

Master's Programs Committee

November 2, 2021

Attendance: Meredith Brown, Madeline Crossley, Faetitia Desamours, Sophie Godley, Megan Healey, Julia Lanham, Ann Marie Larese, Nikki Longe, Ryann Monteiro, Mary Murphy-Phillips, Andrew Stokes, Yorghos Tripodis, Lisa Sullivan (Chair), Amanda Velez

1. Spring Registration
 - a. Many courses have large waitlists. Last Friday, the Registrar's Office sent reports to each department with information on how many people are on the waitlist and when they're graduating.
 - b. Largest issue is CAPDIE and working with that department to increase capacity
2. Course Caps
 - a. Caps are set with the Registrar before the course is opened. When there is a waitlist, the Registrar's Office asks faculty to expand and let in a few more students.
 - b. Historically, there has been pushback from faculty on increasing caps. Usually, the most difficult request is increasing from ~20 or ~25 students to ~30 students.
 - c. Rarely are there space implications of increasing the cap. Occasionally another section needs to be created, which would require additional classroom space.
 - d. Students are frustrated with not getting into courses that they need to graduate
 - e. **ACTION:** All to speak with their respective department about course caps and flexibility to make small increases when needed
3. CEPH Criteria Updates
 - a. CEPH announced its 2021 revisions to the Accreditation Criteria, most of which apply to the MPH
 - b. Foundational Competency 21 - Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health
 - i. The wording of the competency has been updated, but our program requirement still satisfies this competency. If we change the requirement, we must complete a change notice.
 - c. Practicum Changes
 - i. The student's work products must be specifically for the practicum site's use and benefit
 - ii. Two non-academic work products linked to competencies are still required
 - iii. Reflection papers, contact hour logs, and scholarly papers will not be included any longer, because they cannot show how they directly benefited the site. These are very popular for MPH students, especially dual-degree students, and will be a big change
 - d. Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) Changes
 - i. A high-quality written product is required
 - ii. This must be appropriate for educational and professional objectives
 - iii. A poster presentation will not count for the high-quality written product. This will be a big change for Epi/Bio
 - e. Additional changes to the evaluation and data collection will impact all programs, but no specific programmatic changes need to be made
 - f. Some wording changes were made to the competencies, and will be updated in the SPH Bulletin
 - g. No changes were made to the MS discovery-based projects

4. Admissions

a. MPH

- i. Applications are moving forward and beginning acceptance/denials
- ii. Increase in applications from Select Scholars and Preferred Partners
- iii. Students who were deferred to Spring had to make a decision this week
- iv. More schools are beginning to use SOPHAS as their common application platform. Ann Marie was recently contacted by University of Washington, who will be moving to SOPHAS.

b. MS Programs

- i. Slightly more applications this year:
 1. 132 applications so far in Applied Bio
 2. 142 applications so far in PHR
- c. Students have appreciated in-person recruiting efforts. Next event is for the Athletic Department.

5. Graduate Student Life

- a. Reminder: Next semester will not have any remote learning options for students
- b. Anyone with a medical exception will need to apply through academic accommodations
- c. **ACTION:** Departments to send pain points in their curriculum, courses that often require additional help, or brown bag lunch series meetings to Ryann Monteiro.

6. Data Analytics at Questrom

- a. The Data Analytics program at Questrom is interested in collaborating and sending students from Questrom to take some SPH courses
- b. Giorgos Zervas is the contact from that program
- c. There may be overlap in SQL and other biostatistics curriculum, although they may not have the prerequisites for the courses in MS Applied Bio
- d. **ACTION:** Provide a list of ~10 classes that would be good options for Questrom students to take at SPH