

FS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 1 – SEPTEMBER 8, 2011
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The following reports were provided to the FS Curriculum Committee [available on RowdySpace]:

1. San Antonio Cooperative Program in Public Health Proposal [2006]
2. Report of the Public Health Program Proposal Committee [2009]
3. Proposal for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health – UTSA [2011]

In June of 2006, members of UTSA, UTHSC-SA, UT School of Public Health, and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District produced a proposal for a San Antonio Cooperative Program in Public Health. One of their recommendations was to create an undergraduate degree in public health. In September of 2007 members of the Public Health Degree Program Proposal Development Committee submitted a Preliminary Authority Request to the Texas Higher Education Board for development of a baccalaureate degree program in public health, which was approved in April of 2008. Originally the proposed degree program contained five concentrations. The current version proposes two concentrations: (1) Epidemiology and Disease Control and (2) Health Promotion and Behavioral Science.

The B.S. degree in Public Health will be officially housed in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, but the program will be administered by the faculty of the Department of Health and Kinesiology [COEHD] and the Department of Sociology [COLFA]. The Epidemiology and Disease Control concentration will be the responsibility of the Department of Sociology, and the Health Promotion and Behavioral Science concentration will be the responsibility of the Department of Health and Kinesiology.

After a review of the above documents, the FS Curriculum Committee concurred with the key assumptions that Public Health is a major common concern of the institutions of the UT System and associated communities, and that Public Health and Epidemiology are major components of a new emphasis by federal and state funding agencies on translational research. However, with respect to the proposed degree, several concerns were raised.

First, the committee did note the similarities between the proposed degree and existing degrees, specifically the B.S. in Health with a specialization in Community and Public Health. The proposal did provide information on the similarities and differences in the two degrees, and in addition, a faculty member provided a table showing similar information [Table attached]. Although the committee recognized that there were duplications, they thought the B.S. in Public Health degree was comprehensive and that the degree would help meet the demand for individuals trained in health care related areas.

A second question arose as to the housing of the degree in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, specifically with regard to advising. Although the proposal indicates that the degree will be managed by two departments, considering the multidisciplinary nature of the degree, it was assumed that initial advising would be through the Tomas Rivera Center.

Finally, a third question arose with respect to the cost of instruction over the first five years. There are three asterisks on replacement cost with no explanation and the incremental values change in the fourth year.

A motion was made and seconded that the proposal for a B.S. in Public Health be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

Be it resolved that the proposal for a B.S. in Public Health be approved.