



1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 220 | Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: (202) 789-1050 | www.ceph.org

June 15, 2022

José Seguinot-Barbosa, PhD
Interim Dean, Graduate School of Public Health
University of Puerto Rico
Sent via email

Dear Dr. Seguinot-Barbosa:

On behalf of the Council on Education for Public Health, I am pleased to advise you that the CEPH Board of Councilors acted at its June 1-3, 2022 meeting to accredit the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Health for a seven-year term, with an interim report due in spring 2023.

The accreditation term extends until July 1, 2029, pending the school's continued documentation of compliance through the interim report, annual reporting, and any other reporting required by the Council.

The interim report will be due on April 6, 2023 and must address the criteria for which there was a "partially met" assessment. Specifically, the interim report should provide evidence that the school has

- a) Implemented practices to track and report DrPH graduation rates accurately and in alignment with CEPH guidelines. The report must include updated data in the format of [Template B3-1](#) (Criterion B3)¹
- a) Fully implemented updated applied practice experience (APE) procedures for DrPH students that meet this criterion's expectations. The report must include APE work products from at least five students completed by the time of the report's submission or all available samples if five are not available. The submission must also include rubrics or other written feedback provided by faculty to assess the quality of the product. (Criterion D6)

Additionally, the Council acted to require a brief phone call with CEPH staff to ensure clarity around reporting requirements. The college should contact [Kristen Varol](#) by June 28 with an indication of several dates and times that would be convenient for this discussion.

Please be aware that failure to come into compliance with all accreditation criteria must trigger specific actions on CEPH's part. These actions, mandated in federal regulations governing accrediting agencies that are recognized by the US Department of Education, include initiating adverse action or, if good cause is demonstrated, extending by one year the period during which the program or school may come into compliance with the remaining criteria, after which CEPH must take adverse action. CEPH is required to deny or revoke accreditation when a school or program fails to demonstrate that it has come into compliance. Thus, interim reports have serious consequences. Additional information about preparing interim reports is available on the [CEPH website](#).

¹ Although the review was conducted using CEPH's 2016 *Accreditation Criteria*, numbering has been adjusted to reflect the more current [2021 Criteria](#). The revised criteria do not impose additional requirements.

We are enclosing a copy of the Council's final accreditation report. The report is also being transmitted to the chief executive officer of your university as the Council's official report. This differs from the team's report that you received prior to our meeting in the following areas:

- The Council added language to Criteria B2 (Graduation Rates) and D6 (DrPH Applied Practice Experience) acknowledging the school's response to the site visit team's report and clarifying its concerns, as applicable.
- The Council changed the finding for Criteria D3 (DrPH Foundational Competencies) and D7 (MPH Integrative Learning Experience) from partially met to met and added language explaining its rationale.

I would like to call your attention to the disclosure provisions in our adopted procedures. You are expected to make the official accreditation report available to the public on request 60 days following the accreditation decision. ***You may make the report and final self-study available in full on your website or must clearly indicate on the website how to request a copy of either document.*** See Section 7 of the [Accreditation Procedures](#) for additional information.

You may append a written response whenever you distribute the report. The official report also will be available on request from CEPH after 60 days, but it is our intent to refer all initial requests to you. If you provide this office with a copy of a written response by July 26, 2022, we will be pleased to append it whenever we respond to a request for the report. Please note that this response is optional.

We would also like to remind you that whenever an accredited school or program undergoes a substantive change, it is obligated to provide written notification to CEPH of the intended change. Substantive changes are defined in the procedures manual, but generally include offering a new degree, adding or discontinuing an area of specialization, offering a degree program in a different format or at a distant site and making major revisions to the curricular requirements. Additional information about substantive changes is available on our [website](#).

We appreciated the many courtesies and helpfulness extended to the site visit team.

Sincerely,



Harry T. Kwon, PhD, MPH, MCHES
President