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Office of the President
October 27, 2009

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science in Epidemiology degree with a major in Epidemiology (CIP Code 26.1309, PROG = GS MSEP EPID) in the College of Public Health, effective in the fall 2009 semester.

Background: The proposed Master of Science in Epidemiology is intended to prepare professionals for mid-level careers in conducting population-based research and clinical trials. The Master of Science in Epidemiology is a unique program which strongly emphasizes the acquisition of applied skills in the complementary fields of epidemiology and biostatistics, as well as the theoretical foundations of these disciplines. Graduates of this program will be prepared to work as epidemiologists in academia, government, and industry. In contrast to other masters programs in epidemiology, this program will leverage the unique collaborative environment between the Departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the College of Public Health. The essentially strong cross-training and mentoring nature of the program is intended to develop researchers who will be skilled in designing and conducting epidemiologic studies, analyzing data, and interpreting the results from a variety of designs and databases in the public health and medical research domains.

The two-year program follows the identical coursework requirements of the Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The degree program can provide a terminal master's degree in epidemiology for those students who have successfully completed the coursework for the Ph.D. program but who choose not to pursue a dissertation, fail in the completion of the oral and/or written examinations at a level required for doctoral work, or for personal reasons decide not to continue the program.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and University Senate, and it has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____