (2009-2010), it will operate as a college of the whole with no departments. Eight full-time tenure track faculty members and four new faculty members will comprise the faculty for the college. Two non-tenure track faculty and adjunct faculty will be added, as needed, prior to the beginning of the BSPH program in fall 2010. The college will expand faculty and consist of two departments in its second year of operation (2010-2011): (1) Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Environmental Health and (2) Health Policy, Management and Social/Behavioral Sciences.

Enrollments: KSU anticipates enrollments of 80 new full-time students in the first year of the program. Preparation at the undergraduate level is an emerging trend for the public health profession. Very few undergraduate programs exist; graduate study is required for many professional positions. The proposed BSPH will provide a focused undergraduate pathway into graduate study and preparation for the growing number of entry-level positions. KSU anticipates that the BSPH will attract students interested in applying basic sciences (e.g., biology and chemistry) and social sciences (e.g., psychology and sociology) to public health issues.

Curriculum: The public health core curriculum (49 semester hours) provides an introduction to public health policy, environmental science, epidemiology, biostatistics and studies in public health (research, prevention and control of disease, data analysis). BSPH students will be able to select a concentration (15 semester hours) from the following three options: environmental/sanitation, health care administration and health promotion and education. Additional elective courses (12 semester hours) are designed to enrich the public health curriculum and address specific student career interests (e.g., gerontological studies, global/international health, public health nutrition, HIV/STD and sexuality studies, drug abuse and violence prevention). Students will also complete an internship in public health and a data analysis laboratory. The program requires a minimum of 122 semester hours.

The Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) is the accrediting organization for public health programs. CEPH does not currently accredit baccalaureate programs, although there is a plan to do so in the future. The BSPH has been developed in accordance with preliminary guidance provided by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) in order to position the program for accreditation upon its availability by CEPH.

The curriculum fulfills the course requirements leading to a Certification as a Registered Sanitarian. Kent State University plans to submit the program for accreditation to the Ohio State Board of Sanitation. In addition, students completing the BSPH will be eligible for the licensure examination leading to certification as a Health Education Specialist from the National Commission for Health.

Resource and Faculty Needs: KSU has sufficient classroom and laboratory facilities to support the program. Faculty needs are being addressed through staffing plans for the College of Public Health as it is developed in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 and through the University's extensive faculty in arts, sciences, education, health and human services.

End of Comment Period: September 22, 2009
No Comments Received: Recommend Approval

Approved	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	9/29/09 Date

mlc