



University of Toronto

Closure of an Existing Graduate Field of Study Proposal

Section 1

Closure Proposed:	
Department / Unit (if applicable):	Public Health Nutrition (field within the MScCH degree program)
Faculty / Academic Division:	Faculty of Medicine
Faculty / Academic Division contact:	Professor Andrea Sass-Kortsak, Graduate Coordinator
Department / Unit contact:	Graduate Department of Public Health Sciences
Effective date program will be closed to new admissions:	Admissions are closed
Effective date of full closure of program: <i>(date by which students currently in the program will be expected to graduate)</i>	Immediately (or May 2012)
Version Date:	February 24, 2012

Section 2

1. Brief Summary

This proposal is to request the formal closure of the Public Health Nutrition (PHN) field in the Masters of Science in Community Health (MScCH) degree program.

It has been replaced with an advanced standing option within the Community Nutrition field of the Masters of Public Health in Public Health Sciences. The new field of study was approved in May 2010 and closure of the MScCH PHN is the final step in this change.

Shifting students in the MScCH Public Health Nutrition field into the MPH Community Nutrition field, through an advanced standing option, has streamlined the program with regards to recruitment, admissions, advisory committees and administration. It has also reduced confusion within the public health nutrition community as to the goals and target audiences for the program. Both the Department of Physical Therapy and Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work offer similar advanced standing models for their professional masters' degree programs.

As of February 2012, all students enrolled in the MScCH PHN program have graduated or transferred to the MPH Community Nutrition – Advanced Standing Program.

2. Rationale

a) Provide a relevant and recognizable MPH degree opportunity for experienced professionals in the public health nutrition community.

Currently, the MPH Community Nutrition field is aimed at students who recently completed undergraduate degrees in nutrition and are seeking a graduate program that provides both:

- the practical training required to enter the workforce as registered dietitians
- public health theory and approaches that allow graduates to pursue advanced level public health nutrition careers.

Many experienced registered dietitians wish to obtain advanced public health expertise, but do not require the entry-level dietetics component of this program. The advanced standing option provides an opportunity for these experienced dietitians to complete the MPH field without having to take the entry-level dietetics courses.

The course requirements for students in the advanced standing MPH option are identical to the courses offered in the current MScCH field. It should be noted that these core courses have been designed to enable all graduates to meet the legislated criteria needed to practice as public health nutritionists in Ontario.

b) Streamline administration and coordination of professional graduate programs in public health nutrition.

By shifting students in the MScCH Public Health Nutrition field, into the MPH Community Nutrition field, through an advanced standing option, we can streamline program promotion, recruitment, admissions, advisory committees and administration. This will also reduce confusion within the public health community as to the goals and target audiences for the program.

Both the Department of Physical Therapy and Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work offer similar advanced standing models for their professional masters' degree programs.

c) Eliminate confusion among prospective students and the Public Health Nutrition community

The similar nomenclature for the degree titles and fields is confusing: Master of Public Health, Community Nutrition; and Master of Science in Community Health, Public Health Nutrition.

Offering one internationally recognized and valued degree title for the professional masters field in public health nutrition, with an advanced standing option for experienced dietitians, enhances clarity for prospective students, employers and other stakeholder groups.

3. Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

We anticipate no impact on other programs and units.

4. Student Accommodation

As noted above, there are no longer any students enrolled in the MScCH in Community Health, PHN field.

5. Faculty / Staff Accommodation

The program was primarily administered by the current Director and Associate Director, who currently oversee the MPH in Public Health Sciences, Community Nutrition field of study.

6. Governance Process

	<i>Levels of Approval Required</i>
<i>Decanal / Provostial Sign Off</i>	
	Faculty/Divisional Council (approval of closure of minors, where there is a continuing (specialist or major)
<i>Submission to Provost's Office</i>	
	AP&P (approval of program closures: undergrad specialists/majors; minors where there is no specialist of major))
	Academic Board (approval of degree closures)
	Executive Committee of Governing Council (executive confirms degree, grad program, diploma closures)
<i>Inclusion in Annual report to Quality Council</i>	
<i>Inclusion in Annual report to MTCU (in case of closure of degree)</i>	

Developed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs April 4, 2011