



UNIVERSITY  
AT ALBANY

State University of New York

Department of Health Policy, Management & Behavior  
School of Public Health

*A joint venture with the  
New York State Department of Health*

To: Kevin Williams, Dean of Graduate Studies

Copy: Jon Bartow, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies  
Philip Nasca, Dean School of Public Health  
Eric Lifshin, Chair of University Senate  
**Laurence Kranich**, Chair of Graduate Academic Council (GAC)  
James Fossett, Chair of University Planning and Policy Council (UPPC)

*Diane M Dewar*

From: Diane Dewar, Chair of the Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior

Subject: Proposed Suspension of Admission to M.S. in HPMB

Date: March 22, 2011

The Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior of the School of Public Health is hereby formally requesting suspension of admissions to the Master of Science Program offered through the Department effective Fall, 2011.

Owing to low enrollments in the M.S. program in the Department, increasing enrollments in the Master of Public Health Program offered in the Department, and UAlbany minimum enrollment requirements, the M.S. Program is no longer able to offer courses sufficient in number to ensure timely completion of degree requirements. This mirrors national trends with the MPH being the flagship degree in the areas offered through the Department. Further, the Department would like to consider the M.S. degree in a different form in the future as part of a Doctoral program offered through the Department.

Currently, in the 09-10 academic year, only one student is actively pursuing the M.S. in HPMB. By September 2011 the student will have completed most of the 48 credits required for the degree. Faculty are committed to providing the student with the courses needed to finish the program of study.

**Supporting Documentation**  
**Proposal to Suspend Admission to the MS program in HPMB**

Decreasing enrollments which now fall below the number needed to meet minimum graduate class sizes (5), along with an increase in the number of students entering our MPH program in either health administration or behavioral science, have brought about a request by the Health Policy, Management and Behavior Department to suspend admission into the MS program offered through the Department effective Fall 2011.

Admissions to the program have been temporarily suspended for the Fall 2010 semester. Just prior to reaching this decision, one new student was admitted to the MS program in the 09-10 academic year. This student will be contacted with the news that a request to formally suspend admission to the program will be pursued through governance during the 2010-2011 academic year.

As noted in the proposal from the Department, 1 student is currently active in the MS program and will be starting his/her Master's essay during the 10-11 academic year. Faculty will work with this student to assure that the course needs for this program are met.

The School of Public Health recognizes the contribution that the MS program has made over the years and is not requesting a discontinuance of the program at this time. The Department is currently exploring ways that the MS program can be a feasible component of the PhD program that it would like to develop in the coming years. Therefore, by suspending admissions to the MS program, the Department will leave open the possibility of offering this degree in the future if demand warrants and if it is feasible for the successful development of a PhD program in Health Policy, Management and Behavior.

**Attachement:**  
**Historical enrollments**

**Attachment**  
**Historical Enrollments in the MS and MPH Programs Offered Through the**  
**Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior**

	06-07 year	07-08 year	08-09 year	09-10 year
MS-Enrolled	3	0	3	1
MS-GRADS	2	3	4	0
MPH Enrolled	46	41	44	25
MPH GRADS	17	29	33	39