



Council *on* Education *for* Public Health

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 220 • Silver Spring, MD 20910
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June 22, 2015

Ray G. Newman, PhD, MPhil, MBA
Chair
University of Southern Mississippi
MPH Program
College of Health
Department of Public Health
118 College Drive, Box 5122
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5122

Dear Dr. Newman:

On behalf of the Council on Education for Public Health, I am pleased to advise you that the CEPH Board of Councilors acted at its June 11-13, 2015 meeting to accredit the MPH Program at the University of Southern Mississippi for a seven-year term, extending to July 1, 2022 with an interim report to be submitted in spring 2016. The interim report must address the criteria for which there was a “partially met” assessment.

Specifically, the interim report due in spring 2016 should provide evidence that the program has:

- a) Consistently presented the competencies throughout program documents. The report must provide evidence in the form of sample syllabi and links to program handbooks or webpages. (Criterion 2.6)
- b) Appropriately integrated competencies into the EMPH practice experience. (Criterion 2.7)
- c) Collected and assessed data on alumni perceptions of their ability to perform competencies in the workplace. (Criterion 2.7)
- d) Consistently presented the curricular requirements for each joint degree program in program documents, including the university catalog. (Criterion 2.11)

The report will be due on May 3, 2016. Please be aware that failure to come into compliance with all accreditation criteria must trigger specific actions on CEPH's part. These actions, mandated in federal regulations governing accrediting agencies that are recognized by the US Department of Education, include initiating adverse action or, if good cause is demonstrated, extending by one year the period during which the program or school may come into compliance with the remaining criteria, after which CEPH must take adverse action. CEPH is required to deny or revoke accreditation when a school or program fails to demonstrate that it has come into compliance. Thus, interim reports have serious consequences. Additional information about preparing interim reports is available on the [CEPH website](http://www.ceph.org).

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We are enclosing a copy of the Council's final accreditation report. The report is also being transmitted to the chief executive officer of your university as the Council's official report. This is identical to the team's report that you received prior to our meeting.

I would call your attention to the disclosure provisions in our adopted procedures. The program is expected to make its official accreditation report available to the public on request 60 days following the accreditation decision. The program may make the report (with the final self-study) available in full on its website, or it must clearly indicate on the website how to request a copy of either document. See p. 29 of the [Accreditation Procedures, amended September 2014](#) for additional information. You may append a written response whenever you distribute the report. The official report also will be available on request from CEPH after 60 days, but it is our intent to refer all initial requests to you. If you provide this office with a copy of a written response by July 24, 2015, we will be pleased to append it whenever we respond to a request for the report. Please note that this response is optional.

We would also like to remind you that whenever an accredited school or program undergoes a substantive change, it is obligated to provide written notification to CEPH of the intended change. Substantive changes are defined in the procedures manual, but generally include offering a new degree, adding or discontinuing an area of specialization, offering a degree program in a different format or at a distant site and making major revisions to the curricular requirements. Additional information about substantive changes is available on our [website](#).

We appreciated the many courtesies and helpfulness extended to the site visit team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna J. Petersen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donna J. Petersen, MHS, ScD, CPH
President

Enclosure

cc: CEPH Councilors