

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

### BACKGROUND

After criteria adoption, some stakeholders expressed a broad concern that the criteria might uniquely devalue environmental health sciences (EHS) among the former five core disciplines. CEPH compiled data that address the prevalence of degree offerings in EHS as well as the prevalence of identifiable (by title and/or course description) courses in MPH curricula that focus solely on EHS.

### REQUIRED MPH COURSEWORK IN EHS

Prior to the adoption of the 2016 Criteria, units had to demonstrate that all graduate professional public health degree students completed coursework to prepare students in the five core areas of public health knowledge, including EHS.

With the adoption of the 2016 Accreditation Criteria, coursework addressing the five core areas is no longer a requirement. Instead, the criteria moved to a competency-based model, and units must show that students are grounded in specific foundational knowledge areas as well as prepared and assessed in specific foundational competencies defined by CEPH.

CEPH's analysis of MPH curricula indicate that, as of December 2019, 74% of MPH curricula require at least one identifiable, discrete EHS course. Many of the MPH curricula that do not require an identifiable EHS course are housed in units that shifted to a new, interdisciplinary approach to the overall MPH curriculum—in these models, few or no courses remain that are directly identifiable with core disciplines. When units with interdisciplinary curricula are removed, 84% of all MPH curricula require a clearly identifiable EHS course. This report's section on the MPH curriculum contains additional detail on curricular models and required courses.

### UNITS OFFERING EHS CONCENTRATIONS & DEGREES: DECEMBER 2019

As of December 2019, CEPH records indicate 245 distinct degree/concentration offerings in EHS disciplines across all accredited units (SPH, PHP, and SBP). The table below presents the number and distribution of degrees and concentrations.

	# of concentrations	# of units
<b>Bachelor's</b>	16	13
<b>MPH</b>	116	77
<b>DrPH</b>	10	10
<b>MS</b>	49	31
<b>PhD</b>	54	42

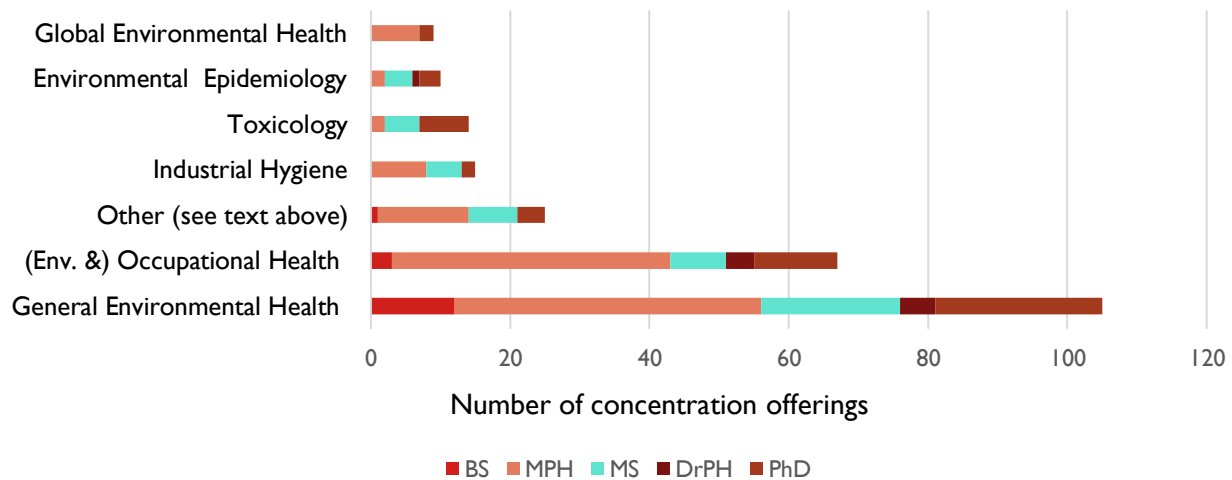
## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON EHS DEGREE OFFERINGS

Concentrations called “Environmental Health” or “Environmental Health Sciences” remain the most prevalent. This category is followed closely by concentrations that reference occupational health, either alone or as “Environmental & Occupational Health.” Other concentrations include the following:

Animals, People & the Environment  
 Climate & Health  
 EHS: Brain, Behavior & the Environment  
 EHS: Promotion & Policy

Exposure Science  
 Food Safety  
 Global Health & the Environment  
 Water Quality & Health

### EHS Degree Offerings by Discipline, Dec 2019



## CHANGES IN EHS OFFERINGS: 2017-2019 IN SPH

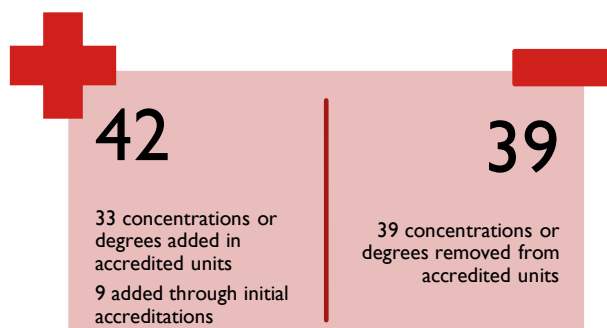
Before adoption of revised criteria, all 59 accredited SPH offered an MPH concentration in EHS, due to accreditation requirements.

As of December 2019, 91% of SPH continued to offer an MPH in EHS, and 94% of SPH offered at least one EHS degree. The following chart includes the number and percent of SPH offering an EHS degree of each of the following types/levels. Units may be counted multiple times across all degree levels.

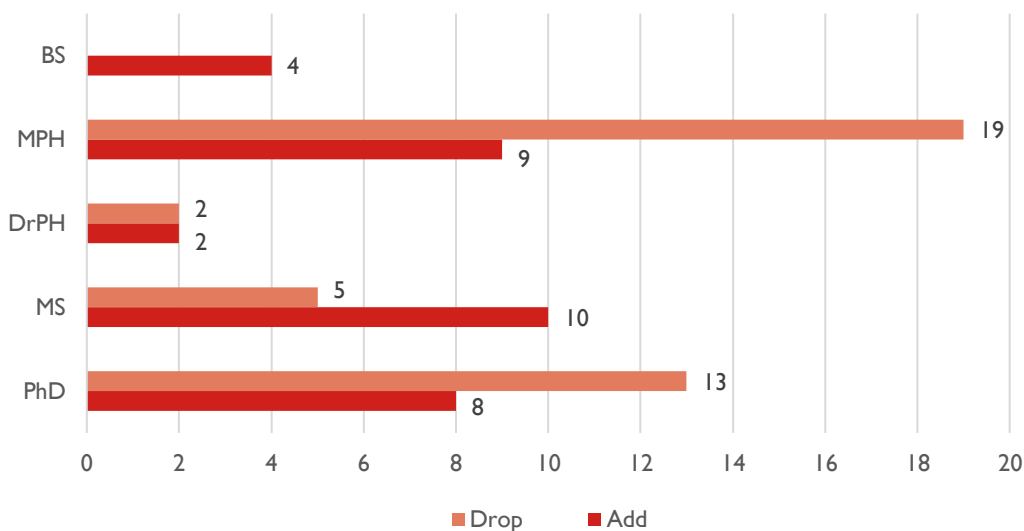
Degree	Bachelor's	MPH	DrPH	MS	PhD
# SPH with EHS concentration(s) as of Dec 2019	11	61	9	28	41
% SPH with EHS concentration(s) as of Dec 2019	16%	91%	13%	42%	61%

## CHANGES IN EHS DEGREE OFFERINGS ACROSS ALL ACCREDITED UNITS: 2017-2019

EHS degree offerings from 2017 to 2019 sustained net growth. CEPH accredited 31 new units containing nine EHS degree offerings (four MPH, two MS, and three PhD). Already-accredited SPH and PHP both added and removed EHS degree offerings during this period.<sup>1</sup>



Changes to EHS Offerings in Accredited Units  
2017-2019



Most units that discontinued EHS offerings cited low enrollment as the reason, as noted below.

### Rationale for discontinuing EHS degree offering\*

Rationale	MPH	DrPH	MS	PhD
Low/zero enrollment	16	1	1	9
Insufficient faculty resources	1	-	-	1
Challenge complying with revised curricular expectations	2	1	-	-
Removed from unit of accreditation <sup>^</sup>	-	-	4	3

\*Reasons gathered through substantive change notices and through personal communication with CEPH staff in December 2019 through March 2020

<sup>^</sup>These degree offerings remain active at the university but moved to an organizational home outside of the unit of accreditation

<sup>1</sup> Only one accredited SBP offers an EHS concentration; it was initially accredited in 2016. There were no changes in SBP EHS offerings during 2017-2019.