

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

### MEMO

**To:** The UVM Faculty Senate  
**From:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair  
**Date:** May 6, 2021  
**Re:** Approval of a request from the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences the College of Nursing and Health Sciences to change the name of the existing Health Sciences undergraduate program and major to Public Health Sciences

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On May 6, 2021, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

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The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a request from the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) to change the name of the Health Sciences undergraduate program and major to Public Health Sciences. Letters of support were provided by the individuals below. The proposal was also approved by the CNHS Curriculum Committee.

- Director of the Health and Society Program, Jeanne Shea
- Director of the Graduate Public Health Programs and Associate Dean for Public Health & Health Policy, Jan Carney
- Dean of CNHS, Noma Anderson
- Dean of the College of Medicine, Richard Page
- Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Abigail McGowan
- Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Leslie Parise

This name change request was driven by a desire to make the name more reflective of the curricular content and structure, and the fact that the Health Sciences program has applied for accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health. Faculty involved in the program feel that the name change will help prospective and current students better understand the program's focus as well as help clarify for community partners the knowledge and skills that students in the major bring to their field work and internships. The proposers also indicated that similar programs offered by other institutions are commonly named "Public Health or Public Health Sciences."

No changes to the curriculum, course code, or program code were requested. The existing curriculum aligns with national learning domains and competencies for an undergraduate degree in public health. Students are challenged to use public health frameworks to think critically about how societies construct health at all levels, and to critically examine the conventional and scientific evidence around

the elements that determine the health of populations including the factors that contribute to disparities in health outcomes. Through the curriculum, students gain the skills needed to define, assess and address health issues facing individuals and communities. As a capstone to the major, students complete a service-learning based project in collaboration with a community partner. The proposers hope that having a name that better reflects the focus of the program will improve their ability to market the program to prospective students.