

Proposition 01-13/14: Request to Change Major Name

Sponsors: Dennis Clason (Business), Cynthia Kratzke (H&S)

Proposed Committee: Scholastic Affairs

Actual Committee Assignment: Scholastic Affairs

Proposition: The Bachelor of Community Health degree currently offered by the Department of Public Health Sciences shall be re-named *Bachelor of Public Health*. The change shall be effective immediately on publication in the University's catalog.

Rationale: The Department of Public Health Sciences (recently changed from Health Science) offers a Bachelor in Community Health (BCH) and a Master in Public Health (MPH). The BCH has been offered since the mid-1980s. Since that time, the term public health has become the more common name. Throughout the country, programs that were 'Community Health' are now using the term 'public' health. The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the American Public Health Association (APHA), two major public health organizations, have been vocal supporters of universities exchanging the word 'community' with 'public'.

Since NMSU is on the cutting edge on training public health practitioners (we're the ONLY institution in the country that has an undergraduate approved program and an accredited graduate MPH), it's important that we make this change. It is also appropriate because we offer a Master in PUBLIC Health, and our name was recently changed to PUBLIC Health Sciences.

Examples of other universities that have changed from 'Community' to 'Public' includes East Tennessee State University, Temple, Westminster, West Chester University, Johns Hopkins, the University of Massachusetts, Kent State University, and the University of California at Berkeley. These institutions have also seen large increases in enrollment once the degree was changed from Community to Public. In fact, at the University of Massachusetts, the Public Health major was voted as the number 1 major.

It should be noted that the curriculum will not change. The only change is swapping the obsolete term of 'community' with the more recognized term 'public'.