




MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President 

SUBJECT: Create a Bachelor of Science in Public Health

DATE: February 26, 2024

The attached proposal is to create a Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree for the WSU Pullman, Spokane, and Vancouver campuses.

Led by the College of Veterinary Medicine, the mission is to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills essential for excelling in the field of public health and aim to enable learners to develop a solid foundation for evidence-based decision-making and impactful interventions. In line with WSU's land-grant mission, there is also a commitment to enhancing equity in Washington by increasing the number of public health professionals dedicated to serving in underserved regions. This dual commitment exemplifies WSU's historical commitment to education, outreach, and community engagement, as we strive to address the unique healthcare challenges faced by underserved communities across our state.

The Provost's Office and its internal review committee have carefully reviewed the proposal and support the same. The following feedback provided by the internal review committee was conveyed to the College of Veterinary Medicine:

- Infrastructure for assessment of the BS-PH competencies will need to be established.
- We encourage the college and department to make roles and responsibilities for assessment explicit. Please note that, initially, additional effort and support are typically needed for interdisciplinary or multi-campus program assessment; explicit director and/or chair support for assessment can be critical. Once students are enrolled, the new BS-PH will report annually to WSU on its system of assessing student learning.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.