

I. THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM – Mission, Goals, and Objectives 2007

Mission:

The mission of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at the University of Southern California (USC) is to assist in creating healthy communities by preparing graduates to lead and collaborate with others in organized community efforts across a variety of settings, focusing on disease prevention and health promotion among diverse populations.

One or more goal statements for each major function by which the program intends to attain its mission, including instruction, research and service.

The three major functions include instruction, research and service in public health. There are five goal statements within the three areas.

INSTRUCTION: The first priority as faculty and staff of the MPH program is the education of our students through the development of innovative classroom techniques and exploring new fields of scholarly investigation. The curriculum is designed to prepare community health/preventive medicine practitioners to access community needs of populations, design, implement, and evaluate health promotion programs to diverse audiences.

- Goal 1: To educate individuals for professional careers in public health through a master's degree program that prepares them to assess community needs of populations, design, implement, and evaluate health promotion programs to diverse audiences.
- Goal 2: To provide an environment conducive to student learning and professional development.
- Goal 3: To prepare graduates to practice successfully in diverse public health/social service settings or to pursue advanced professional/academic training.

RESEARCH: Research of the highest quality by our faculty and students is fundamental to our mission. Research and teaching are inextricably intertwined such that faculty do more than teach other people's work, but actively contributor to what is taught, thought, and practiced.

- Goal 4: To conduct basic and applied research that contributes to the identification, management, and resolution of public health problems.

SERVICE: The MPH program strives to improve the health status of individuals through community efforts. As a community-practice oriented degree, the program encourages students and faculty to participate in community service through research, consultation and volunteerism.

- Goal 5: Collaborate and consult with local, national, and international public health and social service agencies to provide technical and programmatic support to assist in meeting the needs of their service populations.

A set of measurable objectives relating to each major function through which the program intends to achieve its goals of instruction, research and service.

Each program goal mentioned above contains measurable objectives. Performance concerning the achievement of these objectives for the past three years is illustrated below.

Goal 1: To educate individuals for professional careers in public health through a master's degree program that prepares them to assess community needs of populations, design, implement and evaluate health promotion programs to diverse audiences:

- Objective 1: Conduct at least yearly assessments of learning outcomes for program courses through student feedback on surveys and program committee meetings

2004-2005: 3
2005-2006: 5
2006-2007: 1

- Objective 2: Conduct at least one assessment of published recommendations for the field of public health (when available) per year and compare these with program requirements

2004-2005: 1
2005-2006: 1
2006-2007: 1

Objective 3: Eighty percent of MPH courses will achieve a mean rating of 4.0 on student evaluations (1=poor to 5=excellent)

2004-2005: 61%
2005-2006: 77%
2006-2007: 70%

Objective 4: Students will report a mean competency rate of at least 2.5 (1=not competent, 2=somewhat competent, 3=competent) for 85% of MPH Student Competencies

2004-2005: 91%
2005-2006: 100%
2006-2007: 50%

Objective 5: Solicit program feedback from current/former students, faculty, community members and practicum supervisors on an annual basis through each method including (1) program committee meetings, (2) general faculty meetings, (3) student surveys and focus groups, and (4) surveys/discussions with practicum preceptors

2004-2005: more than 4 methods
2005-2006: at least 4 methods
2006-2007: more than 4 methods

Objective 6: Students conducting their supervised field training will receive an average performance rating of at least 4.0 from their supervisors (1=below expectation, 3=satisfactory, 5=beyond expectation)

2004-2005: 4.73
2005-2006: 4.73
2006-2007: 4.63

Objective 7: One hundred percent of practicum students will develop a professional portfolio of their MPH practicum experience which reflects their mastery of the knowledge, competencies and skills involved in public health practice and/or research activities

2004-2005: 100%
2005-2006: 100%
2006-2007: 100%

Goal 2: To provide an environment conducive to student learning and professional development

Objective 1: Provide financial support for education by offering at least 20 student assistantships per year

2004-2005: 34
2005-2006: 43
2006-2007: 53

Objective 2: Increase student space on the Alhambra campus by constructing a large classroom and a student computer lab

2004-2005: 0 large classroom, 1 additional computer lab
2005-2006: 0 large classroom, 1 additional computer lab
2006-2007: 0 large classroom, 0 additional computer lab

Objective 3: Support at least three mechanisms for student communication

2004-2005: 5
2005-2006: 5

2006-2007: 6

Objective 4: Support an electronic student application system

2004-2005: 1
2005-2006: 1
2006-2007: 2

Objective 5: Each full-time staff member will attend at least one professional training event per year

2004-2005: 1 per each staff member
2005-2006: 1 per each staff member
2006-2007: More than 1 per each staff member

Objective 6: Make annual contributions to the MPH student association budget of at least \$2,000

2004-2005: \$4,702
2005-2006: \$5,868
2006-2007: \$5,721

Objective 7: Develop and maintain an online MPH career page

2004-2005: 1
2005-2006: 1
2006-2007: 1

Objective 8: Develop and utilize a student database that coordinates and integrates information from admissions, degree progress and post-graduation placements, practicum assignments, and funding history

2004-2005: In process
2005-2006: In process
2006-2007: In process

Objective 9: Provide financial support for student attendance at local/national conferences for a least 2 students per year

2004-2005: 3
2005-2006: 5
2006-2007: 5

Goal 3: To prepare graduates to practice successfully in diverse public health/social service settings or to pursue advanced professional/academic training

Objective 1: Maintain less than a 5% cumulative attrition rate among those students who matriculate per year

2004-2005: 6.6%
2005-2006: 6.8%
2006-2007: 0.8%

Objective 2: At least 85% of students will have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 every semester.

2004-2005: 91.0%
2005-2006: 92.2%
2006-2007: 93.2%

Objective 3: Attain a 80% pass rate among those students who take the Certified Health Education Specialist Exam

2004-2005: 100%
2005-2006: 100%

2006-2007: 100%

Objective 4: At least 90% of students will obtain employment in public health or matriculate into an academic/professional degree program within one year of graduation

2004-2005: 100%
2005-2006: 95.0%
2006-2007: 98.9%

Goal 4: To conduct basic and applied research that contributes to the identification, management, and resolution of public health problems

Objective 1: Seventy-five percent of faculty will have funded research per year

2004-2005: 76%
2005-2006: 76%
2006-2007: 76%

Objective 2: Faculty will conduct at least 30 research projects annually that address public health problems in diverse populations

2004-2005: 33
2005-2006: 45
2006-2007: 44

Objective 3: Seventy-five percent of the faculty will publish two peer-reviewed articles per year

2004-2005: 69%
2005-2006: 72%
2006-2007: 74%

Objective 4: Fifty percent of the faculty will conduct at least 2 presentations at professional meetings per year

2004-2005: 49%
2005-2006: 50%
2006-2007: 48%

Objective 5: Maintain one interdisciplinary research center/program

2004-2005: 4
2006-2006: 3
2006-2007: 4

Objective 6: At least three MPH students will have the opportunity to work as research assistants per year

2004-2005: 16
2005-2006: 18
2006-2007: 21

Goal 5: Collaborate and consult with local, national, and international public health and social service agencies to provide technical and programmatic support to assist in meeting the needs of their service population

Objective 1: Provide training opportunities that will reach at least 500 public health professionals per year

2004-2005: 1334
2005-2006: 224
2006-2007: 36

Objective 2: At least two training opportunities will provide continuing education units for physicians (CME) and health educators (CHEC)

2004-2005: 2 CME, 3 CHEC

2005-2006: 1 CME, 2 CHEC

2006-2007: 1 CME, 1 CHEC

Objective 3: At least 75% of the faculty will serve on panels/boards or provide technical assistance to community-based agencies

2004-2005: 65%

2005-2006: 64%

2006-2007: 70%

Objective 4: At least two courses in the MPH program will provide student service opportunities

2004-2005: 2

2005-2006: 3

2006-2007: 4

Objective 5: The MPH student association will coordinate/participate in at least two community service events per year

2004-2005: 5

2005-2006: 7

2006-2007: 8