



Council *on* Education *for* Public Health

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September 29, 2014

Phillip L. Williams, PhD  
Dean  
University of Georgia  
Rhodes Hall, Health Sciences Campus  
105 Spear Road, Room 205  
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dr. Williams:

On behalf of the Council on Education for Public Health, I am pleased to advise you that the CEPH Board of Councilors acted at its September 18-20, 2014 meeting to accredit the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia for a seven-year term, extending to December 31, 2021 with an interim report to be submitted in fall 2015. The interim report must address the criteria for which there was a “partially met” assessment.

Specifically, the interim report due in fall 2015 should provide evidence that the college has:

- a) Implemented curricular changes to ensure that all students enrolled in the bachelor’s degree in environmental health receive instruction in the five core public health knowledge areas. (Criterion 2.9)
- b) Implemented curricular changes to ensure that all students in the MS and PhD degree programs in toxicology receive a broad introduction to public health. (Criterion 2.11)

The report will be due on September 8, 2015. Please be aware that failure to come into compliance with all accreditation criteria must trigger specific actions on CEPH’s part. These actions, mandated in federal regulations governing accrediting agencies that are recognized by the US Department of Education, include initiating adverse action or, if good cause is demonstrated, extending by one year the period during which the program or school may come into compliance with the remaining criteria, after which CEPH must take adverse action. CEPH is required to deny or revoke accreditation when a school or program fails to demonstrate that it has come into compliance. Thus, interim reports have serious consequences. Additional information about preparing interim reports is available on the [CEPH website](#).

We are enclosing a copy of the Council’s final accreditation report. The report is also being transmitted to the chief executive officer of your university as the Council’s official report. This differs from the team’s report that you received prior to our meeting in several areas.

- The Council changed the finding for Criterion 1.2 (Evaluation) from partially met to met with commentary and adjusted language in this section. This change was based on information provided in the college’s response to the site visit team’s report.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion 1.7 (Faculty & Other Resources) from met with commentary to met and adjusted language in this section. This change was based on the Council’s review of information in the team’s report.

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- The Council adjusted language in Criterion 2.5 (Culminating Experience) to reflect information provided in the college's response.
- The Council adjusted language in Criterion 2.6 (Competencies) to reflect information provided in the college's response.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion 2.7 (Assessment) from partially met to met with commentary and adjusted language in this section. This change was based on information in the college's response.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion 2.9 (Bachelor's Degrees) from met with commentary to partially met and adjusted language in the report. This change reflects the Council's assessment of issues identified in the team's report.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion 2.11 (Academic Degrees) from met to partially met and adjusted language in this section. This change reflects the Council's assessment of issues identified in the team's report and ensures consistency with other Council decisions.

I would call your attention to the disclosure provisions in our adopted procedures. The college is expected to make its official accreditation report available to the public on request 60 days following the accreditation decision. The college may make the report (with the final self-study) available in full on its website, or it must clearly indicate on the website how to request a copy of either document. See p. 29 of the [Accreditation Procedures](#) for additional information. You may append a written response whenever you distribute the report. The official report also will be available on request from CEPH after 60 days, but it is our intent to refer all initial requests to you. If you provide this office with a copy of a written response by November 14, 2014, we will be pleased to append it whenever we respond to a request for the report. Please note that this response is optional.

We would also like to remind you that whenever an accredited school or program undergoes a substantive change, it is obligated to provide written notification to CEPH of the intended change. Substantive changes are defined in the procedures manual, but generally include offering a new degree, adding or discontinuing an area of specialization, offering a degree program in a different format or at a distant site and making major revisions to the curricular requirements. Additional information about substantive changes is available on our [website](#).

We appreciated the many courtesies and helpfulness extended to the site visit team.

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Wyatt, DMD, MPH  
President

Enclosure

cc: CEPH Councilors