

April 17, 2024

Dear College of Health Sciences Public Health Student:

The Council on Education for the Public Health (CEPH), the nationally recognized accrediting agency for graduate schools and programs in public health acted on March 1, 2024 to confer probationary accreditation to the JSU College of Health Sciences for a term of two years, extending to July 1, 2026.

However, the Communicative Disorders Master of Science degree program continues to be fully accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) without restrictions. Additionally, the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) degree programs also continues to be fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) without restrictions.

It is my responsibility as the Interim Dean to advise you regarding your status as a student in our programs. CEPH guarantees that your diploma will be recognized as being from an accredited program, if you have completed all of the requirements of your degree by July 1, 2026. However, students who anticipate completing the requirements after this date are not guaranteed that their diploma will be recognized as being from an accredited program. We are committed to satisfying all the CEPH requirements, to enable all College of Health Sciences students to graduate from an accredited program at JSU, regardless of their completion date.

We respect the CEPH's decision and are committed to resolving their concerns. The CEPH report acknowledges that we have a strong curriculum that demonstrates an understanding of the public health core knowledge. They also acknowledge that the program pursues active service activities, which are consistent with our mission, through which faculty and students contribute to the advancement of public health practice.

In response to the CEPH report of deficiencies related to the lack of sufficient program faculty resulting in unacceptable student to faculty ratios, and insufficient faculty research and service, the College of Health Sciences has since hired two additional faculty positions. Additionally, the College is committed to hiring an Associated Dean that will collaborate with faculty and committees to develop updated assessments, establish tracking methods and update syllabi.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding completion of your MPH degree from JSU.

Sincerely,



Russell L. Bennett, PhD, MPH, MS
Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences
Jackson State University