

2.0 Instructional Program

2.10 Doctoral Degrees. The program may offer doctoral degree programs, if consistent with its mission and resources.

Interpretation. *A public health program may offer doctoral degrees if it has faculty expertise, availability of advanced-level courses and active research sufficient to support the development and offering of doctoral degree curricula. These curricula must meet CEPH's requirements for professional or academic degrees, as appropriate.*

Establishment of an accreditable doctoral program is contingent on the establishment and support of sufficient advanced-level coursework within the program. Doctoral programs must not rely extensively on master's-level courses but should have courses that are specifically developed for, and have learning objectives targeted toward, doctoral students. To attract strong doctoral students and to provide all students with a quality education, programs must ensure that doctoral courses are available beyond those associated with the master's degree, such that a student completing an MPH at the program would have ample additional coursework available if he or she were to remain at the institution for doctoral study.

The accreditation criteria do not define a minimum number of post-master's credit hours associated with the degree. The Council expects, however, that credit requirements will fall within the range typical of the discipline. It is especially important that programs clearly explain and document the proportion of total doctoral credits required in post-master's degree didactic coursework and how many credits are allocated to exams and to the dissertation or thesis and related research. In total, many successful academic doctoral programs require at least 50-60 semester credits of didactic coursework. In total, successful professional doctoral programs typically require between 30-50 semester credits of didactic coursework, plus practice experience, exams and a professional project or dissertation.

Required Documentation. The self-study document should include the following:

- a. Identification of all doctoral programs offered by the program, by degree and area of specialization. The instructional matrix in Criterion 2.1.a may be referenced for this purpose.
- b. Description of specific support and resources available to doctoral students including traineeships, mentorship opportunities, etc.
- c. Data on student progression through each of the program's doctoral programs, to include the total number of students enrolled, number of students completing coursework and number of students in candidacy for each doctoral program. See CEPH Template 2.10.1.
- d. Identification of specific coursework, for each degree, that is aimed at doctoral-level education
- e. 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.