CEPH TRENDS 2020

DRPH DEGREE OFFERINGS: 2017-2019

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The adoption of CEPH's 2016 Accreditation Criteria defined a curricular structure for the DrPH degree that distinguishes the DrPH from the PhD, as these are the two most common public health doctoral degrees.* The requirements position the DrPH as an advanced practice degree, with the PhD remaining as an advanced research-oriented degree.

All accredited SPH must offer doctoral degrees in at least two disciplinary areas, but SPH may choose to offer only DrPH degrees, only PhD degrees, or a mix of both.

Accredited PHP may choose to include doctoral degrees in their accreditation unit. Accreditation procedures require PHP that offer DrPH degrees in the same organizational unit as the MPH to include the DrPH in the unit of accreditation; PhD degrees offered in the same organizational unit as the MPH do not face the same requirement.

Some units offer doctoral degrees with other names, e.g., ScD, DPHS. For simplicity in this discussion, and because the Accreditation Criteria treat them as such, these degrees grouped with PhDs.

> *Criterion D3: DrPH Foundational Competencies, defines a competency-based curriculum that requires students to master a broad set of skills in leadership, management, teaching/instruction, and other related skills not previously included in accreditation requirements. Criteria D6 and D8 ensure that students reinforce, demonstrate, and integrate these skills through 1) an advanced, mentored practice experience that results in creation of advanced, field-based products and allows for reflection on applied leadership and 2) an advanced scholarly product that reflects the applied nature of the degree and fulfills university requirements for doctoral degree completion.*

OVERALL CHANGE 2017-2019

The percentage of accredited SPH offering DrPH degrees decreased from 56% to 43%. PHP with doctoral degrees in the unit of accreditation followed a similar trend.

REMOVALS AND ADDITIONS

The total number of accredited units offering DrPH degrees decreased from 42 (33 SPH & 9 PHP) to 37 (29 SPH & 8 PHP). The figure on the next page illustrates changes relating to DrPH offerings. In addition to five units that added DrPH degrees for the first time, six SPH with existing DrPH offerings added new concentrations. In total, 17 DrPH concentrations were added.

17 new DrPH offerings

- 4 offer choice of distance-based or on-campus format
- 4 fully distance-based
- 9 on-campus

SPH 2016 (n=59)

49% | 44% | 7%

SPH 2019 (n=67)

57% | 36% | 7%

PHP 2016 (n=18)

50% | 39% | 11%

PHP 2019 (n=19)

58% | 42%
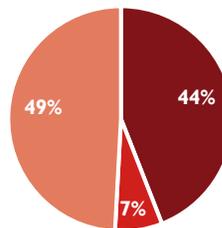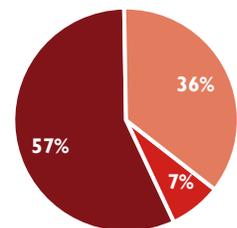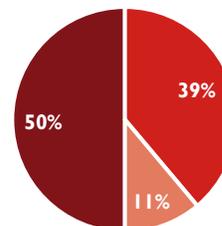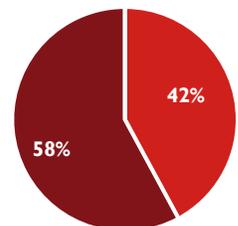
■ DrPH only ■ PhD only ■ DrPH & PhD

Changes to DrPH offerings from 2017-2019

Discontinued all DrPH offerings*
(7 SPH & 3 PHP)

Added DrPH offerings for the first time
(2 SPH & 3 PHP)

Switched DrPH to PhD with few/no curricular changes (n=3)

Low student interest & enrollment (n=3)

Low student interest & faculty/curricula more aligned with PhD (n=1)

DrPH is the only doctoral degree offered (n=3 PHP)

Revising curricula; plan to reinstate DrPH^ (n=3)

New DrPH added to existing PhD offerings (n=2 SPH)

*Discontinuation reasons provided via substantive change notice and personal communication with CEPH staff between December 2019 and April 2020.

^In 2020, after the reporting period covered in this trends report, one of the three units reinstated the DrPH as planned.