

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy Program in Health Policy and Management on the Indianapolis Campus, 11 recommendation letters

Summary of Proposal: This proposal is for a new *PhD program in Health Policy and Management* to be offered by the department of Public Health on the IUPUI campus beginning in August 2012. This would be the first such degree in Indiana. The program requires the development of 17 new courses (not counting dissertation credits). The Department of Public Health anticipates having 8 full-time faculty in health policy and management by fall 2010 (a minimum of 5 are required by CEPH). The program expects to enroll 8 new PhD students each year for the first five years. There is also mention of offering a doctoral minor in health policy and management (p. 25).

- 1. Are the goals clear and achievable?** The proposal presents 5 well-articulated program goals (in the abstract on p. 3 and again on p. 6) focusing on the development of scholars in health policy and management. The goals are achievable assuming the faculty resources required to launch the program are garnered. In addition, the proposal lists 10 competencies (p. 8) for the doctoral curriculum that students are expected to master. As a bonus, the table listing the 33 courses for the degree also identifies which competencies are addressed by each course (pps 9-11).
- 2. Is the program academically sound?** Yes, for the most part the curriculum seems academically sound. There are a few areas that might receive further consideration:

Comparison to similar programs. It would be interesting to know how many other such PhD programs there are in the U.S. and how the proposed curriculum compares to other programs.

Epistemology. Despite the array of courses proposed, it was not clear if any courses cover epistemology—a topic often found in doctoral curricula.

Pedagogy. Despite the program aim “To train professionals to educate future generations...” there is no coursework on pedagogy and no mention of teaching internships, mentoring, or teaching opportunities. Competency #10 (p. 9) regarding teaching is identified as being addressed in the Practicum course (p. 10) and in the Doctoral Research Seminar (p. 11); however, there is no indication to what extent pedagogy will be covered in these courses. The practicum course is described as

focusing on policy issues in the field (p. 33). The Doctoral Research Seminar consists of four 1-credit courses taken in conjunction with dissertation credits. The content of these seminars is not described in the list of course descriptions (Appendix I).

Number of Dissertation Credits. On p. 8 and on p. 11 the proposal states there will be 23 dissertation credits. However, the sample schedule on p. 12 shows 16 dissertation credits. Which number of dissertation credits is correct? (I suspect the 16 is correct because if 7 more dissertation credits are added to the sample schedule on p. 12, there would be a total of 100 credits).

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

Seven of the 11 required core courses are yet to be developed which will take considerable faculty effort. Ten additional new courses are also proposed for a total of 17 new courses. It is not clear how many faculty members will be involved in developing and teaching the new courses or how their time in developing so many courses will affect other aspects of their ongoing work. Will all 8 faculty be involved in developing the courses?

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

- In lieu of developing 17 new courses, consider additional existing graduate courses in other programs at IUPUI (especially for the Methods and Substantive electives) e.g., the School of Social Work offers a graduate course in Mental Health and Addictions Policy (S618).

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

Given the broad-based support this proposal has across departments at IUPUI and the documentation of the demand for such a program, I recommend provisional approval of the proposal. In addition to the points above, I have a number of specific recommendations and requests for clarification:

Recommendations:

Admission Requirements:

- Consider adding a scholarly writing sample

Course Offerings:

- Dr. Monroe's letter refers to practical learning in the community; however, it seems that only one 3-credit seminar (Doctoral Level Directed Studies) is devoted to practicum opportunities. Should the practicum experience be increased to 6 credits? Also, is this the same course as the "integrative activity" mentioned on p. 17?
- Consider offering a course on pedagogy or drawing from existing pedagogy courses in Education or the School of Social Work as well as the resources of the Center on Teaching & Learning.
- The table on pp. 9-11 shows courses to be offered in the fall and spring. Will there be any summer course offerings?

Requests for Clarification:

Students without a Masters degree.

- Are there any additional selection criteria (besides the 3 criteria mentioned on p. 7) or expectations of applicants who do not have a masters degree?
- Will the program be able to attract applicants without a masters degree even if such students would have to take 90 credit hours of coursework at IUPUI—which could be four years of full-time coursework?

Number of Credits. The credit hours shown on the sample schedule on p. 12 add up to 93. Which 3 credits can be dropped?

G901. On p. 13, under "Qualifying Examinations" the second paragraph states that students "may maintain continuous enrollment by enrolling in one credit of G901; G901 may be taken for no more than a total of six credits." Since G901 is automatically 6 credits each time a student enrolls, the correct wording should be: "...may maintain continuous credit by enrolling in *6 credits* of G901; G901 may be taken for no more than six *semesters*."

Dissertation Requirements (p. 14). Will there be defense of the proposal (in addition to the final defense)? Also, will there be a full proposal in addition to the 2-page prospectus that is turned in to the Graduate School?

Program Administration. Three administrators are mentioned on p. 15 (Chair of the Dept of Public Health, Associate Chair for Academic Programs, Division

Director for Health Policy and Management) and one is mentioned on p. 22 (Program Director). Is this four different positions?

Student Support. Eight students are expected to enroll each year in the first five years of the program resulting in 40 students by 2016. Will the program be able to support all 40 students in that fifth year?

Existing and Planned Course Descriptions (Appendix I).

- The Practicum in Health Policy and Management seems to be mislabeled as “Workshop in Health Policy and Management” (p. 33). To be consistent with the course titles on p. 9, the second workshop listed should be the practicum.
- The list of Methods courses (pp. 33-35) is missing descriptions of two courses that are included in the table on p. 10: *Management Science for Health Administration* and *Organizational Research Methods*.
- The list of Substantive lectives (pp. 36-37) is missing the descriptions of three courses: *History of Public Health*, *Foundations of Health Informatics*, and *Long-Term Care Policy*.
- The list of Substantive electives includes a description of a course (on p. 37) that does not appear in the table of courses on p. 10: *Transdisciplinary Approaches to Influencing Public Health Policy*.