

TO: College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

FROM: Karen Mumford, Program Director
Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies

DATE: October 29, 2018

RE: Approval to establish a new Public Health Major

We request implementation of the following new major with the next possible *Catalog*.

Name of Program: Major: Public Health, Liberal Arts

Program Code: To be established.

Date of Department/Program Approval: 10/28/2018

The Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies (Watershed Institute) requests approval to establish a Public Health Major with options to pursue either a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. The attached proposal provides justification for and an explanation of the proposed major and curricular structure. The development of this major responds to demand by students for undergraduate education in public health and by employers representing the public, private, and non-governmental sectors seeking well-trained public health professionals. Establishing this interdisciplinary program will equip students with the knowledge and skills to understand the distribution and determinants of human health and disease and to develop interventions to preserve and promote health and well-being.

The 36-credit standard major consists of three components: (1) a set of core courses; (2) a coherent group of elective courses from a variety of academic domains; and (3) a capstone or culminating experience to allow students to demonstrate and apply their public health knowledge and skills to real world public health issues. The proposed Public Health Major will be a collaborative interdepartmental major at UW-Eau Claire. While the Watershed Institute will be the administrative home of the major, curricular offerings and expertise will draw heavily upon faculty, staff and courses in disciplines from across all four UW-Eau Claire colleges. Faculty from the Watershed Institute and Institute for Health Sciences consulted with and received approval from Department Chairs from all four colleges regarding the major and potential course offerings.

The proposed standard major in Public Health leading to the B.A./B.S. degree is built upon a liberal education framework. This will distinguish the proposed major from the long-standing, well-regarded UW-Eau Claire Comprehensive Major in Environmental Public Health (ENPH) that leads to the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Public Health (B.S.E.P.H.) degree. As a standard major, Public Health will require students to complete a second academic program (certificate, minor, or another standard major). This allows students to broaden their skills, assemble an academic portfolio to meet their academic and professional goals, and contribute knowledge and expertise from other disciplines to strengthen workforce capacity to meet critical population health concerns. We anticipate first offering the major in Fall 2019.