



July 6, 2020

Susan Ettner, Interim Dean, Graduate Division
Andrea Kasko, Chair, Graduate Council

Re: Discontinuance of the doctoral program in Public Health (DrPH)

Dear Andrea and Susan,

In 2016 FSPH began discussing the possible discontinuation of the school-wide Doctor of Public Health degree. Now that all departments have suspended admissions and the remaining students are completing their studies or have transferred into one of the School's PhD programs, the School wishes to formally request Academic Senate and Graduate Division approval to discontinue the program. All remaining students are actively engaged with their advisor and committee members.

On May 7, 2020, the School's FEC formally voted to approve the discontinuance of the DrPH and forward the request to the Academic Senate and Graduate Division (5 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain, 1 not present).

Please feel free to contact me, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Steven Wallace, Professor and FEC Chair
Department of Community Health Sciences
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

cc: Ronald Brookmeyer, Dean
Alina Dorian, Associate Dean for Practice
Kyle McJunkin, Director of Strategic Projects
Elizabeth Yzquierdo, Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Daniel Wong, Assistant Dean, Graduate Division
Yifang Zhu, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

April 15, 2020

Steve Wallace, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
Catherine Sugar, Chair, Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Re: Discontinuance of the doctoral program in Public Health (DrPH)

Dear Steve and Catherine,

I write in support of Associate Dean Zhu's letter requesting FEC and EPCC approval to discontinue the DrPH program. As noted in her letter, the program has seen a declining interest among prospective students and, with the remaining students near completion, I agree now is the right moment to make this decision. Since the program lacked committed funds, there are no resource implications to the School if this request receives approval from the relevant campus committees and administrative units.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ron Brookmeyer, Ph.D.
Dean
Professor, Biostatistics

cc: Kathleen Kiser, Associate Dean for Administration
Kyle McJunkin, Director of Strategic Projects
Elizabeth Yzquierdo, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Yifang Zhu, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

March 20, 2020

Steve Wallace, Chair, FSPH Faculty Executive Committee

Catherine Sugar, Chair, FSPH Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Re: Appendix V action for the doctoral program in Public Health (DrPH)

Dear Steve and Catherine,

As you know, in 2016 FSPH began discussing the possible discontinuation of the school-wide Doctor of Public Health degree. Over the next few years, multiple departments suspended admissions while the remaining students completed their studies or transferred into one of the School's PhD programs. As of this winter, the last of our five departments to maintain an active DrPH program voted to discontinue that degree and move instead towards having multiple paths within its PhD program. There are currently only four students remaining in the DrPH programs across the school, and I can report that each of them will either graduate by the end of Summer 2020 or continue their studies in another program. All remaining students are actively engaged and supported by their advisor and committee members. By way of this letter, I request the School's FEC formally vote to approve the discontinuance of the DrPH and forward the request to the Academic Senate. For context, I am providing the following information.

Brief history and reasons for discontinuance

Originally established in the 1970's as a school-wide program with concentrations mirroring each of the department's disciplinary areas, the DrPH program was intended to provide supplemental or advanced training for public health professionals. Since its establishment, the program has graduated over 200 students; however, over the past decade, the School has graduated a declining number of students:

Year	No. of degrees awarded
2011-12	8
2012-13	7
2013-14	6
2014-15	0
2015-16	2
2016-17	2
2017-18	1
2018-19	2

This decrease reflects student interest in the degree compared to the PhD. In fact, for many years the curriculum of many of our departmental PhD programs and the corresponding DrPH concentrations have been moving closer together in ways that naturally reflect the connection between public health theory and practice. The blurring of lines between student interest and curricular tracks has made transitioning most of our remaining DrPH students into one of the School's PhD programs a relatively straightforward process.

Resource analysis

Centrally, the School did not provide any direct support for the DrPH program. Much like the school-wide MPH, each department handled the administration and management of resources related to students who were pursuing the concentration specific to the department. Given the small number of students in the program, each department reported no direct allocation of resources beyond the following:

- The Department of Health Policy and Management administers a named scholarship (*Roemer Health Services Administration Fellowships*) for students pursuing the health policy and management concentration. Presently, the scholarship has approximately \$36,000 in unused funds. The School is working with UCLA Fund Management on expanding the eligibility criteria so the department's PhD students are eligible.

Process

While the process of discontinuing the program was first raised in early 2016, with discussions and suspension of admissions taking place at the department-level over the next few years, since the DrPH was a school-wide program it could not be formally ended until all of the departments were ready to proceed. When that point was reached early this year, I asked each department to formally vote on the program's discontinuance. The results are as follows:

Summary of School Vote by Department

Department	Yes	No	Abstain	No ballot cast	Total
Biostatistics	15	0	0	7	22
Community Health Sciences	14	0	1	8	23
Environmental Health Sciences	10	0	0	9	19
Epidemiology	10	2	2	12	26
Health Policy and Management	16	2	4	15	37
Total:	65	4	7	51	127

In light of the above information, I am confident the elimination of the DrPH will position the School and faculty to devote more energy and focus to our existing programs. If you have any questions, concerns, or require additional information, please feel to contact me.

Sincerely,



Yifang Zhu, Professor and Associate Dean
Department of Environmental Health Sciences
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

cc: Sudipto Banerjee, Chair, Biostatistics
Ronald Brookmeyer, Dean
Shane Que Hee, Interim Chair, Environmental Health Sciences
Karin Michels, Chair, Epidemiology
Jack Needleman, Chair, Health Policy and Management
Michael Prelip, Chair, Community Health Sciences