



News From *The* NATION'S HEALTH

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New Criteria for Accreditation to Chart Updated Course for Public Health Education

With a goal of graduating public health students ready to practice from day 1, the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) recently announced revised accreditation criteria that represent the biggest change to public health curricula since the 1940s.

Officially rolled out in conjunction with APHA's 2016 Annual Meeting and Expo in Denver, Colorado, in October, "Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health and Public Health Programs, Amended October 2016" introduces a new framework for assessing the quality of public health education, shifting the traditional accreditation focus from core curricula to core competencies.

Laura Rasar King, MPH, MCHES, executive director at CEPH, noted that while the US Department of Education requires accrediting agencies such as CEPH to regularly assess and revise their criteria, the 2016 revision marks a major turning point in public health education. In particular, King said the revision addresses a recurring thread that she and her colleagues had been hearing from stakeholders and employers—that public health students are graduating with excellent technical knowledge, but without the competencies to translate that knowledge into effective day-to-day practice.

Highlights of the revised criteria include moving curricular expectations from a course-based topical framework to a framework built around knowledge and practice skills, eliminating a number of requirements to make room for greater flexibility and innovation, and reducing accreditation reporting requirements to enable a greater focus on student achievements and outcomes, rather than on curricula inputs.

— Kim Krisberg

Read the full article in *The Nation's Health* at www.thenationshealth.org.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, center, arrives November 14, 2016, in Morocco to attend the COP22 climate change conference. The meeting served as the first official meeting of parties to the Paris Agreement, which is working to contain the rise in global temperatures.

Photo by Evan Schneider, courtesy United Nations.

Year of Climate Change and Health: Public Health Taking Action as Climate Change Heats Up

In July, scientists with NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies released a startling finding: each of the first 6 months of 2016 were the warmest occurrences of their respective months in modern history.

Then, in mid-November, as higher temperatures continued around the globe, the World Meteorological Organization announced it was likely that 2016 would turn out to be the hottest year ever recorded.

The new findings emphasize what science has increasingly documented in recent years: climate change is already affecting the environment—and it is increasingly causing harm to human health.

While some people think of climate change as something that is far off in the future, "it is impacting people right now," according to APHA member David Fukuzawa, MSA, MDiv, managing director of the Kresge Foundation's Health and Human

Services Program. Through its environmental program, the foundation is working to help communities build resilience and protect public health in the face of climate change.

"The impact on human health needs to be elevated in the discussion on climate change," Fukuzawa told *The Nation's Health*.

Armed with growing evidence and calls for action, APHA declared in November that 2017 will be the Year of Climate Change and Health. The observance will be used to increase understanding on climate change by harnessing the strength of the public health and environmental workforce. APHA will be sharing resources and educating its members about climate change. A supplement on climate change and health will be published by APHA's *American Journal of Public Health*, and the Association will be creating new fact sheets and graphics to accompany the research in the issue.

— Michele Late

Read the full article in *The Nation's Health* at www.thenationshealth.org.

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