

## Pre-reading for the *ASPPH Presents Webinar Implementing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century DrPH Degree*

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### 1. Framing the [Future DrPH for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) Report (Nov. 5, 2014)

### 2. Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Summary of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) Definition of the Credit Hour in October 2010

- Establish a federal definition of a credit hour that is consistent with the Carnegie Unit (“one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time”).
- Affirm that (1) credit hour determination is an institutional responsibility, (2) the definition is intended for federal purposes only, (3) the definition constitutes a minimum expectation and (4) credit hour policies and procedures will be reviewed by accreditors.
- Describe credit hour as “an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement,” establishing a “quantifiable minimum basis” and as a means to “quantify academic activity for purposes of determining federal funding.”
- Do not require institutions to adopt USDE’s definition of a credit hour *in lieu of* existing institutional measurements.
- With regard to accreditation, require these organizations, as part of accreditation reviews, to evaluate the reliability and accuracy of the institution’s assignment of credit hours and take action to address any deficiencies identified. Accreditors must report to USDE systematic noncompliance by institutions regarding criteria for assigning credit hours. Failure to do so may result in USDE restricting or removing the accreditor’s recognition.

In sum, institutions must use the federal definition of credit hour as their starting point for making academic judgments about the credits associated with courses and programs if the schools are to continue to be eligible for federal funding such as student aid.

From: [http://www.chea.org/Government/FedUpdate/CHEA\\_FU13.html](http://www.chea.org/Government/FedUpdate/CHEA_FU13.html)

### 3. Presenters’ School Websites:

University of Illinois at Chicago’s DrPH Program: <http://publichealth.uic.edu/academics/onlinedegrees/drph/>

University of South Florida’s DrPH Program: <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/onlineprograms/drph.htm>

Harvard’s DrPH Program: <http://hsph.me/drph>