

The Educated Citizen and Public Health Initiative

The Educated Citizen and Public Health Initiative aims to fulfill the Institute of Medicine's recommendation that "... all undergraduates should have access to education in public health" (Gebbie K, Rosenstock L, Hernandez LM, eds. Who will keep the public health? Educating public health professionals for the 21st century. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2003: 144). Developed in conjunction with the LEAP Initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), the project creates and organizes publications, presentations, and resources to assist faculty to develop public health curricula in all our nation's colleges and universities.

Goal

The initiative aims to connect and inform, to bring undergraduate study of integrative public health to all baccalaureate institutions, to foster interdisciplinary and inter-professional collaboration, and to link to other initiatives that address human health and environmental sustainability.

Background

A joint venture of arts & sciences, public health, and health professions' deans and faculty, the initiative opened with a consensus conference, November 7-8, 2006, in Boston. The conference was funded by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. For the first time, leaders of the three groups convened to discuss the future of undergraduate education in public health. The conference was sponsored by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR), the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), and the Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences (CCAS). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) participated.

Conferees agreed that undergraduate public health education should result in an educated citizenry prepared to address public health challenges ranging from AIDS to aging, avian influenza, and health-care costs. Undergraduate public health education can prepare students to pursue professional education in public health and other health professions; students who pursue education in disciplines from law to business to international affairs will likewise be capable of critical and analytical thinking that embraces population health. Recommendations from three conference working groups included curricular frameworks and learning outcomes for Public Health 101 and Epidemiology 101, and suggested a structure for minors and an approach to administrative challenges.

Faculty Resources

- The Undergraduate Public Health Faculty Development Institute will be held July 14-15, 2008. An application to receive partial support is available at www.aacu.org.
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: FEBRUARY 27, 2008
- Curriculum Guide to Undergraduate Public Health Education, version 2.0 is available for feedback through APTR at www.teachpublichealth.org, AAC&U at www.aacu.org and CCAS at www.ccas.net
- APTR will sponsor an Undergraduate Public Health Education Day on February 22, 2008 at the APTR national meeting in Austin, Texas. It will include a Skills Building Institute, panel presentation, and the organization of an interest group. www.teachpublichealth.org
- Association of Schools of Public Health provides information on undergraduate majors and minors in Schools of Public Health and Programs in Public Health: www.pathwaystopublichealth.org
- Prevention Education Resource Center (PERC) provides syllabi, curriculum materials and other curriculum resources, as well as a location to upload and share your educational materials. Coming later in 2008, a peer review process for educational materials. www.teachprevention.org

Press and Publications

- *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly* publication of “essential findings” of the Consensus Conference on Undergraduate Public Health Education, October 19, 2007
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5641a5.htm>
- Full consensus conference report through CCAS at www.ccas.net
- CDC Podcast on undergraduate public health education with Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of CDC, forthcoming at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/>
- Press Coverage including an article in APHA’s *The Nation’s Health*, November 2007, and *Inside Higher Education* at <http://insidehighered.com/news/2007/11/07/health>
- Fall 2007 issue of *Liberal Education*: “Back to the Pump Handle: Public Health and the Future of Undergraduate Education” by Susan Albertine, Nancy Alfred Persily, and Richard Riegelman.
http://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/le-fa07/le_fa07_perspectives1.cfm
- Undergraduate education article in *Journal of Public Health Practice & Management*, January 2008
- *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* will publish a series of articles on undergraduate public health education and the consensus conference, forthcoming summer 2008

Presentations

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
Panel: *Undergraduate Public Health Education and Colleges of Nursing*
Washington, DC, October 27, 2007

Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) national meeting
Meeting of ASPH Task Force on Undergraduate Public Health Education
Washington, DC, November 3, 2007

APTR Graduate Council of Public Health Programs
Washington, DC, November 4, 2007

American Public Health Association (APHA)
Session: *Undergraduate Public Health—Implementation*
Session: *Undergraduate Public Health Consensus Conference*
Washington, DC, November 5, 2007

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Panel: *Should Undergraduate Public Health be a Prerequisite for Medical School?*
Washington, DC, November 6, 2007

Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) national meeting
Panel: *Public Health and the Future of Undergraduate Education*
Chicago, IL, November 10, 2007
Presentation can be downloaded at www.ccas.net

Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
Panel: *Public Health and Undergraduate Education*
Washington, DC, January 25, 2008

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