

## **NEW MPH CAPSTONE FORMAT AT ANSCHUTZ CAMPUS STARTING FALL 2017**

Starting in fall 2017, at the Anschutz Campus we will be offering the MPH Capstone in a new format. We are separating the 2-credit capstone course (PUBH 6955) into two 1-credit courses, which will be taken in consecutive semesters. **If you plan to complete the capstone in spring 2018,** you will take “Capstone Preparation” in fall 2017, and “Capstone Integration” in spring 2018 (each for 1-credit).

This change comes after collecting input from many students and faculty, who told us that students often do not have the guidance they need as they prepare for and plan their capstone projects. By separating the experience into two semesters, students will have a chance to focus on the development of their projects with faculty guidance as well as input from other students, and complete higher quality projects.

**Capstone Preparation** (1 credit) will be delivered within each department. This will provide the opportunity for students to receive guidance from faculty from their own concentrations/departments while they prepare the proposals for their projects. While we are still in the process of scheduling this course for fall 2017, we expect that the Capstone Preparation course will meet approximately 4-5 times during the semester. The final product of the course will be an approved capstone proposal.

**Capstone Integration** (1 credit) will be delivered centrally in the school (following the approach of the current Capstone course). While students are independently completing their capstone projects, they will be assigned to interdisciplinary groups (i.e., with students from other concentrations) and the course sessions will focus on the integration of core MPH competencies across areas, as well as communications skills. Students will meet with their interdisciplinary groups approximately 4-5 times and complete online modules that build communications skills. At the end of the semester, students will present their capstone projects orally and in a poster format, similar to the current Public Health Forum. Students will also prepare and submit final papers describing their projects and how their projects integrate core and concentration competencies.

**Students who plan to complete the capstone in summer or fall 2017 will complete the “old” version of the capstone course (PUBH 6955, 2-credits, approximately 15 sessions).**

**If you feel that this new capstone format negatively impacts you, please contact Lori Crane, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs ([lori.crane@ucdenver.edu](mailto:lori.crane@ucdenver.edu)).**

**Three open forum sessions will be held to discuss the new format. Please come to one of the sessions to ask questions and get answers:**

**April 18, 4-5 pm: Ed 2 North 1202**

**April 18, 5-6 pm: Ed 2 North 1202**

**April 25, 12-1 pm: Ed 2 North 1202**

The capstone courses, “old Capstone” PUBH 6955 and “new Capstone Preparation,” have not yet been scheduled for fall 2017, but will be scheduled very soon. We will continue to accommodate students enrolled in online programs (e.g., the Leadership and Public Health Practice concentration) with online access to the capstone courses.

We are very excited about this change and believe that it will greatly enhance this learning experience.