

## RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Health field has been evolving for the past decade. The current minimum qualifications for teaching in the Health discipline have not kept pace. Specifically, the first requirement listed for the minimum qualifications for Health is a Master of Health Science. There are very few institutions in the United States that offer a Master of Health Science any longer. These include: Western Carolina University; Boise State University; Nova Southeastern University; St. Francis University, Florida Gulf Coast University; Towson University, Baltimore; Western Michigan University; University of Central Florida; and California State University Long Beach- the only state university in California that offers this degree.

Moreover, institutions that once offered a Master of Health Science are changing the names of their programs and degrees to Public Health. These include the pre-eminent Johns Hopkins University Master of Health Science Degree:

*From the Johns Hopkins website:* Note: Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, the names of degree programs previously designated as professional MHS degree programs were changed to MSPH degree programs. Admission and graduation requirements, and educational objectives remained the same. The name change is not retroactive. (from <http://www.jhsph.edu/academics/degree-programs/masters-programs/master-of-health-science/> date accessed 9/23/12)

The ambiguity of the terms Health Science and Public Health are evident in the California State University, Los Angeles program's name change:

*From the CSU, LA, Department of Public Health website:* As of fall, 2011 the Department of Health Science will become the Department of Public Health. All course names have been changed from Health Science (HS) to Public Health (PH). When registering for classes please look under Public Health, not Health Science. For the present the degree students in the Department receive will continue to be a BS in Health Science; and the major will continue to be called Health Science. (from <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/hhs/ph/> date accessed 9/23/12)

Further, the field of health science is just as broad as the field of public health, and as evidenced above, the names may be used interchangeably. Currently, an applicant with an MPH from the University of California, Berkeley (without the required undergraduate degree) would have to go through equivalency to apply to teach in the Health discipline in the California Community College System. The areas of concentration for an MPH at Berkeley are the following: Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Epidemiology/Biostatistics, Health and Social Behavior, Health Policy and Management, Interdisciplinary, Maternal and Child Health, and Public Health Nutrition (<http://sph.berkeley.edu/students/degrees/index.php> date accessed 9/23/12).

However, an applicant with an MS in Health Science (pre-2011) from Johns Hopkins University program would not need to seek equivalency. The MS in Health Science Areas Johns Hopkins are similar to those at UC Berkeley: Reproductive and Cancer Biology; Biostatistics, Environmental Health; Cancer Epidemiology; Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology; Clinical

Epidemiology; Epidemiology of Aging; General Epidemiology and Methodology; Genetic Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Environmental Epidemiology; Clinical Investigation; Social Factors in Health; Health Economics (offered with International Health); Health Economics (offered with Health Policy and Management); Mental Health; Molecular Microbiology and Immunology; Child and Adolescent Health and Development; Demography; Reproductive, Perinatal and Women's Health. (<http://www.jhsph.edu/academics/degree-programs/masters-programs/master-of-health-science/> date accessed 9/23/12)

This places an undo burden on applicants coming from the UC and CSU systems, where many of our faculty earn their graduate degrees. Again, only one California state institution offers a Master's in Health Science, CSU Long Beach, whereas eleven CSUs and UCs offer Master's in Public Health:

California State University: Fresno, San Francisco State, San Jose State, San Diego State, Northridge, Long Beach (which also offers an MS in Health Science), Fullerton

University of California: Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, and Berkeley.

Moreover, institutions that do offer a Master of Health Science have very diverse course offerings and concentrations. A graduate from the Master of Health Sciences from Western Carolina University (WCU) may have a concentration in Health Management, Health Education, Emergency Medical Care or Nutrition (<http://www.wcu.edu/4634.asp> date accessed 9/27/12). An applicant with a Master of Health Science with a concentration in Health Management would meet the minimum qualifications, whereas an applicant with an MPH in the same concentration area would not be. The Health Management concentration from WCU has no course offerings in theory or even epidemiology, standard core courses in the Health Education field (another discipline that meets the minimum qualifications) and other Health Science Master's programs. The WCU program also demonstrates the overlap of the health science and public health disciplines in their program introduction "The Master of Health Sciences (MHS) Program is focused on public health principles..." (<http://www.wcu.edu/4634.asp> date accessed 9/27/12).

The Master of Health Science Program at Boise State University (<http://hs.boisestate.edu/mhs/programs/core-courses/> date accessed 9/28/12) has several areas of emphasis including: Environmental Health, Evaluation and Research, Health Policy, Health Promotion and Health Services. The Health Promotion emphasis includes the following courses: Health Science Research Methods, Applied Statistical Methods, Program Evaluation in the Health Sciences, Managerial Epidemiology, Current Issues in Health Policy, Health Promotion and Community Psychology along with electives. This is very similar to the MPH in Health and Social Behavior at UC Berkeley, below.

An MPH in Health and Social Behavior at UC Berkeley, a contributing source of applicants to City College of San Francisco, includes the following courses: Introduction to Probability and Statistics, Public Health Core Breadth Seminar, Epidemiologic Methods I, Public Health Field Placement, Health and Social Behavior Seminar, Theories of Health and Social Behavior, A research methods course (Advanced Methods: Qualitative Research; Community-Based Participatory Research in Public Health; or Social and Behavioral Research: Intro to Survey

Research Methods), a program planning and evaluation course (Program Planning, Development and Evaluation or Evaluation of Health and Social Programs) and Preparation for Public Health Practice (<http://sph.berkeley.edu/students/degrees/areas/hsb1.php> date accessed 9/27/12). The MPH from UC Berkeley is at least 48 units whereas a Master of Health Science from Boise State is only 36-39 units. A graduate from Boise State would meet the minimum qualifications while an MPH graduate from UC Berkeley would need to apply for equivalency.

The Master of Health Science from St. Francis University, a 30 unit graduate program, has the following course requirements: Research Methodology, Ethical Issues in Practice, Health Care Systems Management, Clinical Residency Project, Leadership and Strategies in Health Policy (<http://onlinemhsc.francis.edu/curriculum/> date accessed 9/27/12). The remaining courses are electives. A graduate from this program has much less coursework and educational experience than the MPH program cited above, yet would meet the minimum qualifications for teaching in the health field.

At issue are three factors:

- 1) The health science discipline overlaps considerably with the public health discipline, it is difficult to distinguish the main differences between the two.
- 2) Health science is an incredibly broad field, as is public health; they both encompass clinical, education and policy areas (to name a few), and specifying the area of MPH (i.e. Health Education) that meets the minimum qualifications while not specifying any area for the Master of Health Science is arbitrary and capricious.
- 3) Master of Health Science programs, which are in fact diminishing in number (there is only one among all the CSUs and UCs in California), vary tremendously in their core curriculum requirements and there is no consistency or standard for graduates with this degree.

Based on the changes in the field of health, the diversity of course offerings in community college health programs, the ambiguity of Master of Health Science and Master's of Public Health degrees, the incredible variety in the core curriculum of Master of Health Science programs and the type of graduate degrees available in the state of California, we are asking that the minimum qualifications be expanded to include Master's of Public Health.