

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR PROGRAM NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA:
FROM PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to change the program name from Public Health and Education to Public Health.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this request.

Background: This name change fits the program as the coursework is focused on Public Health in general, which is inclusive of a number of public health related areas. While the Public Health and Education title was meant to be inclusive of the program's relationship to school health education, it is proving confusing as the "Education" portion of the title is an outlier among similar programs. In addition to the Public Health (and Education) major, UNI offers a School Health Education Teaching Minor that prepares Teacher Education majors to earn their endorsement to teach at the high school level.

Reason for proposed change: Removing the term "and Education" from the major will clarify that it is the School Health Education Teaching Minor, not the Public Health and Education Major, that will lead these students through the proper coursework for the State of Iowa teaching endorsement. Additionally, while educating the public about health topics is an important and significant portion of what public health workers do, it is just one part of their jobs. Health education is included in the larger umbrella term of "public health."

Effect on program configuration: No changes in program configuration or curriculum are planned.

Effect on students: Allowing a name change to "Public Health" for the major, with minors in "Public Health" and "School Health Education Teaching," will reduce confusion helping students identify the appropriate coursework needed to meet their career goals.

Effect on resources: The proposed change will not require any significant new resources. The only additional costs incurred will be for promotional materials such as rebranding efforts, new brochures and signage.

Date of implementation: Upon approval by the Board of Regents.



College of Public Health

Offices of the Dean

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October 5, 2020

Oksana Grybovych Hafermann, EdD
Head, Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services
University of Northern Iowa
WRC 203
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0241

Dr. Grybovych Hafermann,

I am writing to you regarding your proposed name change for a BA degree in Public Health and Education to a BA in Public Health. While I initially was concerned with overlap of our two undergraduate programs based on your proposed name change and the similarity it presents with our current undergraduate public health degrees, our email exchange helped to clarify two issues:

- Your undergraduate degree is focused more on environmental health and community public health instead of a general public health degree;
- You do not intend to pursue accreditation, which will ensure that our programs are not duplicative in their curriculum, as our program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

I am thus supportive of your proposed name change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edith A. Parker".

Edith A. Parker, DrPH, MPH
Dean, College of Public Health
Professor of Community and Behavioral Health