



**JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
OF
AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY**
INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND INFECTIOUS
DISEASES (ITROMID)

**CURRICULUM FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC
HEALTH**

REGULATIONS AND SYLLABUS

REVISED AUGUST 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

Kenya and many other developing countries are adversely affected by a wide range of public health problems. These problems result in an unnecessarily high rate of mortality and morbidity due to preventable causes. Generally, there is low awareness and practice of public and primary health care. Health delivery systems are focused mainly on curative, rather than primary health care. This situation results partly from the low number of well trained public health officers.

The B.Sc. programme in Public Health will provide training that will equip students with the knowledge and skills to address relevant public health concerns in the community. Graduates from the programme will be equipped with appropriate skills and knowledge to identify public health problems, design solutions to those problems, and plan and execute appropriate public health interventions.

The programme will help in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals concerning health, and the WHO and Kenya Vision 2030 objectives of ensuring affordable and accessible health services and education for all.

2. GOAL

The goal of the training in B.Sc. Public Health is to contribute to the improvement of health of the people in Kenya and East Africa specifically, and humanity in general, through the pursuit of relevant and competent training in public health, and provision of high quality public health services.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the B.Sc. in Public Health are:

3.1 To develop institutional capacity at JKUAT to train public health professionals in Public Health.

3.2 To enhance the provision and management of Public Health and primary health care services to the public at national and community levels.

3.3 To strengthen national and regional capacities to respond to public health emergencies including disease epidemics and natural calamities.

3.4 To improve inspection, hygiene and sanitation practices among public food retail vendors.

3.5 To improve environmental health care aspects and contribute to research activities on priority public health problems at national and community levels.

4. JUSTIFICATION

Public Health and Primary Health Care is of concern to many developing countries, including Kenya. Inadequate public health maintenance and inspection of public food retail services has serious health consequences. Most of the existing health services in Kenya and many other

developing countries are focused on curative services. Such services are offered after illness and deterioration in health has set in. Curative services are therefore relatively expensive, as they have to address the cure, rehabilitation and management of those who are ill. On the other hand, public health services focus mainly on primary health care, which involves the prevention of disease at individual and community level in the first place. Primary health care is much cheaper to implement.

Whereas there is great demand for public health services, there are limited opportunities for training Public Health professionals in the country. The B.Sc. in Public Health Programme is designed to enhance the national capacity for public and primary health care systems. At JKUAT, Public Health is offered at MSc and PhD level, but not at under graduate level. The programme will therefore fill this gap. The programme will also provide the basis for the establishment of the Public Health Department within the ITROMID at JKUAT.

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The common regulations for all BSc. degrees in the University shall apply.
- 5.2 The common regulations for admission requirements in all BSc degrees in the ITROMID shall apply.
- 5.3 In addition to the above, the candidate must either:

- 5.3.1 Be a holder of KCSE (or equivalent examination) certificate with a minimum aggregate of C+ and minimum of C in Biology and Chemistry and C- in English/Kiswahili and Maths/ Physics.

Or

- 5.3.2 Be a holder of KACE with a minimum of *two* principal passes including Biology and subsidiary pass in Chemistry, Maths/ Physics.

Or

- 5.3.3 Be a holder of a Diploma in Public Health, Environmental Health, Clinical Medicine, Pharmacy, Community Health, Human Nutrition or the equivalent of any of these qualifications as approved by Senate.

Candidates with the relevant Diploma with a minimum of a credit pass, may, at the discretion of the JKUAT Senate, be exempted from one academic year of study.

Or

- 5.3.4 Have a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Public Health, Clinical Medicine, Pharmacy, Human Nutrition, Community Health, Environmental Health or the equivalent of any of these from an Institution recognized by the University Senate.

Candidates with HND, with a minimum of a credit pass may, at the discretion of the JKUAT Senate, be exempted from two academic years of study.

Or

5.3.5 Be a holder of any other qualification accepted by the University Senate as equivalent to any of the above.

6. DURATION AND PATTERN OF THE COURSE

6.1 The programme for those admitted shall extend for a minimum of four and a maximum of six academic years as a full time course.

6.2 The academic year shall be divided into two semesters.

6.3 Students shall be required to take 16 units per academic year, divided into eight (8) units per semester.

6.4 There will be a 16 week attachment period undertaken in the third semesters of the second and third year. Students will be attached to a facility relevant to public health.

6.5 All regulations for the University's and Institute's four year degree programmes shall apply.

7. EXAMINATIONS

7.1 Assessment shall consist of continuous assessments and semester examinations.

7.2 All units shall be examined during the semester in which they are taken.

7.3 The examination pass mark in each unit shall be 50% of the total marks.

7.4 The final mark, unless otherwise specified, shall consist of 30% continuous assessments and 70% written University examinations; except where a unit consists solely of practical work, it may be assessed out of 100% of continuous assessment tests, coursework and/laboratory assignments. The weighting for continuous assessments in units shall be

- 15 % practicals
- 5% assignments
- 10% tests

7.5 Practical attachment shall be assessed and graded on Pass or Fail basis.

7.6 Research Project reports shall be submitted for examination and grading conforming to stipulated standards.

7.7 Each unit shall be graded out of 100 marks and the pass mark shall be 50. Marks shall be translated into letter grades as follows:

<i>70% and above</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>60 to 69%</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>50 to 59%</i>	<i>C</i>
<i>Below 50%</i>	<i>Fail</i>

- 7.8 Research projects will be assessed on a pass or fail basis.
- 7.9 Any student who shall absent himself/herself from a University Examination (ordinary, Supplementary or special) for any unit, without reasonable cause acceptable to the University Senate shall be deemed to have failed in the unit, with a total mark of zero.

8. PROGRESS TO NEXT YEAR OF STUDY

- 8.1 In order to proceed to the second, third and fourth year of study, candidates must pass at least fourteen (14) of the sixteen (16) required units per each academic year. *The failed Units must be sat and passed within the subsequent year of study.*
- 8.2 In order to pass the final year of study, candidates must pass all of the sixteen (16) required units in the final year, and any outstanding failed units from the previous years.

9. SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS

- 9.1 Any examination in a unit taken by a student as a result of failing the unit at the first attempt is a supplementary examination.
- 9.2 Marks for the supplementary examination shall not be more than 50% and shall not include continuous assessment.
- 9.3 Supplementary examinations will be sat during the academic year in which the failed unit(s) was offered, during the period stipulated for Supplementary/Special examinations by the University.

10. SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS

- 10.1 If for some good cause a candidate is unable to sit for one or more examination papers; or is unable to undertake essential parts of the work for continuous assessment, he/she on recommendation of the Department's Board of Examiners and with approval of the Senate, shall be permitted to take special examinations or undertake extra work for continuous assessment.
- 10.2 Special examinations shall include continuous assessment and be marked out of 100%.

11. ACADEMIC LEAVE

- 11.1 Subject to approval by the Senate a newly admitted student who for some good cause is unable to register in the first year of study, may be allowed to defer his/her admission for one or a maximum of two consecutive academic years, and to be admitted to the first year of study at the start of the following academic year or of the academic year immediately thereafter.

- 11.2 Subject to approval by the Senate, a continuing student who for some good cause is unable to register in any year, may be allowed to stay out of the University for a period of one or a maximum of two consecutive academic years, and to resume study at the start of the following academic year immediately thereafter.
- 11.3 Subject to approval by the Senate, a registered student who for some good cause is unable to complete the coursework and examinations for the first semester of any academic year, may be permitted to register for the same year of study as a re-admitted student at the start of the following academic year or of the academic year immediately thereafter.
- 11.4 Subject to approval by the Senate a registered student who has completed the course work and sat for the examinations of the first semester, and who for some good cause is unable to complete the coursework for any academic year, may be allowed to stay out of the university for a period of one or two complete academic years and may be permitted to register during the second semester of the same year of study as a re-admitted student at the start of the second semester of the following academic year or the academic year thereafter.

12. REPEATING

- 12.1 A student who fails in six (6) or seven (7) units in the ordinary examinations will repeat the year of study by attending all the classes and paying the requisite fees for the failed units.
- 12.2 A student who fails in one or more units in Supplementary examinations in any one academic year shall be allowed to re-sit the failed units externally in the subsequent academic year. Such a student shall be deemed to have repeated the year of study.
- 12.3 A student repeating may opt to attend classes prior to the re-sit of failed units subject to payment of appropriate fees.
- 12.4 No student shall be allowed to repeat any year of study more than once.
- 12.5 No student shall be allowed to repeat a total of more than two years of study during the course.

13. RE-ADMISSION

- 13.1 A student may be re-admitted to the year of study from academic leave, on compassionate grounds such as bereavement or sickness, on the recommendation of the Institute's Board of Examiners and with the approval of the Senate.
- 13.2 A student who has been re-admitted after completing the first semester of an academic year successfully shall be allowed to register only for the second semester of the academic year he/she is being re-admitted into. The results of the examinations taken in the first semester shall stand.

14. DISCONTINUATION

- 14.1 A student who fails in more than seven (7) units at ordinary examinations in any one academic year shall be discontinued.
- 14.2 A student who fails in any repeat unit after sitting Supplementary examinations in an academic year shall be discontinued.

15. DEREGISTRATION

- 15.1 A new or continuing student who fails to register by the end of the first four weeks of the semester shall be assumed to have deserted the course and be deregistered forthwith.
- 15.2 Any student who without valid cause fails to avail oneself for one or more ordinary, supplementary or special examinations shall be deemed to have deserted the programme and be de-registered forthwith.
- 15.3 A student who has registered for a particular semester but has failed to complete at least two thirds of the course work in all units in which he/she has registered shall be assumed to have deserted the programme and be de-registered forthwith.

16. APPEAL FOR RE-ASSESSMENT

- 16.1 A student who is not satisfied with the grade which he/she has been awarded in any unit may appeal, in writing, to the Registrar (Academic) for a re-marking of the written examination paper in that unit on payment of the appropriate fee which the Senate shall determine from time to time.
- 16.2 The final mark recommended by the appointed examiner shall be the final mark and grade awarded to the candidate for the unit.
- 16.3 No appeal for re-marking of any unit shall be entertained in a case where the appeal had been submitted later than one month after the student has been notified of the result.

17. EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

- 17.1 A student who is found guilty of any irregularities during any continuous assessment or University examinations (ordinary, supplementary or special) shall be subject to the appropriate penalties as detailed in the University Examination Regulations.
- 17.2 The Senate examination Disciplinary Committee regulations shall apply in all examination disciplinary cases.

18. AWARD OF DEGREE

To be considered for the award of the Degree:

- 18.1 A student who entered the course at Year One (1) must have successfully completed and passed all the 64 units offered during the course.
- 18.2 A student who entered the course at Year 2 must have successfully completed and passed all the units offered from Year 2 to Year 4. The student must also have successfully completed and passed all other units offered in Year 1 that he may be required to take on recommendation of Senate.
- 18.3 A student who entered the course at Year 3 must have successfully completed and passed all the units offered from Year 3 and Year 4. The student must also have successfully completed and passed all other units offered in Year 1 and Year 2 that he may be required to take on recommendation of Senate.
- 18.4 Students must also successfully complete their attachment before award of the degree.
- 18.5 The B.Sc. degree in Public Health shall not be classified.
- 18.6 Notwithstanding the regulations above, the award of the degree shall be subject to the students satisfying all other relevant University regulations including attendance of class and full payment of University fees.

19. CURRICULUM

The course units for the programme are listed below. All the courses are equivalent to one unit unless otherwise specified. A unit is defined as the equivalent of 45 one hour lectures spread over one semester. For this purpose, three hours of practicals or two hours of tutorials are equivalent to one hour lecture.