



August 1, 2007

ANDREW A. SORENSEN
PRESIDENT

Dr. Garrison Walters
Executive Director
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Dr. Walters:

Accompanying this letter please find a new program planning summary in the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degree programs with a major in Public Health, Arnold School of Public Health at USC Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew A. Sorensen'.

Andrew A. Sorensen

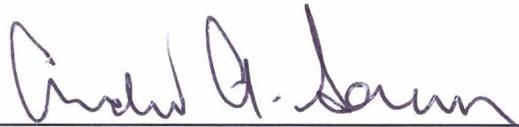
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Enclosure

PROGRAM PLANNING SUMMARY

University of South Carolina

Bachelor of Arts, Public Health
Bachelor of Science, Public Health

Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall Semester 2008

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew A. Sorensen", written over a horizontal line.

Andrew A. Sorensen
President

CLASSIFICATION

Name of Proposed Program: **Bachelor of Arts, Public Health (120 Credit Hours)**
Bachelor of Science, Public Health (120 Credit Hours)
Academic Unit Involved: **Arnold School of Public Health**
University of South Carolina, Columbia Campus

Purpose of Proposed Program

The Arnold School of Public Health (ASPH) of the University of South Carolina (USC) proposes to establish a new undergraduate major in public health leading to either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. These new 120 credit-hour programs will be administered entirely within the ASPH. It is anticipated that the first class will be admitted for the Fall 2008 semester.

The ASPH, on the University of South Carolina campus in downtown Columbia, is one of 38 accredited schools of public health in the United States and the only accredited school in South Carolina. The Arnold School of Public Health includes the Departments of Health Services Policy and Management; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Environmental Health Sciences; Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior; Communication Sciences and Disorders; and Exercise Science. The school also contains the CDC-funded Prevention Research Center, the Center for Research on Nutrition and Health Disparities, the Rural Health Research Center, and the Speech and Hearing Center.

The purpose of the proposed major is to provide an undergraduate education that 1) conveys a general understanding of public health history, competencies, and current issues; 2) requires a broad liberal education with exposure to many disciplines and develops intellectual abilities; 3) instills a strong sense of values and ethics; and 4) provides the capacity to adapt acquired knowledge and develops abilities to address new challenges. The proposed undergraduate program is intended to provide a pre-professional curriculum that will prepare undergraduate students for entry into social or natural science-based graduate programs, law school, or medical school. The program is neither designed nor intended to provide a technical curriculum for the purpose of preparing entry-level public health professionals.

As stated by the Institute of Medicine, the mission of Public Health is to "fulfill society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy." The field of Public Health encompasses several disciplines that are focused on prevention of disease, treatment of illness, and enhancement of health and welfare both at home and abroad. Public Health core disciplines include epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health sciences, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences. Fundamental to these disciplines is a working knowledge of natural science and social science principles, and a familiarity with cultural and socio-economic differences among populations. With the rapid development of new technologies for disease prevention and promotion of health, it follows that public health professionals will require a broad-ranging education with emphases on problem solving skills and an understanding of ethical behavior.

Several studies indicate growing U.S. public health workforce shortages at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as internationally. According to a 2004 report from the Council on State Governments, the number of public health workers declined from 220 per 100,000 Americans in 1980 to 158 in 2000. Further, the Association of Schools of Public Health projects that the next several years will show a loss of perhaps half of public health professionals to retirement and private sector employment.

In addition to the problems associated with a shrinking public health workforce, there is a severe lack of formal training among current public health workers. Recent reports indicate that 4 out of 5 public health workers in the U.S. have no formal training in public health.

Anticipated Program Demand

The ASPH expects to enroll a relatively small number of students each year for the first 4 years, with a larger enrollment in subsequent years. More specifically, it is estimated that the initial enrolment will be approximately 10 students rising to roughly 40 by year 5. It is anticipated that the majority of students will be traditional, full-time students who will complete the program in 4 years.

Assessment of Extent to which the Proposed Program Duplicates Existing Programs

As reported from a survey of members of the Association of Schools of Public Health in 2005, seven schools offered undergraduate majors, seven schools offered public health minors, and 19 schools offered individual courses for undergraduates. Eleven schools offered other undergraduate programs within the general purview of public health. Importantly, only eight schools considered their undergraduate degree as primarily pre-professional. Currently, only two programs offer comprehensive, "generalist" undergraduate programs. No accredited Schools in the Southeastern U.S. offer such programs.

In South Carolina, no other public institution offers an undergraduate public health major. Clemson and MUSC each offer baccalaureate programs in health sciences that are broader in focus than the proposed major.

Relationship between Proposed Program and Other Programs within the Institution

The Arnold School recognizes the significant contribution to a liberal undergraduate program required by the College of Arts and Science as well as other academic units. Undergraduate Public Health students will acquire a broad education consisting of communication and language skills, mathematical and analytical reasoning, arts, social and natural sciences, and a general understanding of core public health principles.

To achieve this broad education, the Arnold School will form collaborative agreements with the appropriate departments and units to develop a list of approved courses for partial fulfillment of Public Health degree requirements. One consequence of this broad curriculum is the immediate need to develop only two new courses (introductory courses in Public Health and Epidemiology); while enrollments for existing courses may increase, there will be minimal impact on faculty teaching loads.

Comparison of the USC Program with Other Programs in the State, Region, Nation.

As noted above, only seven accredited schools of public health offer undergraduate majors nationwide. In South Carolina, Clemson University's Department of Public Health Sciences offers an undergraduate degree that includes public health principles in the B.S. program in Health Sciences. Additionally, Benedict College, a small private university in Columbia, offers a B.S. in Public Health with a special emphasis on the African American population.

Unit faculty plan on working with the state's technical colleges to develop articulation agreements with appropriate programs in the system.

New Costs to the Institution

ESTIMATED COSTS PER YEAR					
CATEGORY	YEAR1	YEAR2	YEAR3	YEAR4	YEAR5
Program Administration	\$30,000 (.5 FTE)				
Faculty Salaries			-	-	-
Clerical Support Personnel	\$8,000 (.25 FTE)	\$8,000 (.25 FTE)	\$16,000 (.5 FTE)	\$16,000 (.5 FTE)	\$16,000 (.5 FTE)
Supplies and Materials	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000
Library Resources				-	-
Equipment	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Facilities		-	-	-	-
Other			-	-	-
TOTAL NET COSTS	\$45,000	\$47,500	\$58,500	\$61,000	\$63,500