

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Kaye, Gail](#)
Cc: [Leite, Fabio](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Orr, James](#); [Bisesi, Michael](#); [Zadnik, Karla](#)
Subject: FW: DRAFT - Proposal to revise the Bachelor of Science in Public Health
Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023 1:38:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Gail:

The proposal from the College of Public Health to revise the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on October 18, 2023. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next [Annual Activities Report](#) to the University Senate (July 2024).

The Office of the University Registrar will work you with any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Fábio Leite (.11), or me.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E. 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office

smith.70@osu.edu

Assisted by:

Katie Reed

Executive Assistant

(614) 292-5672

reed.901@osu.edu



September 26, 2023

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith
Council on Academic Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs
203 Bricker Hall
190 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Randy,

Please accept this notice of change to the BSPH admissions process and minimum GPA for graduation for the College of Public Health.

To address documented workforce needs in public health, the College of Public Health launched the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program in 2012, with two areas of specialization - Environmental Public Health and Public Health Sociology. The aim of the program was to prepare graduates for early career, entry-level positions in public health, and to provide a pipeline to advanced study in graduate and professional degree programs. Accordingly, the present criteria for admission to the BSPH includes: a minimum GPA of 2.8, completion of 30 undergraduate credit hours, and specific undergraduate courses that differ by selected specialization. These criteria are much more restrictive than what is required for admission into most bachelor's degree programs at Ohio State.

The College is proposing to:

- Admit all new first year students directly to the major who have a high school GPA of a 3.0 or higher.
- Change the admissions criteria to revise the prerequisite courses and minimum GPA to apply to the major from a 2.8 to a 2.5.
- Require a 2.5 cumulative and term GPA instead of a 2.8 to be considered in good standing with the college.
- Require a 2.5 cumulative GPA for graduation instead of a 2.8.

The Academic Studies Governance Committee approved this proposal on September 22, 2023.

Attached you will find rationale, implementation plan and communication plan for this proposal.

The goal is to implement the revision effective with this admissions cycle that opens December 15, 2023 for autumn semester 2024 admission.

If feasible, we greatly appreciate favorable University-level reviews and approvals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael S. Bisesi', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael S. Bisesi, PhD CIH
Vice Dean, Academic Affairs and Academic Administration
Professor and Interim Chair, Environmental Health Sciences
College of Public Health

**Proposal to Revise the Bachelor of Science in Public Health
College of Public Health
September 2023**

Since inception of the program, social changes have transpired leading to greater competition for prospective applicants both outside of and within the university. These include:

- **Undergraduate college enrollment dropped 8% from 2019 to 2022**; decline noted after return to in-person classes; steepest decline on record (based on US Bureau of Labor Statistics data) ¹
- **Overall projected decreases in freshman fall enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions** (linked to lower birth rates ² and decreased belief in return on investment regarding postsecondary education ³)
 - Increased 11% from 2003 to 2017 ⁴
 - Projected to increase only 3% between 2017 – 2028 ⁴
- **Greater competition for undergraduate public health program applicants within Ohio**
 - In 2012, OSU CPH BSPH program was the only accredited undergraduate BSPH program in Ohio.
 - Now, Kent State University, University of Toledo, and Baldwin Wallace also offer programs in Ohio.
 - Other Ohio schools offering undergraduate public health programs include University of Cincinnati (online, in-person), Miami, Hiram, Ohio University, Lorain County Community College/Youngstown State (online), etc.
 - There are no major or program-specific admission criteria for BSPH programs at Kent State, University of Toledo, Baldwin Wallace, Univ of Cincinnati, Miami, Hiram, Ohio University, Lorain County Community College/Youngstown State.
- **Greater competition for undergraduate non-clinical health focused applicants at OSU**
 - In 2012, OSU CPH BSPH offered a nonclinical health related undergraduate degree.
 - Now, more nonclinical health related undergraduate programs have been developed examples including bachelor's programs in Health and Wellness (required GPA 2.5) Medical Anthropology, and the Health and Wellness major developed by the College of Nursing.
 - Similar programs have been developed at other Ohio universities.

Given anticipated decreased undergraduate enrollments and increased competition for prospective BSPH applicants, to maintain our desired enrollment goals, we propose modifying our existing admission criteria to be as follows:

- Direct Admit to Major for New First Year Students admitted to The Ohio State University
 - Given the university's competitive holistic review that takes place for every student that applies to Ohio State, we wish to use their metrics to also directly admit a student into our major if the following items are met:
 - The student indicates their interest in our major on their application.
 - The student is admitted to the university by undergraduate admissions and meets all requirements to enroll in the upcoming term.
 - Students have a 3.0 GPA cumulative GPA from prior high school coursework (this metric was achieved by virtually all of the students admitted to the university for AU23 that had an interest in our major).
- Amended Application Process for Transfers, Campus Change, and Major Change Students

- We plan to implement a new application process for students transferring to the university, are campus changing, or major changing to public health. The reasoning behind the decision to maintain an application for these types of students is due to the additional variables that each population presents that includes: analyzing transfer credit, confirming appropriate prerequisites have been taken, and gauging interest and knowledge of public health.
- Application cycle for Transfers, Campus Change, and Major Change Students will be open from December 15 to May 15 with an intake term being the following autumn semester.

Current Admissions Criteria: Public Health Sociology	Proposed Criteria: Effective Autumn 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 2.8 or higher cumulative OSU GPA • Have earned 30 credit hours • Completion of Sociology 1101, Math 1116, English 1110.01 with a grade of C or higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 2.5 or better cumulative OSU GPA • Have earned 15 credit hours • Completion of Sociology 1101 with a grade of C or higher

Current Admissions Criteria: Environmental Public Health	Proposed Criteria: Effective Autumn 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 2.8 or higher cumulative OSU GPA • Have earned 30 credit hours • Completion of Sociology 1101, Math 1116, English 1110.01 with a grade of C or higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 2.5 or higher cumulative OSU GPA • Have earned 15 credit hours • Completion of Math 1151 or higher with a grade of C or higher

- A student applying through our public health application will be admitted if the following items are met:
 - 15 credit hours of completed undergraduate courses (instead of 30 credit hours)
 - Minimum 2.5 GPA (instead of minimum 2.8)
 - Prerequisite Courses Completed:
 - Public Health Sociology – Only require Sociology 1101 (removing English 1110 and Math 1116 or higher as prerequisites)
 - Environmental Public Health – Only require Math 1151 or higher (removing English 1110 and not requiring Biology 1113 but highly recommending it on our curriculum)
 - Removing these will make the process more equitable, and faster, and most students are already taking many of these courses at the university or at other institutions.
 - In addition, it is to be noted that prerequisite courses are to be completed by the term that the student plans to enter the major and NOT by the time of the application itself.
 - A detailed Personal Essay:
 - This will remain as a requirement on the application, but will be slightly altered to address the following points established by our college:
 - Student provides a polished and well-written 500-word essay free from spelling and grammatical errors.

- Student addresses the following questions:
 - What is public health to you?
 - Why are you interested in a degree in public health and how will it fit within your future career goals?

If this proposal is approved, the College of Public Health and more specifically the Office of Academic Programs and Student Services will oversee its successful implementation as follows:

- A detailed communication plan will be developed:
 - Undergraduate and Graduate & Professional Admissions will be informed of the adjustments to accurately update university communications, webpages, and internal processing.
 - All regional campuses will be informed through their respective admissions and advising offices.
 - All collaborating partners on the Columbus campus will be informed and will include but are not limited to: University Exploration, all advising units, TAG staff and advisors, athletics, etc.
 - Future prospective NFYS will be informed through recruitment events and the college's updated webpages and promotional materials.
 - Transfer students will be informed via our office and through collaboration with Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Unit.
 - Advisors at our partnering 2-year institutions will be informed of these changes as they prepare students to transfer to Ohio State.
 - For current pre-public health students that are not currently in the major, we will individually notify them of the changes to the admissions standard for the upcoming cycle that will begin on December 15.
 - We will still maintain our same services and student support that will include advising, adding admitted students to our major and career modules in Carmen, and providing detailed overviews in our survey courses.
 - Lastly, this proposed change will have no effect on the integrity of our current curriculum standards or path to graduation. The proposal as stated above, and for the reasons outlined, will provide a clearer and more equitable process that allows students to enter our major.

1. <https://apnews.com/article/skipping-college-student-loans-trade-jobs-efc1f6d6067ab770f6e512b3f7719cc0>
2. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/higher-education-enrollment-inevitable-decline-or-online-opportunity>
3. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=98>
4. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/why-more-americans-are-skipping-college>

Advising

1. Current Ohio State Public Health Students
 - a. Current majors and pre-majors will only be required to maintain a 2.5 throughout the remainder of their academic career in the College of Public Health beginning autumn 2024.
2. Academic Action
 - a. The College will revise the Undergraduate Student Handbook for 24-25 to reflect these changes as well as amend the academic action review process that takes place each semester to reflect the minimum GPA of a 2.5.
3. Graduation
 - a. The College approved the required minimum GPA of 2.5 to graduate instead of the current standard of a 2.8 GPA to be implemented autumn 2024.
4. Advising
 - a. For students planning to pursue Graduate or Professional School, students will be advised that a more competitive (greater than 2.5) GPA may be required.