**MPH Report: April 2020**

Program/Course Changes: Changes to the core (548 in, 583 out) passed at the college and GCC level. They go to graduate council on 4/9/2020.

Epi Certificate: Passed through GCC, GC, and senate. It was signed off on my the provost and goes to the BOR on 4/17/2020. The certificate should go live in the fall.

CEPH: We received notification from CEPH that we have demonstrated compliance on all competencies (attached below). We also received notification from CEPH that we have to prepare an interim report, due 7/14/2020 to explain the below 70% six-year graduation rate from the 13/14 cohort (attached below). This was not unexpected, if you recall from earlier discussions.

Currently, IT runs a report that follows students admitted during an AY for six years. I abstract the data from those reports to determine the percentage of students who – each year – continue, graduate, or leave the program. The report does not capture the percentage of students who transfer to other programs. So, to prepare for the interim report, Marina pulled AY admission data from infoview, and we are abstracting student data from transcripts. Thus far, our numbers vary substantially from the institutional reports.

In the interim report, we have to identify how we plan to improve graduation rates, so please be thinking of suggestions.

Assurance of Student Learning (ASL): We need to start planning our ASL again for each of our degrees and certificates. Here’s an excerpt from an email I received regarding ASL:

The ASL committee has also been working on a clear, straight-forward template and some web resources to help guide program directors/assessment coordinators through the process. To access the web resources, visit [Assurance of Student Learning](https://www.wku.edu/academicaffairs/ee/assurance_learning.php), click the drop down arrow on the left (under Assurance of Learning), and select a topic. The attached template for the **2019-2020** assessment cycle is a *little* different from the one used for 2018-2019. The form was adjusted based on feedback from assessors and members of the ASL committee - ***please use*** the one provided in this email or downloaded from the current ASL website.

Remember that Assurance of Student Learning requires the participation of all program members; assessment is a team effort.  It is not something the Department Head, Program Director, and/or Assessment Coordinator does in a vacuum.  Input from all program faculty is critical to student learning and meaningful program assessment.

Hooding & Award Ceremony: On hold

 

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 220 | Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (202) 789-1050 [| www.ceph.org](http://www.ceph.org/)

March 19, 2020

Marilyn M. Gardner, PhD, MS

Program Coordinator, Public Health Programs

Western Kentucky University

Dear Dr. Gardner:

Thank you for submitting an interim report to the Council on Education for Public Health. The CEPH Board of Councilors reviewed the report at its March 13, 2020 meeting and determined that you have demonstrated compliance with Criterion D2 at this time.

To maintain accredited status, the program must continue to submit annual reports as required, and the next full review must take place with a site visit by December 31, 2023.

 Sincerely,

 

 Philip L. Williams, PhD, CIH

 President

 

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 220 | Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (202) 789-1050 [| www.ceph.org](http://www.ceph.org/)

March 18, 2020

Marilyn M. Gardner, PhD, MS

Program Coordinator, Public Health Programs

Western Kentucky University

Dear Dr. Gardner:

Thank you for submitting your CEPH annual report. At its March 13-14, 2020 meeting, the Council on Education for Public Health reviewed your annual report for 2018-2019. As you know, all accredited schools and programs of public health are required to submit an annual report to CEPH, using a prescribed format. The purpose of the annual report is to allow the accrediting body to monitor significant changes in the school or program between on-site visits. Specifically, CEPH uses annual reports to

1. Identify any major changes that have occurred in the past year.
2. Identify any compliance concerns that may have newly arisen.
3. Identify and monitor growth at accredited institutions. Current US Department of Education regulations require us to “[monitor] the growth of programs at institutions that are experiencing significant enrollment growth.” (32 CFR §602.19 (d)) The regulations define “significant” growth as >= 50%, so CEPH’s threshold is 50%, as measured by the number of new enrollees.
4. Monitor graduation and job placement rates as measures of student achievement.
5. Review and assess financial information and other resources as indicators of program success.

Based on its review, the Council noted that the program reported a 67% graduation rate for MPH students, which does not meet the established threshold of 70%. **Therefore, the program must submit an interim report for review at the Council’s summer 2019 meeting.**

The interim report must discuss the program’s plans to improve graduation rates for the MPH degree and should provide updated data, including attrition rates for all cohorts currently proceeding through the program, in the format of Data Template B2-1, available at [www.ceph.org.](http://www.ceph.org/assets/2016templates.xlsx) You will be asked to report on the progress of MPH students toward graduation until these student cohorts consistently meet the graduation threshold established in the criteria.

Materials must be provided in electronic copy (by email to submissions@ceph.org) by July 17, 2020.

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.](http://ceph.org/assets/Interim_Reports_FAQ.pdf)

Page 2

You will receive an email in mid-September 2020 that will direct you to the weblink for this year’s annual reporting, and you can anticipate a due date of **December 4, 2020**. Please feel free to contact CEPH staff if you have any questions. They will be pleased to provide clarification or other assistance.

 Sincerely,

 

 Philip L. Williams, PhD, CIH

 President