



## Curriculum Committee Meeting

January 23, 2024

10:30am-12:30pm

Zoom:

<https://tulane.zoom.us/j/95434937094?pwd=ck9PL042MVVpS0dkUWZFNIh4bzZLUT09>

### Minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Dr. Felicia Rabito (FR), CC Chair; Dr. Yaozhong Liu (YZ), BIOS Rep; Dr. Stephen Murphy (SAM), ENHS Rep; Dr. Aaron Hoffman (AH), EPID rep; Dr. Dominique Meekers (DM), IHSD Rep; Dr. Sarah Michaels (SRM), TRMD Rep

**Ex Officio and Advising Attendees:**

Dr. Christine Arcari (CA), Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Katherine Andrinopoulos

**Other Faculty in Attendance:**

Karis Schoellmann (KS) on behalf of David Seal (SBPS rep), Rustin Reed, Nichole Valenzuela, Carol Chen, Melissa Gonzales, Mostafijur Rahman

**Not in Attendance:**

Dr. David Seal- SBPS Rep; Dr. Mark Diana- HPAM Rep; Emma Holsberg/Akilesh Kandregula, Susan Cantrell

#### I. December 19, 2023, Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

- a) DM moved to approve December minutes. YZ seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried by majority quorum (Mark Diana not present).

#### II. Curriculum Review

##### A. Course Reviews

- a) **EPID 6230 Computer Packages for Epidemiology** submitted by Carol Chung-Shiuan Chen for standard review with significant changes. The peer reviewers are **Stephen Murphy and Mark Diana**.
  - i. Carol updates included students want to have more time practicing things they will use in the future, such as Red Cap. In addition to an increase from 2 credit hours to 3 credit hours, students will have a thorough project from the beginning to create a database for epidemiological studies, incorporating data sources, and a presentation at the end of the semester. With the 3 credit hours, Dr. Chen is



- proposing to have a group project so students can have a chance to present their tables to prepare for research papers and other reports.
- ii. SAM concerns were initially a rubric was not included–this was added. The Bloom’s taxonomy needed updating. This was resubmitted and SAM approved the revisions.
  - iii. FR noted “examine data” as a LO is unclear and vague. AH agreed. SAM noted he suggested modifying this to “to examine” because the student activity that’s related to this LO is “examine data using graphics and summary statistics”. FR questioned if the objective is to identify outliers. Dr. Chen added that identifying outliers is only part of examining the data, the students need to know if the data is right or wrong. FR suggested updating the LO to “examine data for accuracy and validity”.
  - iv. CA noted LO4 and LO5 could be more detailed-- “Create and recode variables for data analysis” and “manipulate data sets” could also use a few more words. FR advised Dr. Chen to only list one signature activity. For “Manipulate data sets” the signature activity could be to “create subsets”. FR suggested removing “Prepare variables for combining datasets” from LO5 since this is being done in LO4.
  - v. DM suggested rewriting the signature activities to ensure the instructor will assess the students have achieved the LOS.
  - vi. CA added the signature activities should be linked to a specific assignment. Dr. Chen noted the assignments are linked to homework or an exam, but she is currently reformatting everything. CA added the same assignment can meet multiple objectives.

**SAM made a motion to approve the revisions discussed. FG seconded the motion. Motion carried by majority quorum (Dr. Diana was not present to vote).**

- a) **SPHL 6000: Interprofessional Education** submitted by Nichole Valenzuela for initial offering. The peer reviewers are **Stephen Murphy and Dominique Meekers**.



- i. CA noted Nichole Valenzuela is the instructor for the course. We have a competency that we need to be achieving for accreditation that we are not currently meeting for Interprofessional Education. This course will be added to any (profession Masters) program required to take the 5 foundational courses. We are moving the APE and ILE to 1 credit hour; this will be added as 1 credit hour to meet the 3-credit hour requirement for those programs.
- ii. Nichole Valenzuela updated the course is designed to meet the 4 main IPEC competencies. Feedback was provided from the reviewers. There are additional updates to the course description that need to be added. Nichole will resubmit with the details listing who the course is targeted for.
- iii. DM added the original version looked great but there was 1 error. The grading components added up to 105% but were corrected and resubmitted.
- iv. No additional feedback was provided.

**DM made a motion to approve. SAM seconded the motion. Motion carried by majority quorum (Dr. Diana was not present).**

- b) **ENHS 6080: Fundamentals of Environmental Health Sciences** submitted by Melissa Gonzales for initial offering in Spring 2025. This is a required course for the MPH in Environmental Health Sciences that will be reviewed today. The peer reviewers are **Yaozhong Liu and Aaron Hoffman**.
  - i. Melissa Gonzales added that there are 3 courses on the agenda today that are part of the new MPH in ENHS, designed with faculty input.
  - ii. YZ added there are a few minor comments. There was concern with the wording in LOs 1 and 2. YZ suggested modifying the verb “characterize”, which is not within the vocabulary of Bloom Taxonomy. In addition, there was some overlap between LOs 1 and 2 as both are concerned with the links between human health and environmental hazards. YZ suggested removing the word “environmental” from LO2, so



this LO only covers the relationship between “occupational” hazards and human health. In the LO table of the syllabus, the signature activities/assessment does not mention any “occupational hazards” although that key word is included in three LOs. YZ suggested including that term also in the signature activities/assessment. YZ questioned how paper 1, paper 2, and fact sheet weighted when they overall contribute to 30% of the final grade. YZ suggested specifying the information in the syllabus. MG addressed all the comments.

- iii. AH main concern was how this course is meant to coexist with ENHS 6030. AS asked if this course is required for the new program, will ENHS 6030 be sunsetted? FR noted MG submitted a new cover letter and specified how the courses will be different. ENHS 6080 is a required course and ENHS 6030 will remain on the books as an elective. MG added although students have the option of switching programs, ENHS 6030 will remain on the books as a requirement for programs in which students are currently enrolled. ENHS 6080 better prepares students for the 7000-level courses within the new MPH program.
- iv. FR noted we have to ensure that ENHS 6030 and ENHS 6080 are different. In addition, paying attention to ENHS 6030’s enrollment should be noted for the future. CA added she reviews courses a few weeks before the start of any given semester to cancel courses with low enrollment, if they are not required.
- v. AH added the title is shown differently in the syllabus and course review. This needs to be updated. MG noted this comment and will work on the title. AH added on the Step 1 reads the course will be offered online and in-person. MG added the program is online and in-person. Only the in-person course review was submitted today, moving the course online will take a bit more development. FR noted when it’s time to offer this online, an administrative change will need to be submitted. CA added a syllabus will need to be created for the online version. The online syllabus will need to be submitted to the CC for review.



- vi. AH had one additional comment. In the last LO, it appears there is a word missing. FR added LO4 was unclear. MG added the signature assessment is a community public health fact sheet. And the way regulatory agencies make fact sheets, she wants them to explain to the community what the risks are and they could have potential ways to reduce their health risks, reduce exposure, or recognizing who is most at risk and they would also know there were different regulations involved. MG added an objective in the new curriculum is being able to communicate. FR suggested modifying LO4 to "Communicate the evidence base around environmental and occupational health risks to various audiences". MG added this LO is to determine their final communications to the community to decide what the health risks and exposure are, and what they can do individually, or what is being done are the policy level to reduce those risks of exposure and health effects. FR noted to simplify LO4 can be "Communicate the evidence base around environmental health risks to various audiences" and the signature assessment is the fact sheet.

**AH made a motion to approve with revisions discussed. YZ seconded the motion. Motion carried by majority quorum (Dr. Diana was not present to vote).**

- c) **ENHS 6970: Exposure Assessment** submitted by Rustin Reed for initial offering in Spring 2025. This is a required course for the MPH in Environmental Health Sciences that will be reviewed today. The peer reviewers are **Mark Diana and Dominique Meekers**.
  - i. DM added the rubric looks good. The criteria is not listed in the last 2 rows and it adds up to 70 instead of 100. DM suggested adding the row for the criteria. In the syllabus the LOs clarified what the course is about. The signature assessments require rephrasing. For example, the wording "the purpose of the () is to evaluate the student's competency...". DM added the this is not the purpose, it's for students to learn and a bit of rephrasing would be beneficial. DM added the



syllabus is vague on what is included. LO1 list exam 1 and 2 as the signature assessment. The exams do not relate to the facts that influence exposure. The topic areas in the schedule are very broad. It is unclear how it relates to the LOs. The topic area in the second column needs a bit more elaboration. The assessment contains case studies but not what the case studies are on. DM noted apart from the table with the LOs, it is unclear what this course is about. DM suggested specifying readings in the schedule.

- ii. CA added there are no descriptions included to show what is being accomplished.
- iii. FR reiterated that the second column doesn't do anything with the competencies. The second column should answer the question if this is being tested.
- iv. RR added the target students will have an environmental health background but there will also be disaster management students taking the course, who are less familiar with the topic. RR is working on tying it to the bigger picture and flushing out the descriptions of the assignments. RR asked for recommendations from the CC regarding specific topics. CC added under the Assessment of Learning and Grading Policy is where the in-depth assignment descriptions should be listed.
- v. SRM noted LO5 letter "e" was updated and needs to be modified in the syllabus.

**FR tabled the course to allow Rustin Reed more time to review and complete the revisions that are needed.**

- d) **ENHS 7610: Applied Data Science for Climate and Health** submitted by Mostafijur Rahman for initial offering in Spring 2025. This is a required course for the MPH in Environmental Health Sciences that will be reviewed today. The peer reviewers are **David Seal and Sarah Michaels**.



- i. MR added this course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and practical skills to use data science techniques in addressing the complex challenges at the intersection of climate change and health. With a strong focus on practical applications, the course first introduces fundamental concepts in climate change, epidemiology, and biostatistics and follows with data science methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting climate and health data, enabling students to identify climate change-related environmental risk factors and to engage in evidence-based decision-making and policy development. Lectures focus on the statistical methods and data science application to evaluate the health impacts of climate change-related exposures such as wildfires, extreme temperature events, tropical cyclones, and drought etc.
- ii. FG (on behalf of David Seal) added there were comments regarding Blooms taxonomy. All levels 1-6 were used. In the original submission, "Describe" is level 2 and "Formmulate" is level 6 were used but these were updated. "Critique" was still listed as level 3-6 on Bloom's Taxonomy and FG suggested changing this to level 3-4. FG added the rubric was good and letter grades were used instead of points. This was modified but FG suggested using a range (8-10 points). The attendance statement was not up to date in the original submission, but this was modified. All of David Seal's comments were addressed.
- iii. SRM added that the name of the course listed in the program differ from the name in the course review. The header and footers are absent from the syllabus. In the rubric, SRM agreed with FG, point ranges may be helpful. SRM noted there are a lot of LOs, and it may be helpful to condense them. In the competencies that are matched (letter "e") has been updated and maybe better to number these in like in the program competencies. SRM suggested, according to the description, ENHS 6080 should be considered as prereqs in addition to SPHL 6050 and SPHL 6060. After the rubric, there is a note about exams, SRM



suggested the category of assignments are typically listed and this note can be retained.

- iv. MR noted adding ENHS 6080 as a prereq is not needed. All of the students in ENHS will take ENHS 6080 before taking this course but it may be suggested to students outside of ENHS if they want to take this course. CA added we are lacking a lot of upper-level elective courses particularly for PhD students.
- v. MG noted a title change of the course is needed to remove Climate Change. FR noted that if that is the case, we need to table the course to modify as needed. MG decided to keep the title as is, Applied Data Science for Climate Change and Health.
- vi. FR summarizes, all signature activities and assessment are to test the LO not a competency and needs editing. A minor change in the grading rubric for the range point scale. Language in the program competency (letter "e") does not match and needs to be updated. SAM added the title needs to be shorter because it is 43 characters.

**SRM approved with minor changes. FG seconded the motion. Motion approved by majority quorum (Dr. Diana was not present to vote).**

## **B. Program Reviews**

- a) **MPH in Environmental Health Sciences** submitted by Melissa Gonzales. The peer reviewers are **Yaozhong Liu and Sarah Michaels**.
  - i. YZ comments included there were numbers that were either missing or miscalculated in the model schedule table. The revisions were updated by MG.
  - ii. SRM comments included in the model schedule, there were 2 places we foundations were referred to and how BSPH students are exempt from taking SPHL 6020 and the Challenge Exam. SRM suggested listing ways other students can be waived from SPHL 6020. In addition, MG noted for MG to review the program to ensure all the course titles match.





- iii. SRM asked for the ILE there is Year 2 semester 1 and it is listed as a 1 credit hour course, will Year 2, Semester 2 does the line need to be there for students to complete the ILE because it is listed as 0 credit hours here. CA noted to get past the University level data systems students must pay tuition for the 1 credit hour ILE and then if they have to repeat it/if they have not finished in a semester, they will move into a 0 credit ILE. CA added we have to look at this model schedule to discuss with Financial Aid. Currently, if we do not have students enrolled in a course and they drop out of data systems as inactive—it's a university data issue not a programmatic issue.
- iv. CA added the footnote on the top of Page 4 regarding the waiver needs to be removed. In addition, the completed ILE (in Year 2, Semester 2) needs to be removed from the model schedule. Also, the IPE needs to be moved to Year 1, Semester 1. SPHL 7950 (currently listed in Year 2, Semester 1 & 2), SPHL 7950 is only in Year 2, Semester 2. ENHS 7610 course title needs to be updated in the program review. The program competencies from this program needs to be updated in ENHS 6970 and ENHS 7610 course reviews (letter "e").
- v. SAM added ENHS 6600 is listed incorrectly in the MPH in ENHS and needs to be updated.

FR approved the MPH in ENHS pending ENHS 6970 revised course review. YZ made a motion to approve the MPH in ENHS with revisions and revisions to other courses. SRM seconded the motion. Motion carried by majority quorum (Dr. Diana was not present to vote).

### C. New Business

#### a) Syllabus Template

- i. CA created a new syllabus template based on the CELT version, and the current syllabus templates. The competency mapping is backwards, and should start with the competency, then LOs that track to the competencies, and signature activities/assessments are mapped to the LO not to the competencies.



- ii. FR noted she prefers leading the LO for a specific course. The current table does not appear to be backwards. From a student perspective, the LO is the first thing a student would prefer to see. AH agreed, the consumer is the student and the most important thing for a student for a course is the LOs. SAM agreed to keep the table the same. FG agreed, beginning with competencies may be an overload for students.
- iii. CA added in addition, the new attendance policy statement has been added. A piece of the statement that students have pushed back on is in review by the Academic Standards Committee (comments added). The ADA statement has been updated as stated on the Academic student code of conduct. The new EDI statement, Title 9, and other University changes.
- iv. The Law School and Medical Schools do not require attendance in residential courses. Students are pushing back on this. The Academic Standards Committee, faculty, and 2 student groups review the modified policy. FR noted since this is still in review, we are not ready to be voted on, the CC will review and submit comments as needed.

**b) Discussion on Rubric template**

- i. Not discussed due to time.