

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN  
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Science and Ph.D. Programs in Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health.

**Executive Summary:** The request to terminate the Programs is due to the fact that there have been no applications or new admissions to the programs during the past five years. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **History of programs.** Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health (PMEH) had a long history offering Master of Science and Ph.D. program in the College of Medicine. In Fall 2000, the Board of Regents approved the division of the Department of PMEH into the Department of Biostatistics, Department of Epidemiology, and Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health; the program titles followed the emphasis areas and new departmental titles. Although students were no longer admitted under the PMEH degree major after the creation of the new departments, existing students could select to continue their graduate studies under the PMEH degree name at the time of their entry or transfer to one of the new specialty areas in the College of Public Health. The reorganization/renaming of the broad PMEH degree major to degree majors by specialty areas proved advantageous to students to identify their area of expertise easily.
- ◇ **Description of programs.** The goals of the degree programs are to educate and train highly competent and committed public health professionals and research scientists for career opportunities in local, state, or federal health agencies, academic departments in Schools of Public Health or Colleges of Health Sciences, industrial departments of health and safety, or consulting firms.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** The existing graduate programs in Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health are remnants from the now disbanded Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health in the College of Medicine prior to the establishment of the College of Public Health. In the past five years, there have been no applications or new admissions to the PMEH programs. The last student enrolled under this degree major has been approved to graduate in December 2010.
- ◇ **Impact on resources.** All reallocations of staff and faculty occurred following the change from one large PMEH department to five specialty area departments. There will be no additional resource needs or savings from the proposed termination.
- ◇ **Alternative programming.** The University of Iowa is the only institution in Iowa that offers this degree; however, students can pursue other related degrees in the College of Public Health.

- ◇ Effect on students. Suspension of admissions to the graduate programs was essentially imposed in Fall 2000 when the reorganization into the College of Public Health occurred. A transition period will not be needed because the last student who chose to earn the degree under the Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health name is expected to graduate this semester.
  
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, termination of the program will become effective in December 2010.