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.

*Examples of Breadth/Topic areas on page 2*
The following are some examples of Breadth/Topic Areas listed below, however a breadth area is not limited to the following. Specific courses can be changed to meet the individual needs of the student with the approval of the committee members.

**LEADERSHIP**
Courses (Choose any of the courses listed or others as defined by your committee for a total of 9 credits)
- PH 5200 Foundations of Leadership (3 credits)
- PH 3815 Health Policy Analysis (3 credits)
- PH 3825 Public Health Law (3 credits)
- PH 3830 Ethics and Policy (3 credits)
- PHD 3946 Doctoral Seminar in Governance, Management & Leadership (3 credits)
- PHD 3950 Advanced Leadership Studies in Public Health (3 credits)
- PH 5210 Selected Readings in Leadership Studies (1-2 credits)
- PH 5220 Women and Leadership (2 credits)

**QUANTITATIVE METHODS**
Courses (Choose any of the courses listed or others as defined by your committee for a total of 9 credits)
- PH 2710 Epidemiology III (3 credits)
- PHD 2711 Epidemiology IV (3 credits)
- PH 3998 Demography for Public Health (3 credits)
- PH 2998 Applied Epidemiology (3 credits)
- PH 1820 Regression Techniques (3 credits)
- PH 1119 Qualitative Analysis (3 credits)
- PH 3998 Geographic Information Systems Science (3 credits)

**HEALTHCARE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT (HITM)**
Courses (Choose at least 1 or 2 of the HI courses listed below AND 1 or 2 of the UTSPH Courses or others as defined by your committee for a total of 9 credits)
- HI 5381 Methods of Public Health Informatics, School of Biomedical Informatics (3 credits)
- HIT 5327 Standards and Standards Development in Applied Health Informatics, School of Biomedical Informatics (3 credits)
- PHD 3998 Operations, Technology, and Decision Management (3 credits)
- PHD 3998 Policy Issues of Health IT - co taught by UTSPH and SBMI (3 credits)
- PHD 3998 Health Care Delivery in EHR Enabled Environment - co taught by UTSPH and SBMI (3 credits)

**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:** [Steps for Doctoral Students Electing a Major, Minor and Breadth](#)

**History:**
- Approved by Academic Council: October 19, 2010
- Endorsed by Executive Council: October 21, 2010
- Edited by Academic Council to include examples of Breadth Areas: October 13, 2014

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