

***CRITERIA FOR “RESEARCH CENTER” DESIGNATION
WITHIN THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH***

Dean’s Office
School of Public Health
6/2/02

Official “SPH Research Center” designation implies that the SPH and the Dean’s Office recognize the entity as a formal center in the school. Such a Center would, for example, be listed in school publications, telephone directories, and other materials and may be the focus of fund raising efforts. Conducting periodic reviews of centers will ensure that centers are engaged in quality research that is compatible with the goals of the school, and will assist the Dean in strategic planning and fund raising efforts.

ESTABLISHED CENTERS

The Dean’s Office will review already established centers every 5-7 years, to determine if they continue to meet the criteria for that designation. At the Dean’s discretion, the review may occur within a shorter or longer time frame. The review will involve an interactive dialogue between the Dean’s Office and the Center Director, taking into consideration the criteria listed below. The Dean may chose to consult in this process with the Faculty Council or other faculty members, as needed. The Dean’s Office may request supporting materials from the Center. It is not necessary to meet every criterion for SPH center designation. The final decision regarding Center designation rests with the Dean.

CRITERIA:

The Center must be engaged in high quality research that has an intellectual focus and furthers the research mission of the school. The Center should have a written mission statement.

Center membership must contain more than one SPH faculty member substantively engaged in Center research. Ordinarily, membership should span multiple departments.

The Center should currently have substantial extramural research funding from multiple projects. It should also demonstrate a history of substantial research funding in the recent past and must provide reasonable evidence that the funding is sustainable for the next 3-5 years.

The Center should strive to provide training opportunities for students.

CENTER GRANTS FUNDED BY EXTRAMURAL AGENCY

The above criteria do not preclude applying for and receiving funding for a “center grant” from an extramural funding agency. Such grants will be treated as individual research projects. However, the term “Center” may be used, with prior approval from the Dean’s Office, in relation to the project (e.g., on correspondence, Web site). In some cases, the center grant may be of very large scope, may have other extramural funding associated with it, or may meet many of the criteria listed above, so that it merits official SPH center designation. The Dean will make decisions regarding such exceptions.

NEW OR START-UP CENTERS

Requests for establishing new centers will be reviewed by the Dean’s Office using criteria similar to those listed for established centers. Provisional Center designation may be granted by the Dean for an initial period of three years. A progress report must be submitted to the Dean’s Office every year. At the end of the initial three-year period the center must undergo review and meet the criteria for an established research center in order to continue its Center designation. Continued center designation is at the discretion of the Dean.

CRITERIA:

The Center must be engaged in high quality research that has an intellectual focus and furthers the research mission of the school. The Center should have a written mission statement.

Center membership must contain more than one SPH faculty member substantively engaged in Center research. Ordinarily, membership should span multiple departments.

Center must show evidence of current extramural funding success and promise of obtaining substantial extramural research funding from multiple projects within three years.

Use of the term “Center” outside of the official school designation is subject to prior approval from the Dean’s Office. (Ordinarily, center grants funded by extramural funding sources or new centers would fall into this category.)

Entities that do not meet the above criteria may use other designations such as: Program or Office. All such designations will require the prior approval of the Department and Dean’s Office.

Names of specific Centers, Programs, etc. will require the prior approval of the Dean’s Office.