

DATE: July 27, 2006

SUBJECT: University of Memphis, M.P.H in Public Health

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Several years ago, there was an attempt to establish an accredited statewide College of Public Health designed as a collaborative model between the Tennessee Department of Public Health, the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee Memphis Health Science Center, Tennessee State University, East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Upon consultation with the accreditation agency, it was apparent that this type of consortium would not be eligible for accreditation. To address the growing public health issues in Tennessee, the decision was made to establish academic programs in public health in the three grand divisions of the state, establish accredited schools of public health in West Tennessee between UT Memphis and the University of Memphis and the other in East Tennessee at ETSU. In addition to establishing graduate programs at Tennessee State University, planning is now underway by THEC to form an Institute of Public Health in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Health.

The intent of the proposed program at the University of Memphis is to provide a stimulating academic environment in a metropolitan setting that supports education, research, and service to enhance the lives and health of individuals, families, and communities in the Mid-South. This can be accomplished by preparing future leaders in the field; innovative and rigorous research; collaboration with the community; informed public policy; dissemination of information and awareness of public health concerns.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2006

Commission staff has reviewed program proposals according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002. Each standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with the role and scope of the university mission “to provide a stimulating academic environment for its students in an urban setting.” The university, “through its research, teaching and outreach roles responds to individual needs, such as the support of health care and preventive health services.”

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed program requires completion of 42 semester credit hours. This program is unique in many ways. The curriculum largely builds upon existing courses at the University of Memphis. Faculty from the Departments/Programs of Anthropology, Communication, Fogelman College of Business, Geography, Health Administration, Health and Sports Science,

Psychology, and Public Administration participated in the planning and development of the MPH. Additionally, the University of Tennessee School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine is a partner and the Biostatistics courses will be taken on the medical campus.

<u>Curriculum Component</u>	<u>Hours Required</u>
Major Field Core	30
Electives	6
Practicum or thesis	<u>6</u>
TOTAL:	42

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: A multi-disciplinary faculty committee will determine admission to the Master in Public Health program. Criteria for selecting students will be broad because of the wide range of backgrounds from which students may come and the wide range of disciplines they may study.

Applicants must hold a bachelor or graduate degree from an accredited college or university with an undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher (on a 4.00 scale) or a graduate cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the major subject area. Current Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores and letters of recommendation from at least three persons are required. Students must submit a personal statement of approximately 500-1,000 words indicating the applicant's present interests and career goals in public health.

All MPH applicants will be expected to have adequate preparation in the sciences, including at least one college-level course in general biology (including human biology), mathematics and a social science. Courses in health-related fields such as nutrition, anatomy, physiology, chemistry, physics, and statistics are not mandated, but are strongly recommended. Previous professional or other relevant work experience is also highly desirable, but is not required.

Student Projections	Projected Program Productivity		
	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time	Graduates
Year 1	10	10	0
Year 2	20	20	0
Year 3	25	25	24
Year 4	25	25	24
Year 5	25	25	24

1.1.20D FACULTY: A search for a program director is underway. This is a replacement for the former director who recently left the university. One new full-time faculty member will be needed by the third year of the program. In keeping with CEPH program criteria, three to four faculty dedicated to the MPH program are required for accreditation.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: Funds have been allocated to purchase the primary public health journals. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of public health, the current library holdings at the University of Memphis will permit student access to many of the relevant journals.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed program will be housed in the College of Arts and Sciences in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP). There will be a faculty advisory board and a community advisory board to assist the Director of Public Health Programs. One full-time administrative assistant is needed to provide support to the program director. This individual will manage the student application process and program advertising.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The proposed program is unique by the manner in which the curriculum is built on existing courses at the University of Memphis by faculty in several departments and related disciplines.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: The facilities and instructional equipment are adequate to support the proposed program.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: A clear and compelling need exists for a program of Public Health in the Memphis/Shelby County area, particularly given the significant public health issues in this region. Clearly, the public health problems indicate the disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations, however scientific practices can be utilized to prevent and control these health issues. Current data demonstrates health problems and health disparities in Shelby County based on 2003 data:

Health Issues	Total	Rates	White	Black
Infant deaths	202	14.2/100,000	37	164
Deaths from heart disease	2,357	259/100,000	1,237	1,108
Deaths from diabetes	231	25.4/100,000	61	170
Homicide	171	18.8/100,000	25	143
Suicide	97	10.7/100,000	78	18
Teen pregnancies	2,899	42.1/1,000	587	2,282

(Tennessee Department of Health, 2003)

In addition to the aforementioned health indicators, anecdotal evidence from student contact and interviews suggest a suppressed need for an MPH program. A large number of students indicated that they would have applied to the University of Memphis if the MPH had been offered. The Chair of the Department of Anthropology estimates a loss of 10 potential applicants per year because the University of Memphis does not have the option to complete an MPH. Students in other graduate programs at the university have expressed a preference for an MPH program other than their current one.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: There are two accredited MPH programs in Tennessee: University of Tennessee Knoxville and East Tennessee State University. In addition, both of these programs mainly focus on rural health issues. Therefore, a MPH program in West Tennessee (specifically Shelby County) will reach

an entirely different student population. This program will not duplicate existing efforts in Tennessee.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: The implementation of this program will become part of the plan to establish an accredited School of Public Health in West Tennessee between UT Memphis and the University of Memphis. The University of Memphis has partnered with the University of Tennessee, School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine to teach Biostatistics courses on their campus.

1.1.20L DESEGREGATION: The program will not impede the state's effort to achieve racial diversity.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH) accredits MPH programs. Based on CEPH guidelines, expectations are to be considered for accreditation in 3 years following program initiation. There are no SACS implications.

1.1.20N ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT: Dr. Michael Eriksen, Professor and Director, Institute of Public Health, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia served as consultant to provide the expert external review of the program along with THEC and TBR staff. Dr. Eriksen emphasized that the University of Memphis is well-positioned to offer the Master of Public Health degree and that the city of Memphis will greatly benefit by filling a void for trained public health professionals in West Tennessee. He positively noted the community support, the support of public health agencies and the University of Memphis Health Science Center. Dr. Eriksen indicated due to the lack of available training in the area and the needs of the city, the university should expect enrollments to exceed projections.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: State health department data has shown that Memphis/Shelby County differs from other parts of the state in terms of many population-based health indicators (i.e. infant mortality, violence, mental health problems, etc.). A graduate program in Public Health located in the Memphis area would produce quality public health practitioners equipped with the skills to fight chronic disease that plague this area and improve the quality of life and well-being not only for the citizens of Memphis and Tennessee, but also the surrounding region. In addition to serving a different population, a MPH program in West Tennessee will reach a different student population from the one served by programs in East Tennessee.

THEC Financial Estimate Form
The University of Memphis
Master of Public Health

Five-year projections are required for baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate programs and certificates.

Three-year projections are required for associate degrees and undergraduate certificates. Projections should include cost of living increases per year.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
I. Expenditures					
A. One-time Expenditures					
New/Renovated Space	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Library	-	-	-	-	-
Consultants	1,500	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total One-time	<u>\$ 1,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
B. Recurring Expenditures					
Personnel					
Administration					
Salary	\$ 110,000	\$ 13,300	\$ 116,699	\$ 120,200	\$ 123,806
Benefits	26,400	27,192	28,008	28,848	29,713
Sub-Total Administration	<u>136,400</u>	<u>40,492</u>	<u>1 44,707</u>	<u>149,048</u>	<u>153,519</u>
Faculty					
Salary	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ 61,800	\$ 63,654	\$ 65,564
Benefits	-	14,400	14,832	15,277	15,735
Sub-Total Faculty	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 74,400</u>	<u>\$ 76,632</u>	<u>\$ 78,931</u>	<u>\$ 81,299</u>
Support Staff					
Salary	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,900	\$ 31,827	\$ 32,782	\$ 33,765
Benefits	7,200	7,416	7,638	7,868	8,104
Sub-Total Support Staff	<u>\$ 37,200</u>	<u>\$ 38,316</u>	<u>\$ 39,465</u>	<u>\$ 40,650</u>	<u>\$ 41,869</u>
Operating					
Graduate Assistants	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000
Travel	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Printing	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sub-Total Operating	<u>\$ 34,000</u>	<u>\$ 36,000</u>	<u>\$ 45,000</u>	<u>\$ 54,000</u>	<u>\$ 54,000</u>
Total Recurring	<u>\$ 207,600</u>	<u>\$ 289,208</u>	<u>\$ 305,804</u>	<u>\$ 322,629</u>	<u>\$ 330,687</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (A+B)	<u>\$ 209,100</u>	<u>\$ 289,208</u>	<u>\$ 305,804</u>	<u>\$ 322,629</u>	<u>\$ 330,687</u>
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Tuition and Fees ¹	109,180	218,360	272,950	327,540	382,130
Institutional Reallocations ²	99,920	70,848	32,854	(4,911)	(51,443)
Federal Grants ³	-	-	-	-	-
Private Grants or Gifts ⁴	-	-	-	-	-
Other ⁵	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 209,100</u>	<u>\$ 289,208</u>	<u>\$ 305,804</u>	<u>\$ 322,629</u>	<u>\$ 330,687</u>

In what year is tuition and fee revenue expected to be generated and explain any differential fees. Tuition and fees
Please provide information regarding other sources of the funding.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on goals established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. These goals include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation, program costs, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance and other goals set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if the program is found to be deficient, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. Copies of such recommendation will be forwarded to the Education Committees of the General Assembly. The Commission may also choose to extend this period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.