

**Policy Number:** 300

**Subject/Title:** Doctoral Degree Breadth and Minor Requirements

**Effective Date:** Spring 2011

**Policy Statement:** Each doctoral student requires 1 major area of study and 2 additional areas of study. The additional focus areas can be 1 minor area of study, and 1 breadth area of study OR 2 minor areas of study. The additional focus areas serve two major purposes in a student's curriculum: 1) further prepare the student to complete a dissertation and to be prepared for independent inquiry; 2) enable the student to gain competencies in the core interdisciplinary fields of public health (biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental sciences, behavioral sciences and management and policy sciences). The minor and the breadth are separate from the major, and all students must have a variety of courses from outside of their departments.

#### **MINOR**

The **MINOR** is three or more courses (at least 9 credit hours) from one of the public health core disciplines defined by the Department offering the minor. \***Five Public Health Core Disciplines: Biostatistics, Behavioral Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Epidemiology, and Management, Policy and Community Health.**

#### **BREADTH**

The **BREADTH** is a three course sequence (at least 9 credit hours). The breadth is a customized plan of study defined by the student and his or her committee/academic faculty advisor. The breadth is often an interdisciplinary course of study and may be supplemented by courses outside of the student's major or minor. The breadth should be a topic- or methods-related interdisciplinary set courses based on the student's research interest, methods required for the dissertation, and/or future plans. Because one purpose of the breadth is to expand the coverage of the five public health disciplines, whenever possible, at least one of the courses should be outside of the student's major or minor disciplines. Between the major, minor and breadth, students should have coursework beyond at least three public health core disciplines.

For students in the Department of Management, Policy and Community Health, the minor can be from one of the internal tracks. However, at least one of the focus areas (i.e., either the minor or breadth) must be from one of the other four public health disciplines (Biostatistics, Behavioral Sciences, Environmental Sciences, or Epidemiology). Please see the UTSPH catalogue to understand the MPACH programs.

**Reason for Policy:** Define breadth and minor requirements for doctoral students.

**Definitions:** N/A

**Scope and Audience:** All UTSPH doctoral students.

**Responsibilities and Procedures:** Students should discuss minor/breadth options with their faculty advisors.

**Related Policies, Forms and Information:** Students should discuss minors and breadth/topic areas with their faculty advisors. For examples of minors and breadth/topic areas, please see [Degree Programs](#) and click on Minors and Breadths tab.

Also see, [Steps for Establishing Doctoral Major - Minor- Breadth](#) and click on DrPH Forms or PhD Forms tab.

**History:** Approved by Academic Council: October 19, 2010  
Endorsed by Executive Council: October 21, 2010

Edited by Academic Council to include link to examples of Minor and Breadth Areas: October 13, 2014

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