1. Why the concentration is needed?

The field of disaster management and humanitarian assistance has had a growing interest since September 11th. The Department of Global Health began the Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management (DM) in 2002 and the Graduate Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance (HA) in 2005. Both certificates have complimented one another and have had strong enrollment numbers. The DM courses focus on the disaster cycle (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation), while the HA courses disseminate global health knowledge at the recovery phase (i.e., refugees and internally displaced populations in Colombia, Gaza, Congo, Sudan, etc).

Bringing the certificate courses under a concentration would further enhance enrollment and provide certificate enrolled students an opportunity to earn a MPH degree. In addition to the concentration courses in disaster management and humanitarian relief, the five core public health core courses, the required International Field Experience course and the Special Project course will enable students to earn the degree. Generally students enrolled in the two certificates work at the county or state level and have consistently asked about such a concentration (please refer to email responses to a recent inquiry to such a need: Attachment A). Further, other students employed by the federal government (i.e., CDC, U.S. military personnel), and often deployed outside of the United States, are seeking an online degree to meet employment requirements.

A concentration in disaster management and humanitarian relief currently does not exist in the State. In addition, a review of the FEMA Higher Education website, shows no other online graduate level concentrations emphasizing disaster management and humanitarian relief.
2. The program that will offer the degree:
   An MPH will be earned within the Department of Global Health.

3. New Requirements:

**MPH – Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief concentration**

**College of Public Health Core Courses (15 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6000 Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6050 Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6357 Environmental and Occupational Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6102 Principles of Health Policy and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6410 Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Concentration Courses (24 credits)**

**Disaster Management emphasis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6182 Overview of US and International Disaster Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6185 Disaster Preparedness and Planning Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6184 Disaster Recovery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6186 Public Health Emergencies in Large Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Humanitarian Relief emphasis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6230 Foundations of Humanitarian Assistance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6231 Organizing Emergency Humanitarian Action</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6232 From Emergency to Development and Prevention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6233 Current Challenges in the Humanitarian Field</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Culminating Experiences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6945 Supervised Field Experience</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6977 Special Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC 6936 Public Health Capstone Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit: 48-51**

4. Total hours

   The total hours of the concentration will be 48-51

5. **Budget Account Number:**

   640800
6. Proposed catalog copy

The field of disaster management and humanitarian relief plays an important role in global health, especially in areas of armed conflict and natural disasters. With the increase in weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear and biological threats from terrorist groups and radical states, the need for formal training and education has increased. Local and international organizations, governments and United Nation agencies are in need of highly trained professionals to manage and direct programs to reduce the global public health threats that continue to plague us. Where and when the next tsunami or earthquake will strike, or how the next terrorist group will respond is unknown. But the logic behind professionally mitigating and preparing for one of these incidences places us in a stronger position to respond.

This concentration builds on the existing framework of the College of Public Health core courses, field experience and special project. Combining this framework with the existing disaster management and humanitarian courses will provide graduates with the ability to recognize, assess, implement and evaluate a global or local disaster.

Prerequisites

Public Health course prerequisites: None.¹

Suggested/preferred undergraduate majors: science, engineering, management, administration, international, business, public health

Work experience: None required; however disaster management or humanitarian assistance, especially in a global setting, will be considered when determining the number of credits required for the Field Experience.

Minimum undergraduate GPA: Upper division 3.0 minimum
Verbal GRE score: 450 minimum
Quantitative GRE score: 550 minimum
Other criteria: Two letters of recommendation

¹Courses within the concentration need to be taken sequentially and thus require prerequisites within the concentration.
Attachment A:

Responses from an inquiry to students regarding a concentration in Global Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief leading to an MPH

-Kudos to you and the Department of Global Health! I feel this would be very attractive to students seeking an MPH, especially post 9/11. And I don't need to point out to you, how valuable this would be to anyone working in Florida or the Caribbean basin! I have several co-workers (Dept. of Health - Sarasota) contemplating pursuing graduate degrees who currently work in disaster management. I will tell them to keep their radar tuned to USF - COPH for an opportunity in the near future.

-The development of a Masters level degree in Disaster management would be very beneficial in light of the continuing number of disaster situations with which we are faced. From a usefulness standpoint, this type of degree would be beneficial to persons working full-time in an established DM position, or those seeking to perform in consultancy around the globe. There are many developing countries, I am sure, who could not afford to hire someone with that level of expertise, but through partnerships, could utilize these persons as a consultant. The level of education, based on the class in which I have participated, is likely to be useful in whatever setting the candidate decides to pursue. I think it is a positive move on the part of the University.

-I would stay in school longer to get the degree! Great idea.

Honestly Dr Westhoff if this did come into being I would try to be the first to sign up. There is a significant need, now more than ever, for highly educated individuals in disaster management. Historically the training has been on the job, and that still would be somewhat true, but having the educational background would be a huge benefit. Right now I am doing the MPH-PHP masters and would love to have a true disaster management masters. I also know of other faculty that I work with that would no doubt be interested. I am an EMT/Paramedic instructor at SPC and I am always encouraging my students and my colleagues (in the college and the field) the pursue both a four year and an advanced degree. This would only give them more reason to consider it. It's a void that I think can be filled. I would be happy to ask around and to give you some outside feedback as well if you like.

- This sounds like the program I was looking for! Right now I am in the online MPH-PHP program. I will be applying for a graduate certificate in Disaster Management. I am using the Disaster Management courses as my electives. I was the one who emailed you earlier this semester about using Disaster Management as a path to ultimately work with an NGO to set up healthcare systems in countries after disasters. I'm not in the Emergency Management field currently. I am a surgeon, who has worked in a very busy ER here in Florida,
taking trauma call and general surgery call. I personally would be interested in
the program. Let me know what happens with your idea.

-I love the idea I will run it by others and see what they think.

I feel that a program designed that way is incredibly important. One of the problems that I have experienced in
my travels through the world of HA is that everyone has a
biased opinion and discerning the truth about what is
really going on is very difficult. The time it takes to
gather the important information together on my own is
overwhelming (actually impossible). It's been rather like
trying to piece together a giant puzzle but first you have
to figure out where each piece is hidden. I feel that this
course alone has empowered me and giving me a more useful
perspective. It also keeps me from spreading more
misinformation, wasting time and wasting resources. Also,
considering the serious security issues that are now a fact
of life in HA work there is no place in the HA field for
the untrained. I think the days of getting dropped of
somewhere in Africa to start a church and save the world
may be over but many people (especially the people writing
the checks) still believe that is how things are done.
Organized education is always the best foundation for
success. Go for it!

- I think this is a great idea! I would definitely be one of those interested if I was starting
my MPH all over again.

- Sounds fantastic! I have repeatedly looked at the MPH degree requirements, but they
fall flat for me personally and can't bring myself to enroll. What you are proposing is
much more interesting to me. Will DHS courses be part of this? I swore I would never go
back to college after round one, but the current course work has been very enlightening,
and I would be very interested in your proposed MPH.

- I think the idea for such a program is a good idea. I am currently employed as a
detective with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office assigned to a fugitive squad, but
have a strong interest in DM. This is the last course for me (if I pass, haha) for the
graduate certificate in Homeland Security. Unfortunately, there is no graduate degree
offered at USF in this concentration and I am now searching for a program to enroll in. If
the MPH in Global Disaster Relief was offered, I would certainly apply for
admission. These two fields are very closely related and I am sure interest would be high.

- I feel that a concentration in Disaster Management/Humanitarian Assistance would be a
great idea! USF's College of Public Health already has the coursework, professors, and
resources for such a concentration. I think that it would be a very positive asset to the
College of Public Health (given its location in Florida (natural disasters), its collaboration
with the disaster center here in Tampa, and also will bring in professionals as students into the program and would promote USF in its effort to become more recognized). The addition of this concentration into the College of Public Health would be relatively easy given the coursework that already exists for the two graduate certificates. Additionally, I feel that it is a needed concentration given the increase in frequency of natural disasters worldwide and the increased threat of technological or human-made disasters. Also, disaster management has become incorporated into the framework of businesses and organizations, and a concentration such as this proposed one, would recognize disaster management as important and would give people who work in the area higher credentials and increased education in the theories of disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

-I think that offering such a degree would be beneficial for students and would add to the overall curriculum offered at the COPH. Where global disaster relief is not my specialty, I can say that I enjoyed your class this semester and learned a lot from the other students. The experience that they bring to the class combined with the forum you provide has really contributed to my learning experience.

-Both as a student and as an Emergency Management practitioner, I would strongly support this effort. The field is "professionalizing" faster than our educational institutions can keep up. As you noted, DM/EM programs are currently disjointed and somewhat sparse. I would love to see USF take a leadership role in this regard. However, please keep the certificate programs intact. They are a great resource for people like myself who already have a master's degree, but still want to further their education in EM/DM.

-This is a response from an instructor in the EMS program at St Petersburg College: This is good news. It does appear that your professor Westhoff has done his homework. I would encourage USF to have the degree linked to FEMA's higher education website and to the USFA degrees at a distance program. http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/higher_ed/index.shtml. I have also looked at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Their certificate program consists of a 20 credit certificate program and no degree. UCF just started an EM/DM program, however it is only a graduate certificate and only available on campus. As far as a totally online EM/DM graduate degree there is http://www.apu.apus.edu/Academics/Degree-Programs/program.htm?progid=4416&program_type=Masters. APU is regionally accredited and received specially accreditation for EM programs from the Foundation on Higher Education. In the coming years, the EM and PH professions will continue to grow. I think that USF COPH would be way out in front of other institutions concerning a combined MPH/Master's in EM. Personally, I could be very interested in this type of program. I have been searching for a degree that combines administration, public health and emergency management. I would also check with the IAEM to see if this degree could lead to eligibility for CEM certification. A degree like this has many possibilities. I think it would draw qualified candidates from the Fire/EMS industries that are pursuing
graduate level coursework to advance their careers.  
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/higher_ed/feshe/feshe_strategic.shtm#models

Regards, GD

-I think its an excellent idea. This is beneficial for those who are currently in the field.

-I am very interested in your program and would like to switch from the MPH in Public Health Practice to your program when it comes available. Your proposed program is one that I think might fit the bill exactly. I am planning (in the short-term) to complete the Disaster Management/Humanitarian Assistance certificates over the next year to year and a half and see where the program endeavor ends up. I wish you folks much success with it. I look forward to the next six classes or so.