

Policy Number: 300

Subject/Title: Doctoral Degree Breadth and Minor Requirements

Effective Date: Spring 2011

Policy Statement: Each doctoral student requires one (1) Major area of study and two (2) additional areas of study. The additional areas can be one (1) Minor area of study, and one (1) Breadth area of study OR two (2) Minor areas of study. The additional areas serve two major purposes in a student's curriculum: 1) further prepare the student to complete a dissertation and to be prepared for independent inquiry; 2) enable the student to gain competencies in the core interdisciplinary fields of public health (biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental sciences, behavioral sciences and management and policy sciences). The Minor and the Breadth are separate from the Major, and all students must have a variety of courses from outside of their Major discipline.

DrPH students who matriculated Fall 2018 or later are required to complete one (1) Minor only as a Breadth area and coursework is built into the curriculum.

MINOR

The **MINOR** is three (3) or more courses (at least nine (9) credit hours) from one of the public health core disciplines defined by the Department offering the minor.

BREADTH

The **BREADTH** is a three (3) course sequence (at least nine (9) credit hours). The Breadth is a customized plan of study defined by the student and his or her committee/academic faculty advisor. The Breadth is often an interdisciplinary course of study and may be supplemented by courses outside of the student's Major or Minor disciplines. The Breadth should be a topic- or methods-related interdisciplinary set of courses based on the student's research interest, methods required for the dissertation, and/or future plans. Because one purpose of the Breadth is to expand the coverage of public health disciplines, whenever possible, at least one (1) of the courses should be outside of the student's Major or Minor disciplines. Between the Major, Minor and Breadth, students should have coursework beyond at least three public health core disciplines.

Students who have elected a graduate certificate may have this certificate, and required coursework, count as a Breadth. Students who have elected a certificate requiring committee representation must include a UTHealth SPH faculty member representing the certificate on their Dissertation Committee if not already included.

For students in the Department of Management, Policy and Community Health, the Minor can be from one of the internal tracks. However, at least one of the areas (i.e., either the Minor or Breadth) must be from one of the other four public health disciplines (Biostatistics, Behavioral Sciences, Environmental Sciences, or Epidemiology). Please see the [UTHealth School of Public Health catalog](#) to understand the MPACH programs.

Reason for Policy: Define breadth and minor requirements for doctoral students.

Definitions: N/A

Scope and Audience: All UTHealth School of Public Health doctoral students.

Responsibilities and Procedures: Students should discuss minor/breadth options with their faculty advisors.

Related Policies, Forms and Information: Students should discuss minors and breadth/topic areas with their faculty advisors. For examples of minors and breadth/topic areas, please see [Minors and Breadths](#).

Also see, [Steps for Establishing Doctoral Major - Minor- Breadth](#) and click on DrPH Forms or PhD Forms tab.

History: Approved by Academic Council: October 19, 2010
Endorsed by Executive Council: October 21, 2010
Edited by Academic Council to include link to examples of Minor and Breadth Areas: October 13, 2014

Responsible Office/Contact Information: Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services
Office Phone: 713-500-9032
E-mail: SPHStudentServices@uth.tmc.edu