

SUMMARY



Strategic Plan 2004 - 2008

Who we are . . .

The University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health (UIC SPH) is one of six health science schools in the leading public university in the Chicago area. The University is recognized for its research strength, educational excellence, and commitment to improve the quality of metropolitan life. The City of Chicago provides a dynamic and diverse urban environment in which over 100 faculty and 300 staff members pursue the School's mission. As an urban commercial hub and transportation center in the American Midwest, the Chicago location gives the UIC SPH exposure and reach to nearly every aspect of public health -- locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. The UIC Great Cities Initiative affords the School an especially close involvement and expertise with public health issues facing innercity populations, while the Rockford and Peoria regional programs allow the school to address rural public health concerns.

Situated in one of world's largest concentrations of advanced public and private health care facilities, UIC SPH is housed in two campus buildings which provide modern, well-equipped teaching, research, conference and study facilities for faculty, students, staff, and community groups. A third near-campus site houses the Institute for Health Research and Policy.

Established in 1970, the fully accredited UIC SPH currently offers five degrees: Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Science (MS), Master of Health Administration (MHA), Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); along with certificate programs and non-degree continuing education opportunities, to over 700 full and part-time students, and professionals practicing in the field.

The School is particularly recognized for its programs in community health; maternal and child health; occupational and environment health; epidemiology and quantitative methods; public health practice and leadership; prevention research in HIV/AIDS, violence, substance abuse, and tobacco control; health aging; and emergency response preparedness.

Our mission and values . . .

The UIC School of Public Health is dedicated to excellence in protecting and improving the health and well-being of the people of the metropolitan Chicago area, the State of Illinois, and the nation, and of others throughout the world. The School achieves this mission by: educating scientists, professionals and the public; conducting research to develop solutions to public health problems; providing public health service; and formulating public health policy.

We value:

- *Unity in economic and cultural diversity*
- *Academic and practice excellence*
- *Health equity and social justice*
- *Community engagement*

Our vision of the future . . .

Acknowledged leader, trusted partner, and recognized source of expertise in the science and practice of public health for our neighborhoods, our nation and the people of the world.

Strategic priorities . . .

The School strives for excellence in all mission critical areas but will put particular emphasis on these priorities in response to the shifting challenges facing public health.

- **Leadership in responding to emerging threats.** Strengthen the capacity to address emerging and re-emerging threats to health, chronic illness, and environmental hazards.
- **Expertise in increasing health equity.** Enhance the School's position as a recognized source of expertise in addressing health disparities.
- **Focused capacity in addressing global health issues.** Sharpen the international health focus based on the School's relevant competencies in each division.
- **A vigorous policy and service presence.** Increase the School's involvement, relevance, and visibility in the state and region, while enhancing existing relationships within UIC and the surrounding community, as well as among national and international partners.
- **National presence in translational research.** Increase our involvement in the spectrum of translational research: population-based research to public health, clinical research or behavioral intervention to community.

Implementation strategies . . .

1. **Support a full spectrum of research activities**, from basic research to applied practice and intervention effectiveness, as a major driver of curriculum expertise, resource development, faculty and student recruitment, and School reputation.
2. **Improve curriculum quality, relevance and responsiveness** to student needs, through ongoing evaluation of content, instruction, advising, and resource allocation while making more effective use of distance learning and other non-traditional approaches to instruction. Develop and support public health leaders through an integrated, innovative, and relevant educational experience.
3. **Achieve greater integration** of UIC SPH functions and a more interdisciplinary approach within the School and with other units of the University. Enhance organizational arrangements and policies that will permit an expansion of programs to reflect emerging and ongoing health issues including health disparities and global health.
4. **Provide policy leadership** and contribute to the formulation of public health policy and the practice of public health at the local, state, regional and national levels, and globally.
5. **Recruit and retain leading-edge faculty and high quality students** and engage alumni to create a diverse and dynamic learning community that is committed to excellence.
6. **Adopt communication and decision-making methods** that promote information sharing, participation, equity, and accountability.
7. **Create recognition and reward mechanisms** that are aligned with the strategic directions and continuing priorities of the School; enhance productivity; and achieve an effective balance between teaching, research, and community service.
8. **Improve management systems** that capture, track, and report critical information; support strategic and key operational functions for research, and resource development; and engage and organize expertise required for effective problem solving and strategy implementation.
9. **Fostering a supportive organizational culture.** Promote a participatory organizational culture, and systems that foster collegiality, equity, responsiveness and accountability.