

Department of Public Health Sciences Advisory Board

June 10th 2019

Mission

The mission of New Mexico State University Department of Public Health Sciences is “*To provide academic, professional, and service excellence in preparing community health education professionals who will demonstrate competent leadership, innovation, and technical expertise at local, state, and national levels, with particular emphasis on border and rural health problems in communities along the U.S./Mexico border.*”

Department of Public Health Sciences

The department of Public Health Sciences is part of NMSU’s College of Health and Social Services (CHSS). Academic program offerings include both a bachelor’s and master’s degrees, undergraduate minors, and a Graduate Certificate in Public Health.

The department’s undergraduate program provides seamless integration for students to enter from successful completion of the public health associate’s degree program at the Doña Ana Community College. In addition, incoming students come from diverse backgrounds and disciplines and bring broad interests to pursue our undergraduate degree. At the bachelor’s level, the department offers a Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) degree focused on community health education with an emphasis on public health issues and health disparities in rural border and tribal communities. The BPH degree is offered in both on campus and online course formats. The department also offers three undergraduate minors for students pursuing other majors at the university, in U.S./Mexico Border Health, Gerontology, and Public Health.

At the graduate level, the department offers a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program with two areas of concentration to choose from, Health Behavior and Health Promotion (HBHP), and Health Management, Administration and Policy (HMAP). The MPH is offered both full-time and part-time, and coursework can be completed either in the classroom setting or online. The MPH is also offered as a dual degree along with a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the NMSU School of Social Work. The department offers a 15-credit Graduate Certificate in Public Health.

One important aspect of our degree programs is the field experience/practicum requirement that each student has to complete, which is arranged in the geographical area where the student resides. During their student field experience/practicum, PHS graduate and undergraduate students contributed a total of 13,120 hours of community engagement during the Summer ’18, Fall ’18 and Spring ’19 semesters. If these services had been provided to the community for pay, the total value at current pay scale would have been \$261,996.

Purpose of the Advisory Board

The advisory board provides a vehicle for input to the department regarding how best to meet the educational, service, and research needs of students, the larger borderland communities, and beyond. Through education, research, service, outreach, and community engagement, the department, with the input and assistance of the advisory board, is better able to address the social determinants of health in the border region and beyond. This in turn can enhance how we view communities and work in them through a social justice frame and a health equity lens.

Therefore, we envision that the overall purpose of the advisory board is to help the department build pathways to healthier borderlands as well as contribute to the well-being of regional, tribal, and international communities through implementation of intentional academic-community partnerships and collaborative work. In this context the board serves in a traditional advisory capacity to the department head, faculty, and staff regarding the effectiveness of departmental outreach, and the direction and delivery of educational programs and services. The board also plays an important role in highlighting the department’s research endeavors, policy engagement, and fund-raising. The advisory board serves as a key partner and assists in the expansion and effectiveness of the department’s community engagement.

Functions of the advisory board

Advisory board members shall be asked to provide input to the department in the areas listed below, and in other areas as new opportunities are discovered.

- **Public health curriculum and its expansion**
- **Student outcomes and program effectiveness**
- **Faculty and student research and scholarship efforts**
- **Workforce development**
- **Professional and community service**
- **Meeting the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation standards**
- **Identify, assist with, and connect with partners regarding fundraising for departmental needs (i.e. scholarships and research projects)**
- **Periodic review of department's mission/vision/values/goals/objectives**
- **Public health practice and community engagement**
- **Responsiveness to community needs**
- **Diversity and cultural humility**

Term of advisory board service and constituencies of advisory board members

Advisory board membership consists of a three-year term that can be extended to one/two more terms. The board will be composed of stakeholders from the borderlands and regional communities, including but not limited to representatives from the business, faith, non-profit, and education sectors, along with alumni, employers of PHS alumni, and NMSU students, faculty and staff from multiple areas of study. These stakeholders are experts in a variety of disciplines and will be able to assist the department decision-making to meet the needs of our students and the changing demands of the workforce.

The Department of Public Sciences Advisory Board shall meet twice each year, once in the spring semester and once in the fall semester, face to face or virtually. Any sub-committees formed by the board shall meet between the regular board meetings. As working relationships grow between the department and the advisory board members, the benefits of this collaboration shall also grow to enhance the health and well-being of people and communities.