

“Custom Concentration” in the MPH

Rationale: Completing a dual degree often presents challenges in course scheduling and sequencing, making it difficult for a dual degree student to complete all required courses for a particular concentration. Therefore, dual degree students are allowed to create a custom, or individualized, concentration. Often, the custom concentration is close, but not identical, to an existing MPH concentration, with one or two necessary substitutions to make it feasible in combination with the other degree program. If a student chooses to complete a custom concentration, rather than an existing concentration, the student must complete this Request for Custom Concentration Form and have the custom concentration approved by the Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs.

Plan: In order to develop a custom concentration, each dual degree student will follow these steps:

- 1) Identify a faculty sponsor to advise and supervise the program of study. In many or most cases, this will be the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, but it could also be another faculty member with expertise in the particular area(s) of interest.
- 2) Create a statement of focus for the concentration that answers the basic question: In what area(s) does the student want to gain expertise and how does this fit within the field of public health?
- 3) Identify a set of approximately 5-8 competencies to be accomplished in the custom concentration. These must be chosen from existing MPH concentration competencies. The course offerings of the ColoradoSPH must support the custom concentration and the identified competencies. The full list of MPH competencies is available at:
<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/Academics/degreesandprograms/Documents/Competencies%20for%20all%20MPH%20Graduates.pdf>
- 4) Identify 8-12 credits of coursework in the ColoradoSPH that address the competencies. MPH core courses cannot be included in these 8-12 credits. Provide a map of the competencies to the courses that includes providing the course assignments that assess the competencies.
- 5) Obtain approval for the statement of focus, competencies, and planned coursework from the faculty sponsor and the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.
- 6) Submit the approved plan to the Office of Academic Affairs for placement in the student’s academic file.
- 7) The student’s capstone project should relate to the custom program of study and address some portion of the identified competencies, as is true for all established concentrations.
- 8) When the student applies for graduation, the student’s coursework will be compared to the plan of study to determine whether graduation requirements have been met.
- 9) The official transcript will reflect an individualized or no concentration.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Faculty Sponsor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return completed form to:

Office of Academic Affairs

ColoradoSPH.AcademicAffairs@cuanschutz.edu