

2.2 Program Length. An MPH degree program or equivalent professional master's degree must be at least 42 semester-credit units in length.

a. Definition of a credit with regard to classroom/contact hours.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education defines a semester credit hour as “a minimum of 750 minutes of formalized instruction that typically requires students to work at out-of-class assignments an average of twice the amount of time as the amount of formalized instruction (1,500 minutes).” This works out to be fifteen 50-minute segments.

b. Information about the minimum degree requirements for all professional public health master's degree curricula shown in the instructional matrix. If the program or university uses a unit of academic credit or an academic term different from the standard semester or quarter, this difference should be explained and an equivalency presented in a table or narrative.

Starting in 2008, all students are required to complete 42 semester credit hours in order to graduate from the program. At the last accreditation site visit, one of the partner universities, Ohio University, uses a quarter credit hour. However, all partner universities now use the semester credit hour system. Coursework should be completed in 6 year, although extension maybe requested.

c. Information about the number of professional public health master's degrees awarded for fewer than 42 semester credit units, or equivalent, over each of the last three years. A summary of the reasons should be included.

All CEOMPH students who have entered the program since 2008 have graduated with 42 semester/62 quarter credits. We had two exceptions for students who started the program prior to 2008, when the program was 39 semester credits: one student started the program in 2003, and requested an extension due to a serious illness. The other exception is a student who started in 2006, who requested an extension due to work issues.

a. Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the program's strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion.

This criterion is met. CEOMPH offers a 42 semester credit hour degree.

Strengths: After the program increased its semester credit hours to 42 in 2008, all students have earned 42 semester credit hours.

Weaknesses: Two students who started the program prior to the semester credit change graduated with less than 42 semester credits.

Plan: Continue offering the 42 semester credit hour MPH degree.