



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 21, 2017

Belle Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 3033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

I am writing to notify you that The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) is seeking approval from The University of Texas System and the Texas Higher Educational Coordinating Board for a new Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) degree. The program is proposed to begin in fall 2017. The BS in Public Health is 120 semester credit hours.

Housed in the Department of Kinesiology, the BS in Public Health is a complement to existing programs already offered in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation (CONHI), including BA and Ph.D. in Kinesiology, BS and MS in Exercise Science, and the nursing degrees, BSN, MSN, DNP, and Ph.D. Courses for a Public Health Track currently exist and are offered to kinesiology and exercise science students as an option. All courses required for the academic core of the public health degree are currently offered at UTA by existing qualified public health faculty already employed at the university through CONHI. Students from our School of Social Work also take these courses. The proposed BS in Public Health degree encourages students to engage outside of the discipline to acquire contextualizing knowledge in philosophy, women's studies, social work, African American studies, Mexican American studies, management, and disability studies. Two new DrPH or Ph.D. in Public Health faculty members will be added to the Department of Kinesiology to meet the demands of the new program.

Situated in the heart of a major metropolitan area of Texas, UTA is uniquely positioned to offer the only BS in Public Health in the area and to meet the growing state and national need for health care and public health graduates. UTA's strong nursing program and cooperative working relationship with the University of North Texas Health Science Center create a variety of pipelines for students who wish to continue their education in graduate work.

The BS in Public Health degree would be reviewed by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). UTA plans to seek this accreditation in the fall 2020.

Should the Substantive Change Office require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Loraine Phillips at 817-272-3365 or email lorainep@uta.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V. Karbhari".

Vistasp M. Karbhari
President

cc: Dr. Ronald Elsenbaumer, Interim Provost
Dr. Anne Bavier, Dean CNHI
Dr. David Keller, Chair of Kinesiology
Dr. Loraine Phillips, Assistant Vice Provost and SACSCOC Liaison
Dr. Steven Sheeley, SACSCOC VP