

**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)  
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the PUBLIC HEALTH OPTION  
Participants and Alternates**

**PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES:**

Chadron State College

Peru State College

Wayne State College

**COURSE WORK**

Participants and alternates are hereafter referred to collectively as “students”. Students must

1. Must complete all prerequisite courses for UNMC Master of Public Health program, listed under the UNMC College of Public Health (COPH) admissions website.
2. Must complete a course of study culminating in a bachelor’s degree in four academic years. Any exception to this time frame must be approved by both the State College Public Health Advisor and the COPH RHOP Advisory Committee. The COPH RHOP Advisory Committee is comprised of COPH Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, the MPH Program Director and the COPH Success and Pathways Coordinator.
3. Obtain approval from the undergraduate State College Public Health Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

The following Academic Standards apply to remain in good standing and continue in the Nebraska State College (NSC) phase of the RHOP Public Health Option. Students must:

1. Earn a "B" or better in the required prerequisite courses (see UNMC PH website).
  - a. Minimum of 3 semester hours in biology, chemistry, statistics, and algebra or calculus. A writing intensive course recommended (professional or scientific writing preferred)
2. Maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.

**ACADEMIC PROBATION**

RHOP academic probation will be allowed for only two semesters. Probation is recommended and communicated by the designated State College Public Health Advisor responsible for monitoring student performance. The State College Public Health Advisor, in consultation with the COPH RHOP Advisory Committee, will determine student requirements to improve academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. RHOP academic probation results if a student:

1. Earns less than a “B” in any required prerequisite course. The course must be retaken, and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.

ATTACHMENT A

UNMC College of Public Health

RHOP Public Health Program Standards 2024

2. Cumulative or semester GPA falls below 3.0.
3. Withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time academic enrollment status (defined as 12 credit hours per semester)
4. Withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the State College Public Health Advisor and the COPH RHOP Advisory Committee.

## **DISMISSAL**

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the COPH RHOP Advisory Committee in consultation with the NSC institution. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program if the student does not:

1. Comply with the terms of an academic probation.
2. Complete all the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Obtain a grade of “B” or better in a required course that has been retaken.
4. Raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher after two semesters of remediation.
5. Satisfactorily complete the NSC coursework as defined by academic standards for good standing.
6. Satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC institution will be shared with the COPH RHOP Advisory Committee.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE**

A student who chooses the RHOP PH Option is expected to be dedicated to a career in rural practice. To enhance their understanding and knowledge of the field, students are expected to:

1. Log professional development submit electronically to the State College PH Advisor. Some of the experiences must be relate to rural Nebraska so the student develops significant knowledge of public health practice in rural Nebraska.
2. Attend required events conducted by UNMC for RHOP participants.
3. Visit UNMC at the Omaha or Kearney campus during regularly scheduled RHOP trips.
4. Participate in on-campus activities that enhance their ability to interact with people.
5. Visit, work, or volunteer with people across a variety of age ranges in a variety of settings (school, hospital, community center, camp, clinic, day care, nursing home, health screen, etc.).

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DURING THE NSC PHASE**

### **PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY**

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the undergraduate State College Public Health Advisor and the CPH RHOP Advisory Committee. The petition should state in detail the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admissions, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the MPH professional program at UNMC. A decision whether to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

### **ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS**

If any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in this option decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP admissions interview team from UNMC and the undergraduate institution may select a replacement from among the alternates in that class. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview may be requested.

### **ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM**

While successful completion of the requirements for the NSC phase of the Public Health Option will normally guarantee admission to the UNMC professional phase of the program, students must also complete the formal application process during their final undergraduate year. Prior to matriculation into the professional phase, the student must:

1. Meet all academic and professional development standards and personal behavior requirements according to the RHOP Agreement and Standards.
2. Apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS) following designated deadlines of the senior year.
3. Meet the minimum admissions requirements of the UNMC Master of Public Health program.