

**Policy number:** 203

**Subject/Title:** Minimum Credit Hours Required for MPH Graduation

**Effective Date:** Fall 2006

**Policy Statement:** The University of Texas School of Public Health has adopted a minimum requirement of 45 credit hours for the Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree program. The increase in the credit hour minimum to 45 addresses the updated and expanded competencies for MPH students. This change is also in response to the 2005 criteria stipulated by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the accrediting agency of all schools of public health. This change has been published in the 2005-2007 UTHealth SPH Catalog.

**Reason for Policy:** The proposed change is supported by an increase in the number of required credit hours for the MPH degree:

- Increased number of courses needed to master newly-defined MPH competencies
- Additional competencies from ASPH and IOM
- Mandate from Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for 42 credit hour minimum
- Data show that MPH students are already taking more than 36 credit hours on average
- Other Texas SPH's are already at a 45 credit hour minimum

In addition, there is a mandate from Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for a 42 credit hour minimum. The "2005 CEPH Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health", which is found at [www.ceph.org](http://www.ceph.org), mandates the following: "Section 2.2 Program Length. An MPH degree program or equivalent professional masters degree must be at least 42 semester credit hours in length." All of the changes in the CEPH criteria, including the program length, must be fully implemented by December 2007.

**Definitions:** N/A

**Scope and Audience:** The new requirement goes into effect for all MPH students matriculating in the Fall semester, 2006. MPH students matriculating prior to that time will follow the previous minimum requirement of 36 semester credit hours.

**Responsibilities and Procedures:** All MPH students and faculty in UTHealth SPH Departments

**Related Policies, Forms and Information:** Degree planners and requirements listed by major and degree program

**History:** The Academic Council has discussed the impact of a 42 (or more) credit hour minimum for the MPH program in light of the 5 year time limit and believes that no adjustment in the time limit is necessary. The 5 year limit would still allow a student to take 3 credit hours per semester and still have 45 credit hours at the end of 5 years.

**Approved by Academic Council: October 13, 2005**

**Endorsed by Executive Council: October 27, 2005**

**Responsible Office/Contact Information:** Nesh Agrawi  
Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services  
Office Phone: 713-500-9071  
E-mail: [nesh.agrawi@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:nesh.agrawi@uth.tmc.edu)