2.2 PROGRAM LENGTH
An MPH degree program must be at least 42 semester-credit units in length.

2.2.a Definition of a credit with regard to classroom/contact hours.

In 2011, the ETSU Academic Council approved a definition of credit that focuses on the educational purpose of courses: “A semester credit is a unit of educational accomplishment represented by learning outcomes.” This definition focuses on attaining expected learning outcomes as identified in curricular proposals rather than “seat” time. However, the definition includes, “in accordance with federal regulation, one semester credit reasonably approximates the learning outcomes expected from one hour of direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student academic engagement each week for 15 weeks. Courses offered in alternative calendars and course types require an equivalent amount of faculty and student engagement and learning outcomes.” Criteria for determining credit are enumerated in the policy document.

2.2.b Information about the minimum degree requirements for all professional public health master’s degree curricula. If the school uses a unit of academic credit or an academic term different from the standard semester or quarter, this difference should be explained.

The MPH program is 43 credit hours. Students apply to the program through SOPHAS at which point they select one of five concentration areas. Upon matriculation, students take a set of core public health courses (16 credit hours) and concentration required and elective courses, sit for a core comprehensive examination, and complete a culminating field experience of 4-6 credit hours in length. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to graduate. It takes an average of two years of full-time study to complete the degree. Requirements for the degree are listed in the online graduate catalog, on the college website http://www.etsu.edu/cph/academics/graduate/MPHHome.aspx, and on the Program of Study advisement forms (see Resource File).

2.2.c Information about the number of professional public health master’s degrees awarded for fewer than 42 semester credit units, or equivalent, over each of the last three years.

From 2009-14, the college has not awarded a MPH degree for less than 42 credit hours.

2.2.d Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the school’s strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion.

This criterion is met.

Strengths:
The MPH degree program is 43 semester credit hours in length. Minimum requirements include a 16 credit hour common core, additional concentration courses, including required and elective courses, and a 4-6 hour field practicum.

Weaknesses:
None noted.

Plans:
None noted.