Proposal for a Certificate in Public Health
Division of Public Health

Institution Submitting Proposal: The University of Utah

College, School or Division affected: Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
Division of Public Health

Change Description: Proposal of Certificate in Public Health

Proposed Beginning Date: Fall Semester 2011

Institutional Signatures

______________________________
Stephen C. Alder, Chief, Division of Public Health

______________________________
Michael K. Magill, Chair, Family and Preventive Medicine

______________________________
Vivian S. Lee, Dean, School of Medicine

______________________________
Charles A. Wight, Dean, Graduate School

______________________________
David W. Pershing, Chief Academic Officer

______________________________
A. Lorris Betz, Interim President

1-9-12

Date
Section I: The Request

The Division of Public Health, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine requests approval to offer a Certificate in Public Health effective fall 2011.

Section II: Program Description

Program Description and Purpose
The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine is seeking permission to formally organize existing coursework to lead to a graduate Certificate in Public Health beginning fall semester of 2011. This Certificate will be offered through the Division of Public Health.

The Certificate in Public Health will be a graduate Certificate requiring 15 credit hours of coursework as listed in Appendix A of this application. The five required classes are the five key disciplines all students educated in Public Health should have understanding as laid out by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH). These classes are offered as introductions to the concepts giving students a well-rounded baseline. It will also be an excellent educational experience to complement graduate students pursuing degrees in other disciplines across the Health Sciences and Main Campus of the University of Utah.

With the growing interest in Public Health, it is felt that offering this Certificate gives students the potential to understand the opportunity and connection public health has in an array of fields such as biostatistics, social behavior, epidemiology, policy and administration and environmental public health through research, service and education. Also, the Certificate will provide local professionals working in the field of public health an opportunity to seek training and certification that will directly impact how they address public health issues in their current professions.

Institutional Readiness
The existing administrative structure supports the proposed Certificate. The Division of Public Health already offers the required courses as part of their Public Health Program, formalizing the Certificate and adding few additional students will not have an impact on the Division.

Library Resources
There should not be any additional resources required for the Marriott or Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Libraries beyond what is normally acquired through faculty requests from these existing courses.

Admission Requirements
For consideration for acceptance into the Certificate Program, all students must:

- have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college with at least a 3.0 GPA
- be admitted to the University of Utah as either a
  - matriculated student in good standing within their home program or
  - non-matriculated student
• meet with the Division of Public Health Academic Advisor
• submit a statement of purpose (500 word limit) to the Division of Public Health Academic Advisor

Student Advisement
As mentioned above, the applicant will be required to meet with the Academic Advisor. During this meeting, the advisor will review the policies, requirements, and discuss course outlines that best fit with the student’s schedule. The Advisor will be available throughout the student’s time in the Certificate Program.

External Review and Accreditation
The program is a CEPH degree accredited granting program. The five required classes are the five key disciplines all students educated in Public Health should have understanding as laid out by CEPH and are annually reviewed during our Internal Reviewed.

Projected Enrollment
It is projected that the Certificate in Public Health will add 5-7 new students each year.

Section III: Need

Program Need
The need for well-trained public health professionals is becoming more evident everyday as the population faces pandemics of chronic and infectious diseases as well as historically unknown global connectedness. This Certificate Program is designed to provide vital training for professionals working in public health or related fields. Curriculum will focus on essential services and core competencies of public health.

Labor Market Demand
We currently receive requests from people with academic degrees who want to have training in public health issues. Also, those people who need/want the knowledge and skill in some of the key disciplines of public health but may not want a master’s degree. An example might be people currently working in a public health setting but have no formal training, those who wish to update their public health training or those who work in related fields and wish to broaden their knowledge of key public health concepts and issues.

Student Demand
We currently allow an average of 10 students per semester from outside programs to take some of our five core areas courses. Noting that the request and interest to take public health classes is already there, creating a Certificate will give students a better direction of what courses to take to enhance their public health education.

Similar Programs
These institutions offer a Certificate in Public Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Housed in</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University of Arizona</td>
<td>College of Public Health</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Health &amp; Sciences U</td>
<td>School of Nursing</td>
<td>19-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U of Colorado Denver &amp; U of Northern Colorado</td>
<td>School of Public Health</td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U of Washington   School of Public Health    29
*U of Montana    School of Public & Community Health Sciences  12
University of New Mexico  Dept. of Family & Community Medicine   15
   (New Mexico Certificate in Public Health is for medical students only)
Touro U California   College of Education & Health Sciences  16
*Westminster   School of Nursing & Health Sciences  18

*These programs are not accredited by CEPH

At this time, there are no CEPH accredited programs offering a Certificate in Public Health in the Intermountain Region. The programs require 15-29 credit hours to complete of their certificate.

Collaboration and Benefits
The development of a Certificate in Public Health could help promote collaboration with other programs at the University of Utah such as Social Work, Public Administration, Public Policy, Nursing, and Health Education and Promotion. As well as giving Utah State University students who have completed their Bachelors of Science in Public Heath the opportunity to further their education without a full master’s degree. In addition to the names of the faculty members listed who will teach the courses, the Division has a growing wealth of partners who are very knowledgeable in public health issues and will serve as mentors. The wealth of partnerships will provide Certificate students with ample opportunities to participate in public health projects.

Consistency with Institutional Mission
In conjunction with The University of Utah’s mission “to serve the people of the world through the discovery, creation and application of knowledge” and the Division of Public Health’s mission “to advance the scholarship of promoting and protection the health of communication in Utah and around the globe in research, education and service.” The Certificate does just that by strengthening our partnerships and by giving everyone the opportunity to learn the key concepts of public health.

Section IV: Program and Student Assessment

Assessment
Upon successful completion of the Certificate course work, students will have skills necessary to achieve the performance standards listed below.

The Division of Public Health has national accreditation from CEPH. CEPH has set standards for courses, programs, and outcomes in public health. They require periodic review of courses and learning outcomes.

Expected Standards of Performance
Upon successful completion of course work leading to the Certificate in Public Health, students will be prepared to:

1. Partner with other health professionals to address public health issues.

2. Use a variety of public health theories and skills to monitor disease, promote behavior change, influence policy, and conduct rigorous, ethical research.
This will be measured by the minimum grade policy which requires candidates for graduate certificates to maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA in course work counted toward the Certificate. A grade below B- is not accepted for credit toward a graduate certificate.

A final grade in a Certificate in Public Health course below a B- is a failing grade in the Program. Failure means the student has not demonstrated competence in a discipline necessary for success within the Program. For these reasons, the following action is recommended:

1. A student who fails one required course will be given the opportunity to retake the course one more time. The student will be permitted to take other Certificate courses for which the required course is not a prerequisite. Students will not be permitted to accrue more than six hours before retaking the required course.

2. A student who fails two required courses will not be permitted to enroll in any further Program courses until he or she has retaken both courses and receives grades of B- or better.

3. Two grades lower than a B- in elective courses will be consideration for dismissal. Actions arising from this policy may be appealed by the student using the appeals process outlined by the University of Utah – Appeals of Grades and Other Academic Actions.

Since the students are taking classes with other Graduate students, the instructors, as in any class, will be able to assess a student’s ability and knowledge regarding the concepts upon completion of the class.

Section V: Coordinator

Professor Stephen Alder, Division Chief, with support from the Academic Advisor, Courtney DeMond, will be the coordinators for the Certificate in Public Health.

Section VI: Advisory Committee

The Certificate of Public Health Advisory Committee consists of:

- Stephen Alder, PhD
- Jim VanDerslice, PhD
- Michael Magill, MD
- Sharon Talboys, MPH
- David Sundwall, MD
- Les Chatelain, MS

Section VII: Finance

The addition of a Certificate in Public Health will not impose any new direct financial cost since the department has existing faculty, staff and courses in place. However, personnel and faculty may face modest increase of only a few students in administrative tasks related to admissions, tracking and student counseling.
Appendix A: Program Curriculum

All Program Courses (List all courses, including new courses, to be offered in the proposed program by prefix, number, title, and credit hours (or credit equivalences).) Use the following format:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Title, Credit Hours &amp; Instructor</th>
<th>Course Descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6100</td>
<td>Biostatistics (3) Drs. Gren &amp; Alder</td>
<td>Recommended Prerequisite: College Algebra. Basic course in the use of biostatistical methods in the analysis of health and medical data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6300</td>
<td>Epidemiology (3) Drs. Lyon &amp; Porucznik</td>
<td>Basic principles of epidemiology, with emphasis on determining causation of chronic disease. Fundamentals of epidemiologic study design and data resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6400</td>
<td>Public Health Policy &amp; Administration (3) Dr. Hammer &amp; Ms. Dorius</td>
<td>Provide students with the opportunity to learn leadership competencies and identify opportunities in public health and private sector organizations. Gain an understanding of public health policy and its influence on organizations and populations from a federal to local level. Learn how the formation of public health policy by federal and state governments can impact private sector organizations and health care delivery systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6600</td>
<td>Social Context in Public Health (3) Drs. Byrd, de Schweinitz &amp; Sundwall</td>
<td>The course will consider disease and illness within socio-cultural contexts. Emphasis will be placed on the ethical, behavioral, social, cultural, political and economic factors that influence the prevention/treatment of medical and public health problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6700</td>
<td>Environmental Public Health (3) Dr. VanDerslice</td>
<td>This course provides a comprehensive view of the aspects of the physical environment which effect public health. The course covers the social, political and economic conditions which influence the release of contaminants into the environment, the chemical and physical processes governing the movement of contaminants through the environment, human exposure patterns, and the biological mechanisms leading to adverse health impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number of Credits 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Appendix B: Program Schedule

**Student Name:**_________________________  **Student ID Number:**____________________

**Student Phone:**________________________  **Email:**_____________________________

**Home Department/Program:**_______________  **Home Degree:**_______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Title &amp; Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Semester Courses are offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6100</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Fall (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring (online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6300</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Fall (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6400</td>
<td>Public Health Policy &amp; Administration</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Fall (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6600</td>
<td>Social Context in Public Health</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Fall (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer Exec. (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP MD 6700</td>
<td>Environmental Public Health</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Spring (in class)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Number of Credits** 15

Planned Completion Semester and Year:________________________________________

**Student Signature and Date:**______________________________________________

**Home Department/Program Advisor Signature and Date:**________________________

**Program Coordinator Signature:**___________________________________________
Appendix C: Faculty

Stephen C. Alder, PhD, MS
Division Chief and Associate Professor
Stephen C. Alder, PhD, is the Chief of the Division of Public Health. His work focuses on health disparities, community health development and clinical research. With a background in ecological approaches to health, he has worked in multiple settings to develop sustainable ways of improving health with a focus on self-reliance. His work includes approaches to reducing unnecessary antibiotic use, improving cancer screening, diagnosis and care among American Indian seniors, and comprehensive community health development and research methods and biostatistics for clinical studies.

James VanDerslice, PhD
Associate Division Chief and Associate Professor
Jim VanDerslice, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Division of Public Health. His research focuses on evaluating human exposures to chemical and microbiological hazards in the environment. Several of his studies have examined contaminants in drinking water and foods, and their effects on infants and children. He utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a tool to assess spatial patterns in exposures. He has recently become interested in the effects of the built environment on physical activity and obesity, and is using GIS to classify the built environment of SLC neighborhoods using spatial data and aerial imagery.

Lisa Gren, PhD, MSPH
Lisa Gren, PhD, MSPH is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Public Health. Dr. Gren's research interests are in practice-based research in primary care, clinical epidemiology, and clinical trials methodology. Active areas of research include influenza surveillance in outpatient settings, utilization of clinical resources (including electronic medical records) for public health research, use of public health data in clinical decision-making, and operations and management of clinical trials.

Joseph L. Lyon, MD, MPH
Joseph L. Lyon, MD, MPH is a Professor in the Division of Public Health. He earned his bachelor's degree and medical degree from the University of Utah; and his Masters of Public Health degree at Harvard University. His research interests include: etiology of chronic diseases (especially cancer); effects of diet; occupational exposures; social class and environmental pollutants on disease causation, the utilization of large databases for epidemiologic research, the evaluation of prevention programs.

Christy Porucznik, PhD, MSPH
Christy Porucznik, PhD, MSPH is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Public Health. As an epidemiologist, she works to measure exposures and outcomes in research areas as diverse as food safety, physical activity, injury, fatal prescription drug poisoning, and reproductive health. She teaches epidemiology with a special interest in infectious disease.

David N. Sundwall, MD
David Sundwall, MD is a Professor in the Division of Public Health as well as a primary care physician with over thirty years of experience in public policy and service. After 24 years in various health positions in Washington, D.C., he returned home to lead the Utah Department of Health. He earned his medical degree at the University Of Utah College Of Medicine and is now a Professor in their Department of Family
and Preventive Medicine. He maintains his clinical connection to patients by volunteering weekly at the Utah State Health Clinic. Dr. Sundwall is widely recognized for his professional achievements and contributions to healthcare policy and advocacy.

A. Dean Byrd, PhD, MBA, MPH
Dean Byrd, PhD, MBA, MPH is an Adjunct in the Division of Public Health. Dr. Byrd earned his PhD in psychology from BYU, his post-doctoral was in Child and Family Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and Medical College of Virginia, in addition to a second post-doctoral degree in Behavioral Medicine from Loyola University, Chicago. He also received both an MPH from the University of Utah and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. He currently sits as President of the Thrasher Research Fund.

Peter de Schweinitz, MD, MSPH
Peter de Schweinitz, MD, MSPH is an Adjunct in the Division of Public Health. His academic interests include social and family medicine, public health ethics and global health. He works part-time (Family and Medicine with Obstetrics) at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks, Alaska currently developing international service research collaboration in western Guatemala.

Josette Dorius, MPH
Josette Dorius, MPH, is an Adjunct in the Division of Public Health. Ms. Dorius earned her MPH from the University of Utah in 2003. She is the Service Director for the Neurobehavioral HOME Program and Chile and Adolescent/Adult Behavioral Health in the Department of Psychiatry/University Neuropsychiatric Institute. Her research interests include "Patient Perception of Quality in a Primary Care Setting," and Public Health Policy and Health Systems.

Doug Hammer, JD, MPH
Doug Hammer, JD, MPH has been an Adjunct with the Division of Public Health for over 10 years. He earned his Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan and his Juris Doctor from the University of Utah. Currently he is the Vice President and General Counsel in charge of legal affairs for Intermountain Health Care.