"Custom Concentration" in the MPH

Rationale: Dual degree students, especially the MD-MPH students, who must complete the MPH in 3 semesters, often encounter logistical problems in completing one of the established MPH concentrations. For example, the Epidemiology concentration can technically not be completed in fewer than 2 fall semesters because of the way required courses are sequenced. Epidemiology is, however, of high interest to MD students, and this option allows them to take most of the Epi concentration courses while substituting some courses. There may also be small groups of students who would benefit from this option. For example, at the Anschutz campus there is an International Emergency Medicine fellowship that has expressed an interest in developing a custom concentration to incorporate their interests and educational needs in community assessment/program planning, global health, and disaster management. Having such an option available enables flexibility in developing custom program for specific student groups without creating a published concentration for each one.

Plan: In order to develop a custom concentration, each dual degree individual student or group will follow these steps:

1) Identify a faculty sponsor to advise and supervise the program of study. In many or most cases, this will be the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, but it could also be another faculty member with expertise in the particular area(s) of interest.

2) Create a statement of focus for the concentration that answers the basic question: In what area(s) does the student want to gain expertise and how does this fit within the field of public health?

3) Identify a set of approximately 5-8 competencies to be accomplished in the custom concentration. In most cases these competencies will be drawn from existing competencies identified for each of the published concentrations. However, students could create new competencies that are not already associated with an existing concentration, but for which course(s) exist in the ColoradoSPH curriculum. The course offerings of the ColoradoSPH must support the custom concentration and the identified competencies.

4) Identify at least 12 credits of coursework in the ColoradoSPH that address the competencies. Provide a map of the competencies to the courses.

5) Obtain approval for the statement of focus, competencies, and planned coursework from the faculty sponsor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

6) Submit the approved plan to the Office of Academic Affairs for placement in the student's academic file.

7) The student's capstone project should relate to the custom program of study and address some portion of the identified competencies, as is true for all established concentrations.

8) When the student applies for graduation, the student's coursework will be compared to the plan of study to determine whether graduation requirements have been met.

9) The diploma and transcript will reflect no concentration.

<p style="text-align: center;">**Request for Custom Concentration**</p>

Student Name:_____   **Student ID #:**_____

 Faculty Sponsor:_____

Title of Custom Concentration:_____

Statement of Focus (In what area(s) does the student want to gain expertise and how does this fit within the field of public health?):

In the following table, identify a minimum of 5 and not more than 8 competencies that support your interest area. These must be chosen from existing MPH concentration competencies, or may be created by the student. The full list of MPH competencies is available at: http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/Academics/degreesandprograms/Documents/Competencies%20for%20all%20MPH%20Graduates.pdf. Then, indicate the course(s) that will address each competency. The list of courses cannot include MPH core courses and must total at least 12 credit hours. One course may be used to address more than one competency.

Competency (provide # and text of competencies)	Courses (provide # and title of course) addressing each competency	Credit hours

Student Signature:_____   **Date:**_____

Faculty Sponsor Signature:_____   **Date:**_____

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Signature:_____   **Date:**_____

<p style="text-align: center;">Please return completed form to:
Office of Academic Affairs
ColoradoSPH.AcademicAffairs@ucdenver.edu</p>