PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Type of Change
- ☒ Academic Change
- ☐ Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

Proposed classification
- ☐ Exclusive
- ☒ General
- ☐ Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.
   - Is this a new degree program?
     - Yes ☐ No ☒
   - Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus?
     - Yes ☐ No ☒
   - Will courses in this program be delivered electronically?
     - Yes ☐ No ☒

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

Change Department of Molecular Biosciences to School of Human Ecology

**Rationale:** The BS in Public Health is moving from the Department of Molecular Biosciences to the School of Human Ecology, effective Fall 2016, due to the interdisciplinary nature of the degree and its kinship with nutritional sciences.

Public Health Core
Update to areas represented in the public health core, requirement 2.

**Rationale:** Changes represent course content.

**Option I**
Requirement 9a, 9c, 9d: replace BIO 337 topic, BIO 353, and BIO 361P with PBH 320, 323, and 361P. Add topic number for PA 325 topic Advanced Seminar in Ethical Leadership. Remove BIO 327D.

**Rationale:** Move of courses from BIO to PBH field of study; part of the process of moving degree into School of Human Ecology. Removal of BIO 327D because course will not be taught in the foreseeable future.

Requirement 9a and 9f: removal of unnumbered topic courses.

**Rationale:** Per Official Publications.

Requirement 9f: Addition of ADV 378 and SOC 322F; removal of SOC 321K.

**Rationale:** ADV 378 and SOC 321K are appropriate for the social and behavioral sciences specialization. SOC 321K is not

Reduction of total hours from 126 to 120.

**Rationale:** The 6 hours cut from the degree total represent general elective hours. Degree still contains some elective hours. However, students will no longer be required to take as much elective hours to reach a total above 120. This reduction is made in consideration of student debt and progress toward degree.

**Option II**
Update BIO 379H to PBH 379H.

**Rationale:** Move of course from BIO to PBH field of study.

At end of degree, inclusion of Additional Requirements for Option II.

**Rationale:** Standard end note for students seeking Dean’s Scholars degree options across the fields of study in Natural Sciences. Omitted in error when option was created.

**Option III**
Remove statement allowing simultaneous graduation with undergraduate and graduate degree.

**Rationale**: Students in the Master of Public Health program are required to provide proof of earning an undergraduate degree in order to enroll in the 2nd year of the master’s program.

Reduction of total hours from 126 to 120.

**Rationale**: The 6 hours cut from the degree total represent general elective hours. Degree still contains some elective hours. However, students will no longer be required to take as much elective hours to reach a total above 120. This reduction is made in consideration of student debt and progress toward degree.

Move and clarify statement regarding 18 hours of public health coursework from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center.

**Rationale**: Students in option III will complete between 101 to 107 hours. Most students will be very close to 120 hour total by the time they apply to graduate. For those who are short of 120 hours, advanced public health hours may be applied as general elective hours. In practice, students have used 9 hours or less of UT Health Sciences Center at Houston coursework toward the Option III degree.

At end of degree, inclusion of Additional Requirements for Option III

**Rationale**: When option was created, no standards were codified for removal from Option III for students who did not persist or progress in the Master of Public Health program. These guidelines were developed in conjunction with program partners at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston.

3. **THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES** (Please check all that apply)

- [ ] Courses in other colleges
- [ ] Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges
- [ ] Course in the core curriculum
- [ ] Change in course sequencing for an existing program
- [ ] Change in admission requirements (external or internal)
- [ ] Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)
- [ ] Courses that have to be added to the inventory

PBH 320
PBH 323 (was BIO 353)
PBH 361P (was BIO 361P)

4. **SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE**

   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes No

      If yes, then how? Addition of ADV 378 and SOC 322F.

   b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes No

      If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?

   c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside your college taking classes in your college? Yes No

      If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

   d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes No

      If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

      It is anticipated that no more than 5 public health majors per year will take ADV 378 and SOC 322F.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted? 5 seats or fewer per academic year

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included: Department of Advertising and Public Relations
Person communicated with: Jay Bernhardt, Interim Dean, College of Communications
Date of communication: August 24, 2015
Response: Approved.

How many students do you expect to be impacted? 5 seats or fewer per academic year
Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included: Department of Sociology
Person communicated with: Robert Crosnoe, Chair
Date of communication: September 9, 2015
Response: Approved.

e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: No.
   If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:
   Person communicated with:
   Date of communication:
   Response:

f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain: Yes.
   Options I and III will reduce total hours needed from 126 to 120 hours.

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS
   Department approval date: August 12, 2015; September 25, 2015  Approver: Michele Forman, Director
   College approval date: September 23, 2015; September 28, 2015  Approver: Course & Curriculum Committee
   Dean approval date: September 28, 2015; September 28, 2015  Approver: David Vanden Bout, Associate Dean

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health prepares graduates for entry-level positions in public health and equips them to pursue certificate and graduate degrees in the field. All of the options offer broad-based training in the five core areas of public health. Option I offers a choice of six areas of specialization.

Students for whom the degree is appropriate include those interested in health careers and in dual graduate degree programs in medicine and public health. The degree is administered by the School of Human Ecology Department of Molecular Biosciences.

Students who plan to follow option I must be admitted. Students who plan to follow option III must first gain admission to option I, and then apply for admission to option III. Students who plan to follow option II must be admitted to the Dean's Scholars Honors Program. Admission requirements for option I and II are given in The Major in Public Health.

Prescribed Work Common to All Options

All students pursuing an undergraduate degree must complete the University’s Core Curriculum.

In addition, students seeking the Bachelor of Science in Public Health must complete the following degree-level requirements. In some cases, courses that fulfill degree-level requirements also meet the requirements of the core.

1. Foundation courses:
   b. Microbiology: Biology 326M and 226L.
c. Nutrition and physiology: Nutrition 312 or 312H and Biology 365S.
d. Social and behavioral sciences: One of the following: Economics 304K, 304L, Psychology 301, Sociology 319, 354K.
e. Political science/government: Government 358 or Management 320F.

2. Public health core*:
   a. Biostatistics: Statistics and Data Sciences 328M.
   c. Epidemiology: Public Health 354.
   e. Health policy and health systems management: Public Health 358D.
   f. Social and behavioral sciences: Health behavior theory and practice: Public Health 368D.

3. Two courses with a writing flag. One of these courses must be upper-division.
4. One course with a quantitative reasoning flag.

Courses with flags are identified in the Course Schedule. They may be used simultaneously to fulfill other requirements, unless otherwise specified.

5. At least twenty-one semester hours of upper-division coursework must be completed in residence at the University. All students must complete at least thirty-six semester hours of upper-division coursework.

**Additional Prescribed Work for Each Option**

**Option I: Public Health**

6. Mathematics 408C or 408N.
7. Biology 311C, 311D, and 325 or Biology 315H and 325H. These courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology and upper-division public health courses.
8. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, 204, 320M, and Biochemistry 369.
9. At least nine hours from one of the following areas of specialization; courses counted toward requirement 1 may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Economics 304K and 304L may not count toward both requirement 1d and requirement 8c. Government 358 may not count toward both requirement 1e and requirement 8c. Management 320F may not count toward both requirement 1e and requirement 8c. Sociology 354K may not count toward both requirement 1d and 8c.


Sociology 319 and 354K may not count toward both requirement 1d and requirement 8f.

10. One of the following foreign language/culture choices:
   a. Second-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language.
   b. First-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language and a three-semester-hour course in the culture of the same language area.
   c. Two three-semester-hour courses in one foreign culture area; the courses must be chosen from an approved list available in the dean's office and the college advising centers.

11. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 426 120 semester hours.

**Option II: Public Health Honors**

6. Breadth requirement: An honors mathematics course; Biology 315H and 325H; Chemistry 301H and 302H; credit by examination may not count toward this requirement.

7. In fulfilling requirement 2a, students must complete an honors statistics course.


9. A section of Undergraduate Studies 302 or 303 that is approved by the program honors adviser.

10. A section of Rhetoric and Writing 309S that is restricted to students in the Dean's Scholars Honors Program.

11. Two semesters of Public Health Biology 379H.

12. Nine additional hours of coursework approved by the departmental honors adviser.

13. Six semester hours of coursework in the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Fine Arts.

14. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours.

**Option III: Advanced Program**

This program provides students with a foundation in the natural sciences applied to public health and advanced specialist training in preparation for a leadership position in public health practice. This program leads to the completion of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health and the Master of Public Health, awarded by the School of Public Health at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston. During the senior year, students complete the first year of the Master of Public Health at the Austin Regional Campus. The second year of the Master of Public Health is completed at one of the five regional campuses in Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio. Upon completion of the first year of the Master of Public Health, coursework may be applied toward option III requirements. Option III students may apply to graduate upon completion of the undergraduate degree requirements and prior to the completion of the Master of Public Health, or may apply to graduate to receive both degrees in the same semester.

6. Mathematics 408C or 408N.

7. Biology 311C, 311D, and 325; or 315H and 325H; these courses must be completed before the student progresses to other upper-division biology and upper-division public health courses.

8. Chemistry 301 or 301H, 302 or 302H, 204, 320M, and Biochemistry 369.

9. Eighteen hours of approved upper-division elective coursework in public health; graduate coursework completed at the School of Public Health at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center may be applied toward this requirement.

10. One of the following foreign language/culture choices:

Degree Program Impact Statement revised on 7/22/15 12:14 PM.
a. Second-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language.
b. First-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language and a three-semester-hour course in the culture of the same language area.
c. Two three-semester-hour courses in one foreign culture area. The courses must be chosen from an approved list available in the dean's office and the college advising centers.

10. **Enough additional coursework to make a total of 126 semester hours.** A maximum of eighteen hours of graduate coursework completed at the School of Public Health at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center may be applied as elective hours toward the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Option III: Advanced Program, if needed to reach a total of 120 hours.

* Graduate coursework may not be applied toward the public health core requirements 2a through 2f.

**Special Requirements**

[no changes]

**Additional Requirements for Option II**

To graduate under option II, students must remain in good academic standing in the Dean’s Scholars Program, must earn grades of at least A- in the departmental research and thesis courses described in requirement 11 above, and must present their research in an approved public forum, such as the college’s annual Undergraduate Research Forum. More information about the Undergraduate Research Forum is available at https://cns.utexas.edu/.

**Additional Requirements for Option III**

Students admitted to option III are required to follow the admission schedule and policies of the Master of Public Health program at the School of Public Health at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston. Students are expected to make continuous progress toward the undergraduate and graduate degrees by completing required undergraduate and graduate public health coursework each semester of the fourth year. Students who fail to complete graduate coursework two long-session semesters in a row will be removed from the program and must re-enroll at the University of Texas at Austin to complete the Bachelor of Science in Public Health option I. Students will be notified prior to removal from the graduate program. Students must earn the Bachelor of Science in Public Health in their fourth year to be eligible to continue in the Master of Public Health program in their fifth year.

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1 See http://www.utexas.edu/provost/planning/cat_change/UnderGrad.html for detailed explanations.
2 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
3 Exclusive: of exclusive application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is seven calendar days); general: of general interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is fourteen calendar days); major legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is fourteen calendar days).
4 The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/2014-2015/uc_change/UG_catalog_02.16.15.docx.

**Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use “track changes!”** For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, fc@austin.utexas.edu, 471-5934 or Brenda Schumann, brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu, 475-7654.