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September 6, 2023

Ryan Lindsay, PhD, MPH  
Chair, Department of Community & Public Health  
Idaho State University  
*Sent via email*

Dear Dr. Lindsay:

On behalf of the Council on Education for Public Health, I am pleased to advise you that the CEPH Board of Councilors acted at its August 25, 2023 meeting to accredit the Idaho State University MPH Program for a seven-year term, with an interim report due in summer 2024.

The accreditation term extends until December 31, 2030, pending your continued documentation of compliance through the interim report, annual reporting, and any other reporting required by the Council.

The interim report will be due on June 20, 2024 and must address the criteria below, for which there were "partially met" assessments. Specifically, the interim report should provide evidence that the program has:

- a) Defined a programmatic vision statement that describes how the community or world will be different if the program achieves its aims. (Criterion B1)
- b) Implemented an ongoing, systematic, and well-documented evaluation plan that tracks the program's effectiveness in meeting its mission and goals. The report must include the following:
  - the school's evaluation measures, data sources, and schedule of review in the format of [Template B2-1](#)
  - evidence of implementation, such as reports or data summaries prepared for review, notes from meetings at which results were discussed, etc.
  - evidence of at least one change and/or planned change made based on review of data in the format of [Template B2-2](#)

The Council may require additional reporting annually until it can validate that the evaluation plan is sufficiently well-established. (Criterion B2)

- c) Implemented curricular requirements to assess all students' performance on foundational competencies 10, 17, 20, and 21. The report must include [Template D2-2](#) (completed for the relevant competencies only), as well as documentation for all relevant assessments (e.g., full assignment instructions as provided to students) and syllabi for the relevant courses. (Criterion D2)
- d) Implemented an appropriate assessment for concentration competency 2. The report must include [Template D4-1](#) (completed for the relevant competency only), as well as documentation for the assessment (e.g., full assignment instructions as provided to students) and a syllabus for the relevant courses. (Criterion D4)
- e) Implemented an integrative learning experience that incorporates assessment of students' ability to synthesize foundational and concentration competencies. The report must include completed, graded samples of student work along with appropriate documentation of the processes for faculty assessment such as a rubric, form, or guidelines. (Criterion D7)
- f) Engaged external partners (e.g., community members and employers) in its overall planning processes. The report must include evidence of collection and review of partners' feedback on the program's student outcomes, curriculum, and overall planning processes (e.g., meeting notes). (Criterion F1)

- g) Implemented data collection processes to inform the program's actions and strategies to increase diversity. The report must include evidence of collection and review of this information (e.g., meeting notes). (Criterion G1)

Please be aware that failure to come into compliance with all accreditation criteria must trigger specific actions on CEPH's part. These actions, mandated in federal regulations governing accrediting agencies that are recognized by the US Department of Education, include initiating adverse action or, if good cause is demonstrated, extending by one year the period during which the program or school may come into compliance with the remaining criteria, after which CEPH must take adverse action. CEPH is required to deny or revoke accreditation when a school or program fails to demonstrate that it has come into compliance. Thus, interim reports have serious consequences. Additional information about preparing interim reports is available on the [CEPH website](#).

We are enclosing a copy of the Council's final accreditation report. The report is also being transmitted to the chief executive officer of your university as the Council's official report. This differs from the team's report that you received prior to our meeting in the following areas:

- The Council added language to Criteria B1 (Guiding Statements), B2 (Evaluation), B3 (Graduation Rates), C2 (Faculty Resources), D2 (Foundational Competencies), D4 (Concentration Competencies), D7 (Integrative Learning Experience), F1 (Community Feedback), and G1 (Diversity), acknowledging the program's response to the site visit team's report and clarifying the Council's interpretation, as appropriate.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion C3 (Staff Resources) from met with commentary to met and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council changed the finding for Criterion C4 (Physical Resources) from met to met with commentary and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council changed the finding for Criteria D5 (Applied Practice Experience) and H3 (Complaint Policies) from partially met to met and added language explaining its rationale.

I would like to call your attention to the disclosure provisions in our adopted procedures. You are expected to make the official accreditation report available to the public on request 60 days following the accreditation decision. ***You may make the report and final self-study available in full on your website or must clearly indicate on the website how to request a copy of either document.*** See Section 7 of the [Accreditation Procedures](#) for additional information.

You may append a written response whenever you distribute the report. The official report also will be available on request from CEPH after 60 days, but it is our intent to refer all initial requests to you. If you provide this office with a copy of a written response by October 16, 2023, we will be pleased to append it whenever we respond to a request for the report. Please note that this response is optional.

We would also like to remind you that whenever an accredited school or program undergoes a substantive change, it is obligated to provide written notification to CEPH of the intended change. Substantive changes are defined in the procedures manual, but generally include adding or discontinuing a degree or area of specialization, offering a degree program in a different format or at a distant site, and making major revisions to the curricular requirements. Additional information about substantive changes is available on our [website](#).

We appreciated the many courtesies and helpfulness extended to the site visit team.

Sincerely,



Craig Blakely, PhD, MPH  
President