SIU Public Health Program earns LONGEST possible ACCREDITATION

by Robert McDermott

Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Master of Public Health Program (MPH) recently earned a seven-year accreditation, the maximum term possible, from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Gaining this accreditation status for the maximum term positions SIU to be a champion of the public health community for the region, state, and nation. Additionally, the department faculty will help direct workforce development activities in response to multi-faceted needs.

Thank you to everyone who supported this effort, and congratulations on a job well done!

Faculty Celebration Selfie (pictured left to right): Heather Goelz, Aaron Diehr, Wendi Middleton, and Justin McDaniel

Final Session of CEPH accreditation site visit on April 20, 2018, pictured left to right (back): Heather Goelz, Robert McDermott, Justin McDaniel, Aaron Diehr, Wendi Middleton, Juliane Wallace (Interim Associate Dean, Director, SIU Graduate School), Matthew Keefer (College of Education and Human Services Dean) (front): Kristin Hill (lead CEPH reviewer), Alexandra DiOnzo (CEPH accreditation specialist), and Nannett Tumer (CEPH reviewer)
DAVID BIRCH, PH.D., MCHES®,
Named SOPHE Distinguished Fellow Award

David Birch, PhD, MCHES®, previous professor and chair of the SIUC Health Education and Recreation Department (currently, the Department of Public Health and Recreation Professions), recently received SOPHE’s highest honor, the Distinguished Fellow Award. During his career of more than 40 years, Dr. Birch has advanced the scholarship and practice of both community and school health education through teaching, research, and professional service. His pedagogy trajectory has spanned elementary and junior high schools to undergraduate and graduate programs at five leading colleges and universities.

As a visionary leader, he has served as SOPHE’s President in 2016-2017, as co-chair of the National Implementation Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education, the National Task Force on the Future of School Health Education, as well as a founding editorial board member of *Pedagogy in Health Promotion: The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.*

Saluki Faculty & Students

*Attend the AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION MEETING*

by Robert McDermott

Several faculty and students attended the 2018 APHA annual meeting themed “Creating the Healthiest Nation: Health Equity Now.” This topic is especially important to the SIU MPH program as the recently updated curriculum emphasizes the analysis of health disparities and the social determinants of health. These factors are barriers to health equity in the rural and/or underserved populations of southern Illinois and beyond.

Justin McDaniel, PhD, assistant professor, attended the conference and reported, “Some of my current and former students presented with me this year on topics related to the health equity theme. We had a great time sharing our research and networking with other APHA conference attendees!”

The SIU MPH faculty continuously strive to develop their knowledge and adapt to timely trends in the public health field. National memberships, conferences, and networking opportunities for faculty and students are, and will continue to be, an important part of the educational experience at Southern Illinois University.
A NEW CHAPTER WILL BEGIN for Southern Illinois University Public Health Program. The freshly CEPH (Council on Education for Public Health) accredited program received an overhaul to meet the 2016 competencies.

All CEPH accredited MPH programs must address 12 Foundational Public Health Knowledge concepts, 22 MPH Foundational Competencies, and five unique competencies per concentration. In response, the program faculty reviewed and revised the MPH curriculum based on the 2016 CEPH criteria. They removed, adapted, or created courses to meet the accreditation requirements and will demonstrate competency compliance through course syllabi by December 31, 2018.

SIUC MPH Program **CONCENTRATION COMPETENCIES**

1. Analyze health disparities and social determinants of health among rural and/or underserved populations.

2. Identify the challenges and evaluate community-based partnerships as applied to rural and/or underserved populations (e.g. the Illinois Counties in the Delta Regional Authority).

3. Plan interventions to improve health in rural, underserved and/or veteran populations.

4. Describe and demonstrate the methods of spatial analysis, focusing on rural and or underserved regions.

5. Identify and make accessible community resources related to a specific health issue or a specific target audience (e.g. veterans).

SIU concentration competencies focus on rural/underserved populations and health inequities as southern Illinois is positioned in a distinctive location to enhance the educational experience.
Master of Public Health Degree Requirements

A student must complete a minimum of 42 semester hours with the following core courses being required:

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<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 506</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communicating Public Health</td>
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<td>PH 507</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>MPH Experiential Learning Seminar</td>
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<td>PH 508</td>
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<td>Leadership in Public Health</td>
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<td>Public Health Program Planning</td>
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<td>Public Health Analytics I</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Public Health Analytics II</td>
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<td>PH 525</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Applied Theoretical Foundations of Public Health</td>
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<td>PH 526</td>
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<td>Evidence-based Research and Evaluation in Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 532</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Public Health Administration: Principles and Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 583</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>U.S. Health Systems: Organization, Delivery, and Policy</td>
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<td>PH 593</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health</td>
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<td>PH 598</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Grant Writing in Public Health</td>
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<td>PH 599A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MPH Applied Practical Experience (APE) Seminar</td>
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<td>PH 599B</td>
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<td>MPH Applied Practical Experience (APE)</td>
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<td>PH 599C</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MPH Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)</td>
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Concurrent Degree Requirements

For the medical degree, all students must complete all requirements outlined by the School of Medicine.

For the MPH degree, a student must complete a minimum of 42 semester hours with the following core courses (31 hours) being required during the first year:

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In addition, the student must complete the following (timing at the discretion of the MPH advisor):

- Public Health Leadership elective 3 weeks/hours SIU-SOM
- Clinical Epidemiology elective 3 weeks/hours SIU-SOM
- Advanced Biostatistics 2 weeks/hours SIU-SOM

The student must complete a 1-hour elective from the following:

- Health Policy and Law elective 3 weeks/hours SIU-COM
- State Agency Management and Engagement 1 week/hour SIU-SOM
- Emerging Trends in Public Health 2 weeks/hours SIU-COM
- Ethical Issues in Public Health Practice and Research 1 week/hour SIU-SOM
- Crisis and Disaster Response and Management 1 week/hour SIU-SOM
- Roles and Integration of National, State and Local Health Agencies 1 week/hour SIU-COM
SIUC Public Health Students participate in the INTERDISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONALISM DAY
Hosted by the SIU School of Law
Coordination efforts by Jennifer A. Brobst, JD, LLM, Assistant Professor

Each year, the SIU School of Law hosts an SIU Interdisciplinary Professionalism Day. Historically, medical students, social work students, and physician's assistant students joined law students for a morning of debate and discussion on a selected medical-legal ethics issue. This year, SIUC public health graduate students joined the event held at the Lesar Law Building in Carbondale, IL. Four experts facilitated an introduction to the ethics in each profession. Next, students divided into interdisciplinary small groups, received a case study regarding mature minor doctrine, and discussed the scenario without faculty participation. Finally, the group reconvened, and panelists shared their perspectives. Participants deliberated with the panel before the event concluded.

“This annual event is always exciting, bringing together so many new SIU graduate students from different departments to experience the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration.”
- Jennifer A. Brobst, JD, LLM

THE MPH COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The public health program faculty, students, and staff hosted the MPH Community Advisory Board on October 17, 2018. Several members completed their term on the board, and the department shared gratitude for their support and continued support of the MPH program. New members include two student representatives, Danielle Vatcoskay and Kristen Matthews, Sarah Patrick, the Jackson County Health Department administrator, and Todd Bryson, the interim associate chancellor, SIUC Office of Associate Chancellor for Diversity. Together everyone's investments will benefit the MPH program, community, region, and beyond.

Board Members and Faculty pictured left to right: Wendi Middleton (faculty), Sarah Patrick (JCHD), Robert McDermott (Department Chair), Woody Thorne (SIH), Heather Goetz (faculty), Ted Grace (SIUC Student Health Services), Justin McDaniel (faculty); (front): Danielle Vatcoskay (MPH student), Ami Ruffing (SIUC Center for Environmental Health & Safety), Melinn Link-Mullison (retired JCHD), Kristen Matthews (MPH student); Not pictured: Kim Sanders (Center for Rural Health & Social Service Dev.), Ellis Lacey (retired health education professor), Dawn Null (professor SIU Animal Science, Food, and Nutrition), and Todd Bryson (Interim Associate Chancellor SIUC Office of Associate Chancellor for Diversity).
MD/MPH Candidates conduct RESEARCH on Medical-Legal Partnerships

Emma James (MD/MPH Candidate) along with Emily Samson (MD/MPH Candidate) are busy in more ways than classes and coursework. They established a student-screener program for the SIU Center for Family Medicine’s Medical-Legal Partnership program. Medical-legal partnerships allow healthcare providers to refer patients with possible legal issues to legal aid lawyers.

SIU Family Medicine clinics make referrals to the program, but there were limited in-patient referrals. These students designed a program wherein a medical student screened each eligible hospitalized patient for possible legal issues affecting health and faxed potential referrals to the legal aid lawyer.

Medical students learned skills in addressing social determinants of health with patients, and learned community resources that help patients better the social and legal issues. Both students served as weekly screeners and program designers/coordinators.

Emily James

Emily Samson (right) playing the patient as Jenn Becker (2020 MD/MPH Candidate) conducts a Medical-Legal Partnership screening for promotional materials.
Make an online contribution to one or more of the following funds:

- Donald N. Boydston Masters Scholarship
- Donald N. Boydston Graduate Scholarship
- Health Education Saluki Century Club
- Robert D. Russell Visiting Scholar Fund
- Elena M. Sliepcevich Centre Fund

It’s easy to do by credit card!
Go to www.siuf.org/giving/payment.php and type in one of the fund names above.

You can do it by check!
If you prefer to send a check, make it out to the SIU Foundation and write the name of the fund on the memo line of the check.

Mail to: SIU Foundation
1235 Douglas Drive
Mail Code 6805
Carbondale, IL 62901

NEVER FORGET YOUR ROOTS, ESPECIALLY YOUR SIUC HEALTH EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH ROOTS.