REGULATIONS AND SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Community Health proposes to start an innovative multidisciplinary post-graduate course in order to train experts capable of meeting the emerging challenges in the field of health. Over the past 18 years, the Department has exclusively accommodated medical disciplines in the Master of Public Health (MPH) programme. The recognition that multidisciplinary teams are required in addressing health has necessitated the need to train clinicians together with persons of diverse professional backgrounds such as sociologists, nutritionists, environmentalists, health planners and nurses among others. Currently, this integrated approach in training specialists in Masters of Public Health is a common practice worldwide. Subsequently, there has been a high demand for the MPH degree from persons with diverse professional backgrounds. In order to accommodate candidates with the requisite professional backgrounds into the MPH degree, the Department has restructured the graduate programme with the aim of expanding the criteria for admission into the MPH degree course.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

The overall objective of this course is to offer a multidisciplinary post-graduate course in order to train experts capable of meeting the emerging challenges in the field of public health.

On completion of the course the students should be able to:
- Apply a multidisciplinary approach to assessment of public health issues and health care delivery;
- Provide leadership in the practice of public health, conduct research and provide consultative services to the community.

2.0 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 The common regulations for the Master's Degree in all faculties of the University of Nairobi shall apply.

2.2 The following shall be eligible for admission into the programme.

2.2.1 Holders of any of the following degrees, Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB), Bachelor of Dental Science (BDS), Bachelor of Nursing Sciences (BScN), Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm.), Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) of the University of Nairobi or a degree from any other institution recognised by the University of Nairobi Senate and at least one year of post-registration experience in a medical or other health related field.

2.2.2 Holders of a first degree from the University of Nairobi in a discipline closely related to public health and medicine including an upper second class honours degree in
environmental health, sociology, nutrition, demography, statistics, economics, planning, administration and anthropology, education and communication, who in addition have relevant and adequate practical experience of not less than two years.

2.2.3 Holders of Bachelor of Science degree of lower second class in the discipline mentioned in 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 with relevant Post Graduate Diploma or three years relevant experience.

2.2.4 Holders of equivalent qualifications to those in 2.2.1, 2.2.2 or 2.2.3 recognized by the University of Nairobi Senate.

3.0 COURSE EXEMPTIONS

3.1. A candidate may be exempted from taking up to a maximum of one third of the taught courses provided that these are from institutions recognized by the Senate of the University of Nairobi.

3.2. Applicants seeking course exemptions shall send a formal application to the Director, Board of Post Graduate Studies through the Dean, Faculty of Medicine seeking exemption of units, justifying the request and attach evidence of credentials supporting such a request.

3.3. Application for course exemption shall be processed only after payment of the prescribed fees.

3.4. Applicants will only be allowed exemption of courses, which are equivalent and/or at the same level with what is offered by the University of Nairobi.

4.0 COURSE STRUCTURE AND DURATION

The course shall consist of course work, examination and research leading to a dissertation.

4.1 The Master of Public Health shall run for a minimum of 4 semesters of 15 weeks each and a maximum of 10 semesters of 15 weeks each.

4.2 The course shall consist of two parts. Part I shall consist of course work. Part II shall be devoted to a research project culminating into a dissertation.

4.3 Students shall be required to take 6 core courses and 2 elective courses from one of the three options.

4.4 Students shall be required to take a minimum of 3 courses and a maximum of 6 courses in the first semester.

4.5 The research project will be taken after completion of the course work.
5.0 COURSE OUTLINE

FIRST YEAR

I. Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCH 600</td>
<td>Epidemiology I</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 601</td>
<td>Biostatistics and computing I</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 602</td>
<td>Social sciences and health</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 603</td>
<td>Management sciences</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>HCH 604</td>
<td>Research methodology</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 605</td>
<td>Principles of disease prevention, Control and health promotion</td>
<td>60</td>
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II. Elective Courses

Option I: Health Care System and Policy Development any 2 units

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCH 606</td>
<td>Health planning and policy development</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 607</td>
<td>Health services administration and evaluation</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 608</td>
<td>Primary health care</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 609</td>
<td>Health economics</td>
<td>180</td>
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Option II: Disease Prevention and Control and Health Promotion any 2 units

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<thead>
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<th>Code</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCH 610</td>
<td>Communicable and non-communicable diseases prevention and control</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCH 611</td>
<td>Family health</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 612</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 613</td>
<td>Environmental health</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 614</td>
<td>Occupational and industrial health</td>
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Option III: Community Health Sciences any 2 units

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<tr>
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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>HCH 615</td>
<td>Epidemiology II</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCH 616</td>
<td>Biostatistics and computing II</td>
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<td>HCH 617</td>
<td>Demography</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 618</td>
<td>Medical sociology and health anthropology</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH 619</td>
<td>Health education, communication and educational methodology</td>
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SECOND YEAR

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>HCH: 700</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>720</td>
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6.0 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

6.1 Written Examinations

6.1.1 The common regulations for the Masters Degree in all the Faculties of the University of Nairobi shall apply.

6.1.2 Candidates enrolled for the degree shall be required to take examinations and pass in all courses before being allowed to proceed to the second year of study.

6.1.3 All the courses will each be examined by 1x3hour written examination paper at the end of the semester.

6.1.4 Continuous assessments shall comprise assignments, end of term papers, written tests, seminar presentations and any other tests as may be given during the course.

6.1.5 The final examination in each course will constitute 70% of the total mark while the continuous assessment test shall constitute 30%.

6.1.6 The pass mark for each course shall be 50%.

6.1.7 A candidate who fails to obtain a pass mark in any of the course, shall on the recommendation of the Faculty Board of examiners and approval of the Senate, be allowed to re-sit the failed courses for a maximum of two times during the next regular examinations.

6.1.8 The pass mark obtained after a re-sit examination shall be recorded as 50% while that for a retake examination shall be the mark obtained at the said sitting.

6.1.9 A candidate who fails a second re-sit or retake examination or fails to complete the programme within the prescribed period shall on recommendation of the Faculty Board of Examiners and approval of the Senate be discontinued.

6.2 Examination of Dissertation

6.2.1 The common regulations of examination of dissertation in all Faculties shall apply.

6.2.2 The dissertation shall be examined out of 100% and marks distributed as 70% for the dissertation and 30% for the oral defence of the dissertation.

6.2.3 The pass mark shall be 50%.

6.2.4 A candidate who fails to obtain a pass mark in the dissertation, may on the recommendation of the Faculty Board and approval of Senate, be allowed to re-submit the dissertation after three months up to a maximum of two times.
6.2.5 The pass mark obtained by re-submission of the dissertation shall be recorded as 50%.

6.2.6 A candidate who fails in a second re-submission of the dissertation, shall on the recommendation of Faculty Board of Examiners and approval of Senate, be discontinued.

7.0  **DEGREE AWARD**

A Candidate who passes in both the course work written examination and dissertation examination shall be awarded the Degree of Master of Public Health of the University of Nairobi.
8.0 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HCH 600: Epidemiology I

HCH 601: Biostatistics and Computing I

HCH 602: Social Science and Health
The relevance of Social Science in the study of health; Integrative analytical framework of health; Concepts of health and disease. Determinants of health; Culture and health. Disease and stigma; Death and dying; the role of religion. Community dynamics and participation in health. Health systems as cultural systems. Medical pluralism; Ethno-medicine. The sick role; Factors affecting health seeking behaviour; Patterns of care seeking. Culture and nutrition; the notion of food. Social change and nutrition. The concept of development; Development contexts and impact on health; Diseases of development. Health and sustainable development. Evaluation of international and national health policies.

HCH 603: Management Sciences

HCH 604: Research Methodology

HCH 605: Principles of Disease Prevention, Control and Health Promotion
Background to communicable and non-communicable diseases. The communicable disease process. Agents and vectors of communicable diseases of public health importance. Transmission of communicable diseases. Immunity of communicable diseases. Community

**HCH 606: Health Planning and Policy Development**

**HCH 607: Health Services Administration and Evaluation**

**HCH 608: Primary Health Care (PHC)**

**HCH 609: Health Economics**

**HCH 610: Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases Prevention and Control**

**HCH 611: Family Health**
Rationale for maternal and child health care. Maternal problems of public health importance. Types of organisations of maternal health services. Childhood problems of public health importance. Types and organisations of maternal and child health services. Indicators of health status of mothers and children. The high-risk concept in maternal and child health work. School health programmes. Family health - rationale, services and techniques. Social factors influencing family health.

**HCH 612: Nutrition**

**HCH 613: Environmental Health**

**HCH 614: Occupational and Industrial Health**

**HCH 615: Epidemiology II**
Biases inherent in epidemiologic investigations and their control. Levels of disease prevention, and Screening in disease control.

**HCH 616: Biostatistics and computing II**

**HCH 617: Demography**

**HCH 618: Medical Sociology and Health Anthropology**

**HCH 619: Health Education, Communication and Medical Education Methodology**

**HCH 700: Research Project**