**Proposal to Create a New Course: Instructions**

**Section 1: Proponent Contact Information**

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**Section 2: Course Catalog Information**

* 1. **Course prefix (subject area) and number:** PH 488
  2. **Course CIP code:** 51.2208
  3. **Course title:** Public Health Senior Seminar
  4. **Abbreviated Course title:** PH Senior Seminar
  5. **Credit hours/Variable credit:** 3 credit hours
  6. **Repeatability:** N/A
  7. **Course Term:** Fall 2021
  8. **Course Catalog Description:** Course allows students to synthesize and apply public health skills and knowledge acquired in their prior coursework to design an action plan to solve a health problem in a selected community. Course will expose students to public health professional preparation skills.

* 1. **Prerequisite/Corequisites/Restrictions:** Restricted to Public Health majors
  2. **Additional Enrollment Requirements:** Senior standing; instructor permission required.
  3. **Other Special Course Requirements:** N/A

* 1. **Grade Type:** Pass/Fail grade
  2. **Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Section 3: Description of proposed course**

**3.1 Course Content Summary:** Students in PH 488 will synthesize and apply knowledge and skills acquired in needs assessment, communication, program planning and health disparities to identify a health issue within a community. Students will apply such knowledge to design an action plan to solve the identified problem. Course will expose students to public health professional preparation skills of resume preparation, job search and interviewing skills.

* 1. **Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the course, students should be able to:
* Locate databases/websites with information about communities, agencies and jobs.
* Identify the major health issues facing their selected community.
* Discuss the health trends and their impact on communities and populations.
* Prioritize the health issues and select the top issue needing immediate attention.
* Outline the contributing factors contributing to the priority issues.
* Discuss the challenges to addressing the issues.
* Plan/design an action plan to solve the problem.
* Prepare a resume for a public health-related job.
* Apply and interview for a public health-related job.
  1. **Assessment/Evaluation:** The learning outcomes will be assessed through discussions, mock interviews and the final project.

**Section 4: Rationale**

**4.1 Reason for developing this proposed course**: As part of the BSPH accreditation process, the program had to identify new, overarching competencies for assessment. The program recently identified three new competencies as required. While the internship has been the program’s culminating experience course, the diversity in the activities of the various site makes it difficult to assess the competencies effectively at each site. Tasks assigned to students during the internship experience differ by site; at the same time, all students will be assessed equally and fairly on these newly developed competencies. It is therefore necessary for the program to ensure that all students receive the same public health experience, knowledge and skills and also meet accreditation requirements.

Reducing the internship hours (from 6 hours to 3) gives the program room to create a new course that would expose students to the same experience and skills. All students can then be assessed on these new competencies using the same assessment tools thereby meeting the accreditation requirements.

***SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING NEW COLONNADE PROGRAM COURSES***

To be included in the WKU Colonnade general education program, courses must meet criteria unique to that program, and as such, the Colonnade program has its own distinct course approval process: *new* courses being designed and proposed specifically for inclusion in WKU Colonnade program must include that information here, in item 4.1, and must be pre-approved by the Colonnade Committee as meeting their unique requirements *prior* to being acted on by the university’s Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. **For information, proposal forms and instructions unique to the Colonnade approval process, please refer to the** [Faculty Resources](https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/facultyresources.php) **page of the** [WKU Colonnade Program Website.](https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/index.php)

**4.2 Relationship to similar courses offered by other university departments/units:** While several departments on campus offer senior seminar courses such as Math 498 (Senior Seminar); HIST 498 (Senior Seminar); PHIL 496 (Senior Seminar); PHYS 498 (Senior Seminar); SOCL 449 (Senior Seminar); RELS 496 (Senior Seminar); PSYS 499 (Senior Seminar); ENV 486 (Senior Seminar); CRIM 499 (Senior Seminar); HMD 459 (Senior Seminar); none of these courses share the same content with this proposed course. This course is unique to the BSPH program as it is aligned to the newly developed competencies specific to the Public Health program.

Similar Senior Seminar/Capstone courses are offered in other public health programs such as: Central Washington University PUBH 479 (Senior Seminar in Public Health); University of South Carolina PUBH 498 (Public Health Capstone Seminar); University of Louisville PHPH 491 & PHPH 492 (Senior Capstone 1 & 2); University of Kentucky CPH 470 (Public Health Capstone); and the University of North Carolina, Charlotte HLTH 4600 (Public Health Capstone).

This is the first and only public health seminar course developed at the university that seeks to encourage students to apply knowledge and skills acquired in previous courses in solving real health problems within communities and among populations.

**Section 5: Projected Enrollments/Resources**

**5.1 How many students per section are expected to enroll in this proposed course?** 5-10 students

* 1. **How many sections of this course per academic year will be offered?** One section
  2. **How many students per academic year are expected to enroll?**

Ten students per year

* 1. **How were these projections calculated? Explain any supporting evidence/data you have for arriving at these projections:** The number is based on previous years’ internship enrollment
  2. **Proposed method of staffing:** The course will be taught by faculty in the Public Health program. The program is currently hiring three new faculty.
  3. **Instructional technology resources:** Current instructional technology resources are sufficient to support the course.
  4. **Library resources:** Yes

**Section 6: Proposed term for implementation:** Next available

**Section 7: Supplemental Documentation (Optional): None**

**Department of Public Health \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**College of Health and Human Services \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**University Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**