

U.S. Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** Council on Education for Public Health (1974 / 2013)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation within the United States of schools of public health and public health programs outside schools of public health, at the baccalaureate and graduate degree levels, including those offered via distance education.
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above.
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 07/30/2019
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

Executive Summary

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

Between 1945-1973, the American Public Health Association (APHA), a membership organization for public professionals, accredited graduate programs in public health. In 1974, the APHA and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), a national association representing deans, faculty, and students of accredited schools of public health, jointly formed the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH or Council) to conduct accrediting activities. Initially, CEPH limited its focus to schools of public health embedded within colleges and universities. However, in the late 1970's, CEPH responded to requests from practitioners and educators to accredit community health/preventive medicine programs, and to a request from the APHA to accredit community health education programs. The CEPH accredits schools of public health and public health programs outside schools of public health. The agency currently accredits 50 schools of public health and 92 public health programs located in 45 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

CEPH is a programmatic accrediting agency and as such, does not have to meet the Secretary's separate and independent requirements. The accredited programs use the agency's recognition to establish eligibility to participate in non-HEA federal programs such as those offered under Title VII of the Public Health Services Act, as amended, and the Public Health Training Centers. Graduates of CEPH-accredited schools and programs are also eligible for appointment to the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Recognition History

The U.S. Commissioner of Education initially recognized the CEPH in 1974 for its accreditation of graduate schools of public health. In 1978, an expansion of the agency's scope included graduate programs in community health education and community health/preventive medicine offered outside of schools of public health. The Council has received continuous and uninterrupted renewal of recognition since 1974.

The agency's last review for recognition was during the Fall 2013 NACIQI meeting and the Secretary accepted the Committees recommendation for continued recognition. Department staff observed a CEPH Commission meeting on June 14-16, 2018 and a CEPH site evaluation at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX on October 22-25, 2018 in conjunction of review of this report.

The Department did not receive any complaints or third-party comments during this reporting period.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third - party comments regarding this agency.