

Approved by the  
Regents  
September 17, 2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: New Undergraduate Degree Program in the School of Public Health

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to Offer a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science in Public Health Degree, School of Public Health

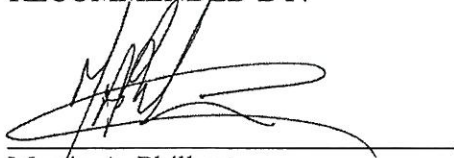
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

The School of Public Health proposes a new undergraduate program in public health leading to a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health to be conferred by and housed in the School of Public Health. It is proposed that students apply to the program during their sophomore year and are admitted for their junior and senior years. This program emphasizes multidisciplinary training in public health organized around the importance of critical thinking applied to important health problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The proposed program is designed to provide significant benefit for undergraduate students, the University of Michigan, and for the School of Public Health.

The degree will build on our school's great strengths as one of the top schools of public health in the US and the world, and our initial exploratory efforts in providing public health education for undergraduates. The number of institutions that offer an undergraduate major in public health has increased dramatically in the last 10-20 years, as has the number of students graduating with an undergraduate degree in public health. In addition to teaching students basic public health concepts, our program is designed to have three areas of concentration: public health sciences, global public health, and community public health. Students will take courses in their area of concentration, and then complete a capstone that includes a field learning experience. The program is designed to accommodate and encourage study abroad.

The proposed program and its related courses have been carefully reviewed and were approved by the SPH faculty and the SPH Executive Committee in May 2015. We request that the Regents approve the new undergraduate degree program, "BA or BS in Public Health." Pending approval, students would be permitted to declare this major in the fall of 2016. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Presidents' Council of State Universities of Michigan, pending the approval by the Board of Regents.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Martin A. Philbert  
Dean, School of Public Health

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:



Martha E. Pollack  
Provost and Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs

September 2015