

## **Redesigning the DrPH program at JHSPH**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **Q. Why are so few departments offering the DrPH this year?**

A. JHSPH is in the process of redesigning our DrPH program. As part of the transition to a new School-wide program some departments have chosen not to offer a DrPH in the 2016/17 academic year. The only departments accepting students for an August 2016 start date are the Epidemiology Department, the Environmental Health Sciences Department and the Department of Health Policy and Management.

#### **Q. When will the new School-wide DrPH program start?**

A. It is anticipated that students will be able to start the new program in June 2017. This will mean applying to the program by December 15, 2016.

#### **Q. Will the new program be offered part-time or full time?**

A. We plan to offer the new School-wide DrPH program as a predominantly part-time program. However we recognize that for some students, it may be difficult to pursue a part-time program. For example visa issues may make a part-time program difficult for international students. Further, some students may wish to go full time for one or two terms so as to accelerate their progression through the program. In such cases we are committed to working with the student to tailor a program that meets his or her needs.

#### **Q. What does a “part-time” program really mean? Will students need to come to campus or will most classes be online?**

A. We think it is important that students have some face-to-face contact with each other and with core program faculty. Students will need to come to Baltimore at least four times during the first two years of the program to participate in summer and winter DrPH institutes. Each of the DrPH institutes will take place over five days (with the exception of the first one, which will involve an orientation and take a little longer). Students may wish to stay longer to take advantage of other intensive classes offered during the summer and winter intersession. The DrPH institutes will be crafted to help accelerate progress through the program, as well as build a sense of cohort and community among the students in the program.

#### **Q. Will I be able to specialize in a certain field within the DrPH program?**

A. All students in the program will take a common core of DrPH classes. These are relatively broad, generalist classes across the DrPH competency areas. They will include both classes specific to different competencies (e.g. analytical skills, communication, leadership) as well as applied case-based classes that integrate different competencies. Beyond this common core, students will be able to specialize either in pre-determined tracks, or alternatively they will be able to work with their advisor to customize their

program so as to match their particular needs and interests.

**Q. Will a dissertation be required?**

A. Yes, Johns Hopkins believes that dissertations are a critical component of doctoral degree studies – and employers whom we have spoken to agree with us! Dissertations enable students to gain experience addressing high-level and complex public health problems, and also expose students to the whole cycle of identifying problems, collecting and analyzing data and developing public health solutions. We are committed to making DrPH dissertations practice-oriented, and to supporting students to identify and develop their dissertation proposals from the very beginning of the program.

**Q. How long will it take for students to complete the program?**

A. We are planning the program so that it is possible to complete it on a part-time basis within four years. However this may be an ambitious time frame for individuals working full-time, and students will have up to nine years to complete the program.

**Q. Will funding opportunities be available for part-time DrPH students?**

A. We are always looking for additional funding support to help students pay for programs at JHSPH, however at this point there are no additional secure sources of funding to support participation in this program. Tuition will be charged on a per credit basis and it is anticipated that students will need a minimum of 64 credits in order to be able to complete the program. JHSPH current tuition policy for part time students is available here: <http://www.jhsph.edu/admissions/tuition-and-fees/>

**Q. How many students do you anticipate admitting into the program?**

A. Initially we plan to admit 30-40 students into the program. This will likely grow over time.

**Q. Are the eligibility requirements for the new DrPH program the same as they were/are for the departmental DrPH programs?**

A. Broadly speaking the eligibility requirements will be similar to those for our current DrPH program. Applicants to the program will be expected to have at least 3 years relevant public health experience. Applicants will also need to possess an MPH or equivalent degree. Students will need to present transcripts from prior studies and GRE scores, or other evidence of academic ability, as part of their applications.

**Q. When will details about the school-wide DrPH program be made available?**

A. We are actively engaged in developing interdepartmental core courses that will form the foundation for the redesigned program. We plan to provide further information about

the program as it becomes available. Please consult our website <http://www.jhsph.edu/academics/degree-programs/doctoral-programs/doctor-of-public-health/> for the most up-to-date information.

**Q. What can we do if we are interested in the DrPH program in 2017?**

A. Please send an email to [JHSPH-DRPH@jhu.edu](mailto:JHSPH-DRPH@jhu.edu) expressing your interest in the new program and we will be sure to contact you once the program opens for applications. We also plan to host several online information sessions regarding the revised program, beginning in July 2016. We will send you detailed information regarding the sessions and how to sign up, as soon as it is available.