

**Adoption of Revised Accreditation Criteria for PHP & SPH
August 26, 2021**

At its August 26, 2021 meeting, the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) adopted a revision of the *Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health and Public Health Programs*. **The following is important information about implementation of the revised criteria.** As always, CEPH staff will be pleased to answer your questions.

Implementation: Accredited Units

No compliance reporting or extra documentation associated with the criteria adoption will be required prior to the next scheduled review for currently accredited units.

SPH & PHP whose accreditation term expires in...	Review will use...
2021	2016 Criteria 2016 Self-Study Document Template for PHP 2016 Self-Study Document Template for SPH 2016 Data Templates
2022 <i>*Some units with late 2022 visits will have the option to switch to 2021 criteria if desired. Council will provide all units with 2022 expiration terms with an individual letter (sent by 9/22/21) providing specifics.</i>	2016 Criteria * 2016 Self-Study Document Template for PHP 2016 Self-Study Document Template for SPH 2016 Data Templates
2023 <i>** Council will provide all units with 2023 expiration terms with an individual letter (sent by 9/22/21) confirming this expectation.</i>	2021 Criteria ** 2021 Self-Study Document Template for PHP 2021 Self-Study Document Template for SPH 2021 Data Templates
2024 or later <i>*** The Council notifies each accredited unit of its next review approximately 18-24 months before the accreditation term expires; that notification letter indicates the criteria that will govern the review.</i>	2021 Criteria OR subsequent criteria revisions, if adopted***

Units with outstanding interim reports related to foundational competency 21 will also receive an individualized letter outlining deadlines and next steps.

Implementation: Current Applicant Units

Instructions for current applicants (units pursuing initial accreditation) will be provided via an individualized letter by September 22, 2021. In general, applicant units with confirmed site visit dates in 2022 will not be required to use the 2021 revised criteria if the site visit proceeds as scheduled with no extension; some units will have the option to use 2021 criteria if they choose. If you have questions, contact CEPH Staff. If you do not know which CEPH staff member is assigned to your unit, email submissions@ceph.org

Implementation: Units Considering Accreditation

In general, units will be required to submit an IAS using the [updated template](#) that reflects the 2021 criteria effective immediately.

Exceptions may be available for units that 1) attended a live P-AOW (Part B) session between January and August 2021 AND 2) have submitted or plan to submit a first IAS draft and payment of the IAS fee before December 31, 2021. If you have questions, contact [Kristen Varol](#).

Additional Information & Technical Assistance

CEPH will host a webinar on October 13 from 2-3:30 pm ET that provides an overview of the revised criteria and includes an opportunity to ask questions. Register by clicking [here](#). If you cannot attend the session, slides and a recording will be on the CEPH website within 24 hours.

Background & Context

The 2016 revisions were considered quite substantive, and accredited units will still be undergoing the first review with these criteria through December 2025; therefore, the review sought to clarify existing Council interpretations and better explain areas of common misunderstanding or confusion. The table below presents examples of the intended scope of the revisions.

Within intended scope of 2021 revision	Not within intended scope
Clarifying confusing or commonly misunderstood language in criteria or documentation requests, including competency statements as appropriate	Revising substance of foundational knowledge, competencies, or bachelor’s curriculum (i.e., no adding or removing competencies)
Making implicit, intended requirements (consistent interpretations) explicit in criterion language, including competency statements as appropriate	Removing substantive requirements, unless they were unintended or are truly not meaningful
Removing unintended duplication	Adding new requirements
Removing confusing language or concepts	
Streamlining language and documentation requests to focus on Council’s intent & goals for each criterion	

Additionally, the Council acted to consider the important issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion separately from this revision process. A subcommittee of Councilors has been meeting since March to work on proposed revisions throughout the criteria. The Council will likely announce a criteria revision process specific to these issues within the next year and will certainly consider these revisions prior to the scheduled 2026 substantive revision of the criteria as a whole.