2.2 Program Length. An MPH degree program or equivalent professional public health master's degree must be at least 42 semester-credit units in length.

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

Indiana University-Bloomington defines contact hours based on the type of course. One semester credit is equivalent to 15 hours of contact for a lecture or 30 hours of contact for a lab. A typical semester is 16 weeks in length. Typical MPH courses are three credits.

b. Information about the minimum degree requirements for all professional public health master's degree curricula shown in the instructional matrix. If the school or university uses a unit of academic credit or an academic term different from the standard semester or quarter, this difference should be explained and an equivalency presented in a table or narrative.

The MPH is the school’s only professional public health classified master’s degree. All concentrations within the MPH degree require a minimum of 43 semester credits. The MPH is designed to be completed over a period of two years of full-time enrollment. Electronic Resource 2.2 contains summaries of degree requirements for all MPH degree concentrations.

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. A summary of the reasons should be included.

No MPH student has received a degree with less than 43 credits during the past three years.

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 prescribes a clearly defined and sequential program that supports the ability of students to complete the degree with two years of full-time enrollment.

Weaknesses
The structure of the 43 credit, two-year program provides what faculty, students and community constituents perceive to be ample opportunity to facilitate the development of the current competencies for each concentration, and provides sufficient time for students to become engaged in community-based practice initiatives. However, it does limit the extent to which additional competencies in emerging areas (e.g., professional development) can be added to the curricula via formal coursework or prescribed activities across the concentrations.

Future Plans
Faculty, and the governance structures associated with the MPH program, in collaboration with students, alumni, and community constituents, will continue to assess the extent to which the current competencies and the current program structure are attentive to contemporary workforce needs.