November 2005

Dear Student,

Thank you for your enquiry about our Doctor of Public Health (DrPH). Please find enclosed our Information Package which comprises:

1. A fact sheet on the DrPH
2. An application form for the DrPH (including Appendix A which outlines the preparation of a portfolio which all applicants must submit)
3. An overview of the structure of the DrPH (Appendix B)
4. A description of the topics in the DrPH (Appendix C)
5. Details of DrPH Admission and Credit Transfer procedure (Appendix D)

For information on fee structure, refer to the following web address:
http://www.flinders.edu.au/enrolling/fee_06.htm

If you are not an Australian Citizen you must get an application from our International Office.: http://www.flinders.edu.au/enrolling/fee_06.htm

If you have any questions related to the DrPH please do not hesitate to contact us on telephone (08) 8204 4628, email public.health@flinders.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Carol Gibb

Administrative Officer (Academic)
APPENDIX A
THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DrPH)

Portfolio Preparation

Applications for admission to the DrPH must be supported by a portfolio which demonstrates the applicant’s eligibility and suitability for the course. The portfolio should contain the following:

1. Summary (1-2 pages) setting out an argument as to how and why the applicant meets the admission criteria.
2. Statement (1-2 pages) outlining the applicant’s rationale for seeking to undertake the DrPH program.
3. Indication of whether the applicant is applying for credit transfer in relation to all or some of the first year topics, and if so, presentation of a case for consideration based on the Admission and Credit Transfer Procedure detailed in Appendix D.
4. Supporting Evidence:
   - Curriculum vitae
   - Transcript of academic record
   - Verification of the portfolio content in the form of an endorsement by an appropriate person ‘at arms length’ (for example, an employer or supervisor)
   - Letters of support from at least two people in a position to judge the applicant’s commitment to professional practice, leadership, and capacity to contribute to innovation in their field
   - Names and contact details of at least two people who are willing to provide confidential referee reports if requested
   - Further evidence of suitability may be demonstrated by inclusion of additional information such as academic results, career achievements, responsibilities and promotions and/or specific references. Relevance of this information to the DrPH program should be made explicit.

NB Applicants who hold academic positions may meet the admission criteria, but should consult the Course Coordinator (or nominated faculty representative) before preparing their application.

Associate Professor Colin MacDougall
Course Coordinator
Department of Public Health
October 2005
## APPENDIX B
### STRUCTURE of DrPH

#### FULL TIME (3 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1*</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of PHC Core Topics (18 units)</td>
<td>Public Health Studies (18 units)</td>
<td>Professional Doctorate Dissertation (36 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of PHC Elective Topics (18 units), 12 of which should comprise research methods topics, selected from the following: PHCA 8005 Designing Questionnaires and Surveys, PHCA 8006 Qualitative Research Methods, PHCA 8917 Evaluation in Primary Health Care</td>
<td>Public Health Organisation (9 units)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PART TIME (6 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1*</th>
<th>Year 2*</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of PHC Core Topics (18 units)</td>
<td>Master of PHC Elective Topics (18 units), 12 of which should comprise research methods topics, selected from the following: PHCA 8005, PHCA 8006, PHCA 8917</td>
<td>Public Health Studies (18 units)</td>
<td>Public Health Organisation (9 units)</td>
<td>Professional Doctorate Dissertation (18 units)</td>
<td>Professional Doctorate Dissertation (18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*First Year Full-Time (and first and second year part-time) will be made available from existing Masters courses in public health. Students with approved Masters degrees will directly enter second year (third year for part-time students). Students without a Masters degree will be required to take these and to perform at a grade point average of credit or higher.*
APPENDIX C

Year 1 Topics

PHCA 8001 Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

This topic sets the scene for primary health care studies. These studies are based on a social understanding of health. That means that health is viewed as something that results from the activities of everyday life: access to relatives and friends; the ability to move around the community with ease; appropriate housing; rewarding and economically sustaining employment; a physical environment that is safe and organised on a human scale; an economic environment that is sensitive to the needs of people; the provision of accessible and affordable illness-care services.

This topic is concerned with exploring these issues and assessing the extent to which our current community organisation provides these prerequisites for health.

Objectives: At the end of the topic students should be able to demonstrate:

- an application of the interactions between environment, social structures and individual factors in health and illness outcomes
- an understanding of the policies of public health and their effect on health promotion
- an awareness of differing community health needs depending on age, gender, culture and socio-economic factors
- an understanding of social, political, economic and ethical constraints on decisions involved in creating a health promoting community
- a knowledge of different ways of analysing change processes at individual and community levels
- an ability to analyse critically the impact of structural and individual factors on the health of individuals and the community.

PHCA 8007 Research in Primary Health Care: Theory and Practice

The topic examines aspects of qualitative and quantitative research in Primary Health Care, particularly:

- information gathering
- critical appraisal - reviewing literature
- characteristics of good measures, eg reliability, validity
- measurement of health, health status and related indicators
- models of evaluation, eg process, outcome, economic
- sampling techniques
- interviewing and questionnaire development
- participation observation, focus groups, media analysis and case studies
- needs assessment: describing the community
- epidemiological designs: randomised controlled trials, cohort and case control studies
- quasi-experimental designs: pre-test, time-series, ex-post factor, cross sectional
- managing, writing and presenting research.

PHCA 8008 Primary Health Care: Frameworks for Change

This topic aims to help the student understand the roles played by primary health care practitioners in acting for change and to enhance the student’s ability to fulfil such roles competently and effectively.

By the end of their work within this topic, students should be better able to:

- observe, analyse and critique initiatives for change undertaken by individuals, groups or organisations
- address the tasks inherent in program planning skills addressed in this and other topics
- perceive the relevance to primary health care of contemporary educational approaches.
Year 2 Topics  
**PHCA 9200 Public Health Studies**  
This topic will provide students with the opportunity to develop advanced skills in critical analysis in order to examine the relationship between social determinants of health, contemporary public health policy, health practice and research. This involves three main areas of activity:  
- Relating relevant theory and policy principles to complex problems in public health and primary health care  
- Critically appraising practices, training, and allocation of resources in health, and the policy activities that address health inequalities  
- Assessing the role of research and evaluation in the development of policy and the sustained improvement of practice leading to equity of access and outcome in health care  

Students will be expected to integrate theory and practice through learning techniques which emphasise innovation and creativity in problem-solving, including peer review and teamwork. The final assignment will be externally examined.

**PHCA 9201 Public Health Organisation**  
This topic will provide students with advanced skills in the analysis of organisational management structures and the process of organisational change. As well as taking part in seminars in aims and methods of organisational analysis, analytical and problem solving skills in management, students will undertake a placement with an organisation with a stated commitment to providing effective, responsive and equitable public service to improve the health and well-being of the community. During the placement students will conduct an organisational analysis and prepare and present a report to the organisation. The final assignment will be externally examined.

**PHCA 9202 Public Health Research**  
This topic will prepare students for the major research component of the degree by facilitating advanced study in public health research methodologies. In particular, it will explore the philosophical underpinnings of different research paradigms, address the ethical and value-based issues arising from conducting public health research, and examine in detail the principal research methods used in public health. By the end of the topic students will have prepared their research proposal and literature review and will have secured a supervisor for their research dissertation.

Year 3 Topics  
**PHCA 9300 Professional Doctorate Dissertation.**  
In the dissertation, candidates focus on the examination and explication of public health problems. Candidates will complete a dissertation of no longer than 45,000 words including references and appendices reporting on research which develops new insights and knowledge in the application of a range of methodologies to address public health issues. The dissertation will be examined externally by experts in the field chosen by the Committee appointed to oversee the DrPH.
APPENDIX D
DrPH ADMISSION AND CREDIT TRANSFER PROCEDURE

ADMISSION CRITERIA
Applicant possesses:
- Hons degree 2A level,
- OR
- Masters degree grade point average credit or better,
- OR
- Completed at least 2 years graduate entry medical program (Flinders University) or equivalent
AND
- Professional experience (see criteria)

YES

CREDIT TRANSFER CRITERIA:
Option 1- full credit
Candidate holds approved Masters degree (or equivalent) including development of skills and capacities in both:
- a. Social, economic and environmental context for public health practice (18 units)
- b. Qualitative and quantitative research methodologies (18 units)

NO

Option 2 - partial credit
Candidate fulfils part of requirements of a. and/or b.

YES

Credit 36 units in first year

NO

Credit less than 36 units in first year

DrPH Year 1
- less than 36 units to complete

DrPH Year 1
- full 36 units to complete

DrPH Year 2

DrPH Year 3

Recommend no admission - referral to MPHC