2.8 Other Graduate Professional Degrees. If the school offers curricula for graduate professional degrees other than the MPH or equivalent public health degrees, students pursuing them must be grounded in basic public health knowledge.

a. Identification of the professional degree curricula offered by the school, other than those preparing primarily for public health careers, and a description of the requirements for each.

Besides the MPH degree, the SPH-B offers three additional master’s degrees - the Master of Science in Applied Health Science, the Master of Science in Kinesiology, and the Master of Science in Recreation. Each of these master’s degrees has multiple majors classified as professional degrees. Additional majors within these degrees are classified as academic and are presented elsewhere in this self-study.

Electronic Resource 2.8.a includes the degree requirements for all other graduate professional degrees within the school.

b. Identification of the manner in which these curricula assure that students acquire a public health orientation. If this means is common across these other professional degree programs, it need be described only once. If it varies by program, sufficient information must be provided to assess compliance by each program.

All students in graduate degree programs other than the MPH are required to complete an introductory course in public health. This course, SPH-X 505 Principles and Foundations of Public Health, provides content related to each of the five core areas of public health and also facilitates students’ ability to understand the manner in which their unique discipline is related to the broader goals of public health. A description of the competencies associated with this course has been included in Section 2.6 of this self-study. A copy of the syllabus used to guide this course during the 2014-2015 academic year is included as Electronic Resource 2.8.b.

c. 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 school offers three additional degrees classified as graduate professional degrees; collectively these degrees include a total of 12 different majors. These majors represent a sizeable number of graduate students from health-related, but not public health defined, fields whose curricula are now infused with public health knowledge and who will complete their degrees with an understanding of the unique contributions their disciplines make to the goals of public health. Each of these degree programs ensures students attain grounding in the five basic sciences of public health through a minimum of a three semester credit course that is required for each major. A consistent set of public health core competencies is used to guide this course and the coursework and other academic requirements for each major are guided by additional competencies specific to the degree and major. Students in this course complete pre- and post-course assessments of the extent to which they perceive themselves to have attained the course competencies.
Weaknesses
None documented.

Future Plans
The school’s Graduate Studies Committee and Public Health Leadership Committee are particularly interested in ensuring that the school’s approach to the infusion of public health knowledge into the curricula of these non-public health professional graduate degree programs is successful. Students matriculating into these degree programs during the 2013-2014 academic year were in the first cohort of those required to complete the new introductory course in public health. To assess the manner in which the introductory course helped us to ensure the broad infusion of public health into the curricula, during the 2014-2015 academic year, the Graduate Studies Committee and the Public Health Leadership Committee plan to review data from the pre- and post-course competency assessments completed by students, to review data from course evaluations, and also to meet with the course instructor of the introductory course to consider revisions to our approach.