

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH POLICY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Science in Health Policy in the College of Public Health.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. The Master of Science in Health Policy provides students with content knowledge and methodological skills pertaining to the practice of health policy analysis. Policy analysis is intrinsically interdisciplinary, and students acquire a range of knowledge and skills that allow them to analyze and empirically evaluate policy content, formation, implementation, and outcomes.

Reason for proposed termination. The justifications for closure are related to recent external and internal reviews of the department. Reviewers noted the very low enrollment in the MS in Health Policy program, attributed in part to a lack of differentiation from the College's existing Master of Public Health in Policy degree. Discussions with department faculty members subsequent to the review indicate majority agreement to eliminate the MS in the Health Policy in favor of the new Master of Science in Health Services and Policy Research, which has a curriculum that is more closely aligned to the PhD in Health Services and Policy.

Effect on current students. One student is currently enrolled in the MS in Health Policy program. This individual is planning to graduate in December 2022. Because of the close alignment with the MPH in Policy program, courses are available to meet the student's degree requirements and faculty are available to supervise the student's thesis.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends. From 2015-2020, the MS in Health Policy program graduated five students, three of whom pursued the program concurrently with the Master of Health Administration program.

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
2020	1	1	1
2019	2	2	2
2018	3	3	0
2017	4	4	2
2016	2	2	1

Impact on resources. No cost difference is anticipated with the program closure. Departmental faculty and staff serve multiple graduate programs, so no reduction in staff is anticipated.

Impact on workforce. With the offering of the existing MPH in Policy program and the new MS program, workforce needs in the state should not be impacted.

Alternative programs. This program is not currently available elsewhere in the state. The program is similar in nature to an existing MPH in Policy degree and the new MS in Health Services and Policy Research degree at the University of Iowa.

Effective date of termination. January 2023.