NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

Accreditation Expert Group Report on Higher Education Programme

Higher Education Programme Public Healthcare
HEI's Doctoral studies

Tbilisi State Medical University

Date(s) of Tbilisi 2019 Evaluation

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HEI's Information Profile

Name of Institution Indicating its Organizational Legal Form	Tbilisi State Medical University
HEI's Identification Code	211328703
Type of Institution	The University

Higher Education Programme Information Profile

Name of the Programme	Public Healthcare
Level of Education	Doctoral studies
Qualification Granted Indicating Qualification Code	Doctor of Public Healthcare 0904 Public Healthcare
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Number of Credits	180
Programme Status (Authorized/ Accredited/New)	Accredited

Expert Panel Members

Chair (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	**Assoc.prof. Verica Jovanovic/University Singidunum**/Institute of Public Health of Serbia/Serbia
Member (Name, Surname, University/organization/Country)	Assoc.prof. Tamar Valishvili /Akaki Tsereteli State University/ Georgia/ Kutaisi
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Accreditation Report Executive Summary

- **General information on the education programme**

PhD program Public Healthcare was accredited in 2014 (27/05/2014 decision N117). The presented Doctoral Program (PhD) considered as an integrated education level, which combines the learning component and individual doctoral research programs and is relevant to various subsection/subdivisions of the Public Healthcare.

Goals of the PhD program Public Healthcare are as follows:

➢ Preparation of an academic doctorate (PhD) who has systemic awareness of the field of public healthcare, who will have fundamental and systemic knowledge, relevant qualification in relation to possessing scientific-research methods and competence for successful research/academic work in this field.

➢ Preparation of competitive and effectively working academic doctorates within various levels/stages of public healthcare field, who will be able to competitively develop, plan and implement preventive and health supporting programs, programs of environmental medicine, epidemiological supervision, professional medicine, health care administration and management, safe feeding, mother and child health care programs, also to manage medical including curative programs and so on.

The urge of PhD program in Public Healthcare corresponds to the mission and values of Tbilisi State Medical University, responds to defense and improvement of human life quality, protection and service of social responsibility principles and principles defining respect of human rights and freedoms.

The structure of the program: The program consists of 180ECTS credits (one credit equals 30 hours). PhD research component is performed during three years of study (6 semesters) at PhD in accordance with an individual plan of a doctoral student. The workload of a doctoral student, contact hours and hours allocated for an independent work are represented in the credits system. Major part (135 credits=75%) of PhD program volume (180 credits) is allocated for research component-scientific research, whose theoretical and experimental results have essential importance for scientists studying public healthcare.

Research component of PhD program includes an individual doctoral research program, program implementation plan, mandatory scientific activities (Participation in Scientific Forums, Publication of Scientific Papers, Reports, etc.) for finishing program and defense of dissertation, and performance of dissertation work. Research program is individual and it is performed by one doctorate (main researcher) under supervision of research supervisor.

The assessment form of research component is an annual attestation (reporting) by the doctoral student before the basic department/s. The result of doctorates scientific-research work is scientific thesis (dissertation) containing scientific novelty.

Doctoral studies are completed by public defense of the dissertation. Upon successful defense of the doctoral thesis, a graduate will be granted with a doctoral academic degree of Public Healthcare, according to the National Qualification Framework.

The amendments presented in this program are based on the surveys of academic staff and invited teachers involved in the program, also of the students and partially of the graduates and employers; The state policy in healthcare, the demands and needs of the society, the best practices and analysis of the labor market are also taken into consideration. The amendments were made mainly to the teaching component of the program, particularly, the titles of the academic courses and number of credits were changed ("Methodology of Scientific Research" and "Biostatistics" were combined under the title "Methodology and Biostatistics of Scientific Research" and 7 credits were allocated to this course, "Pedagogy and Psychology of the Higher Education" has now 5 credits instead of 3, the title of "Bioethics" was changed to - Ethics of Biomedical Sciences and its 3 credits were increased to 4 credits, foreign language - Professional Medical English Language has 10 credits now instead of 9).

The volume of elective subjects was increased (it has become 4 credits instead of 2) and the number of academic courses was also increased from 3 to 8, which ensures more options for doctoral students. The module "New Public Health" was removed from the program. An adjacent specialty determined by the specificity of the research was added to the elective subjects. Academic Writing in English was moved from the mandatory subjects to the elective subjects, also, foreign languages -German/French/Russian were added to this component. In order to improve achievement of the program learning outcomes, an academic course called "Evidence-based Medicine in Public Health Practice" (2 credits) was added to the elective subjects.

Management team and professors of this program developed an evaluation plan of the learning outcomes including definition of the target benchmarks, in order to improve the evaluation system for the learning outcomes. which ensure validity and reliability of the program outcomes. *The first assessment of the educational programs' learning outcomes according to this Rule will be carried out before July 1, 2022.*

According to the updated National Qualifications Framework, the learning outcomes were elaborated according to the 8th (doctoral) cycle of the qualification by Knowledge and Understanding, Skills, Responsibility and Autonomy. Therefore, the changes were made to the doctoral program and the syllabuses of the academic courses. Furthermore, the heads of the program took into consideration the recommendations from the accreditation experts (2014) and also the suggestions from the external evaluation and the program was amended accordingly.

The amendments to the program were discussed and approved according to the rule adopted at the TSMU. Quality assurance service of the university provides systematic analysis and monitoring of the teaching process and learning outcomes, which gives us an opportunity to reveal the strengths of the program and areas for improvement and to plan the respective measures. The best practice was taken into consideration while developing the program and it was used by the heads of the program and the self-evaluation team in order to comply the program with the modern requirements.

During this period, the memorandums were updated and qualitatively changed, TSMU has memorandums with National Center for Disease Control and Public Healthcare, LEPL National Food Agency of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, Sanitation, Hygiene and Medical Ecology

Scientific-Research Institute and Labor Medicine and Ecology Institute, with N. Kipshidze Central University Clinic, Center for Medical, Social, Economic and Cultural Issues "Urant".

- **Brief overview of the accreditation site-visit**

The current review has been carried out under the guidelines and procedures of the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement in Georgia on august 6th 2019 at Tbilisi State Medical University .

Expert panel group was composed of 4 experts and this group had a task to do analysis of the Study Program by using various documents and data concerning this Program. All needed materials for the comprehensive analysis have been submitted to the expert panel team in advance. This analysis was based on self-evaluation report content as well as on site visit data collected during interviews with faculty and programme representatives.

One of the most important documents was Self Evaluation Report. The Self-Evaluation Report was prepared by the Self-Evaluation Committee and presented before the site visit to the expert panel (team). The self-evaluation team in charge to develop the above-mentioned report was composed of the faculty dean, the deputy dean, heads of the program, head of the quality Assurance Service of the faculty, academic staff and invited staff of the program, a student, a graduate and an employer.

During the site visit, conducted on 6th of August at the Tbilisi State Medical University, the evaluation panel group had the opportunity to discuss deeply the programme with administration representatives, self-evaluation group, teaching staff, students, graduates and employers.

After all meetings with mentioned representatives and discussions related to the different program characteristics and achievements, strengths and weaknesses the team has developed preliminary conclusions. The opinions of the team members were adjusted and agreed to represent the harmonized opinions of the whole expert evaluation group.

Summary of education programme's compliance with the standards

Aassessment process that was conducted by Expert Panel Group was based on   in-depth analysis of the educational program and on the critical view of the institution, as well as the ways and means for improvement of the educational program. A self-evaluation report was well-structured and clear. All statements presented in the self-evaluation report were properly described and based on relevant evidence..The self-evaluation report is fully completed according to the opinion of the Panel Expert Group. Data presented in the self-evaluation form directly responds to the requirements for descriptions of standard components and evaluation criteria. In addition, the list of respective documents and types of information is anticipated in the table standing for standards' documentary evidences/indicators. Strengths and areas for improvement of an educational program are presented in relation to each standard, considering each component of the standard.

1. Educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and their compliance with the programme

This programme has clearly established program objectives and programme learning outcomes, which are logically connected to each other and consistent with the mission, objectives and strategic plan of the institution. Program learning outcomes are assessed on a regular basis by educators and heads of program and assessment results are used for programme improvement. Evidence provided by University experts and programme management team confirmed to the Expert Panel Group that the content of a programme component ensures the achievement of the objectives and student learning outcomes of the component, considering the number of credit hours allocated for it and teaching methods utilized. The Expert Panel Group considers that the list of learning outcomes reflects appropriate level of doctoral study's qualifications (PhD Public Healthcare). The learning outcomes of the PhD programme ensures possibility of graduates to be recognized at the national as well as at the international labour market. Expert Panel Group found that there is a proper mechanism of collaboration and participation between the teaching programme and employee partners which is established and implemented: this cooperation allows to programme management team to take into account opinions, suggestions and initiatives of stakeholders and to provide adjustments toward progress in programme development.Strengths and areas for improvement of PhD educational program are presented to the Expert Panel Group in relation to each standard, considering each component of the standard, which was found as an very good methodology for continual Program improvement.

Comply with the requirements

2. **Programme structure, teaching methodology and student evaluation**

Program is designed according to HEI's methodology for planning, designing and developing of educational programs. Program content takes program admission preconditions and program learning outcomes into account. Program structure is consistent and logical. Program content and structure ensure the achievement of program learning outcomes. Program has defined relevant, transparent, fair, public and accessible program admission prerequisites and procedures.

Qualification to be granted is consistent with program content and learning outcomes. Georgian and foreign citizens can be admitted to PhD/doctoral research program. Rule of admission is defined by Law of Georgia on Higher Education and provision about PhD of Public Health faculty. Admission at the Doctoral Studies announced at the specific doctoral research program approved by the TSMU Academic Council. The panel of experts has concluded that the sequence and admission preconditions of programme components are logical and comply with national and international requirements and practices.

It is important to underline that the Doctoral Program "Public Health" is decentralized doctoral program based on researches methods and statistical analysis. Its research part, learning courses are based on modern scientific knowledge, this implies the full and adequate involment in the learning process of the accumulated and newest, evidence-based knowledge and methodology in public health care, which ensures achieving the learning outcomes of the program. The learning is based on student-oriented methods. Research work means active involvement of the doctoral students in the learning process, including

practical activities, group work, situational analysis, discussions, case-study, preparation and presentation of the thesis, empirical learning, seminars and projects

According to the observations of the experts' panel the evaluation methods of each programme component are relevant to student learning outcomes. Also, the student evaluation criteria are transparent and students are informed properly about the achievement of learning outcomes, their gaps and possibility for improvement

Comply with the requirements

3. **Student support services**

Students receive adequate consultations and support at the University. They are involved in the PhD programme planning process. Most of the graduates from the programme are employed.

Students have enough information about all relevant items concerning PhD program and topics as well as about exchange programs. They are actively involved in it. Professors and other academic staff workload plan include individual work with students, has regular individual consultations and if necessary small group meetings. Academic staff from the University supports students' involvement in research projects and additional activities through participation in the international student exchange. The University aims to internationalise its teaching and scientific work and employability of its graduates by provision of opportunity for students to participate in the European projects, and other project (CDC etc), providing exchange opportunities for students and by offering study programmes in foreign languages.

Comply with the requirements

4. **Teaching resources**

University has appropriate infrastructure and technical equipment to ensure effective learning and teaching process for the PhD study program. Material, information and financial resources of the HEI ensure sustainable, stable, efficient and effective   functioning of the institution, and the achievement of the goals defined by the strategic development plan.

Very important resources of the University for the implementation of the PhD programme are human resources. PhD programme staff has necessary competences required for the achievement of planned learning outcomes. Altogether 29 persons are involved in the PhD program implementation: Out of them 20- academic staff (12 professors, 7 associated professors, 1 assistant professor) and 9 - invited staff. The number of academic /invited staff at the program is adequate with regard to the number of students;

In addition, TSU administration supports the PhD programme implementation. To facilitate the implementation of the program, program students are provided with the appropriate number and the relevant administrative and support staff with the corresponding competence, the number of which corresponds to the needs of students' learning process (Faculty Dean, Learning Process Administration Service, Quality

Assurance Service, Program Implementing Departments, Libraries and etc). The University has elaborated a rule for selection of administrative and support staff, which defines the basic principles of selection.

The number of administrative and support staff of the Public Healthcare Doctoral Program, which are directly involved in the program are 10.

Access to modern TSU library is provided to all PhD program students. In the library many needed study textbooks, journals and articles are available. These teaching materials are related to the core items in the field of Public Healthcare and of upmost importance for the achievement of defined Program learning outcomes. Literature available in the Library is modern, updated and available in hard copy as well as in electronic version. The Central Library is well-equipped, with sufficient working space for individual students work, and this library has appropriate working times. Purchase of new literature is conducted annually in accordance with the requirements of departments representatives, scientists and students. For the year 2019, in addition, the library has subscribed to 34 periodical editions of the field, which are not found in international electronic library databases or articles in full text are published there with delay. Students and staff have full access to international electronic library databases.

Comply with the requirements

5. Programme Quality Assurance and Teaching quality enhancement opportunities**:**

The Quality Assurance Service (QAS) is a structural and functional entity in the university administrative hierarchy, which conducts the main principles of quality policy. The Quality Assurance Service has a clearly defined provision, the basic principles and conditions of which are based on the "plan-do-check-act" cycle, quality assurance mechanisms and criteria are open to all interested persons, the Quality Assurance Service (QAS) constantly works on the development of its instruments; the Quality Assurance Service (QAS) reports as a rule, are structured on the model of this cycle. In the activities of QAS, moreover, in planning of all its internal university mechanisms are involved all those circles of the University, which have communication with the academic and research process and / or their resources (cycle phase-P). The program uses internal and external quality assurance services for enhancing teaching quality; periodically monitors and evaluates the program. TSU and the Faculty of Medicine has a full operational and well-established Quality Assurance System (faculty based) which complies with national and international quality standards and provide possibility to enhance opportunities for the PhD programme development and implementation.

Comply with the requirements

▪ **Summary of Recommendations**

The panel of expert group suggest to provide accreditation for the Doctoral study programme Public Healthcare without the mandatory recommendations.

▪ **Summary of Suggestions**

The panel expert group suggest to provide accreditation for Doctoral study programme Public Healthcare with some suggestions for the future work at the faculty:

- ✓ To increase financial support by TSMU side for students and professors' participation in conferences, and for publication of student's articles where the payment from students' side is expected
- ✓ To update the syllabi of modules by adding information from students' surveys/assessments more often
- ✓ To develop closer communication with social partners and potential employers to have improved PhD programme marketing

Summary of best practices (If Applicable)

- In case of accredited programme, summary of significant accomplishments and/or progress (If Applicable)

Compliance of the Programme with Accreditation Standards

1. Educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and their compliance with the programme

A programme has clearly established objectives and learning outcomes, which are logically connected to each other. Programme objectives are consistent with the mission, objectives and strategic plan of the institution. Programme learning outcomes are assessed on a regular basis in order to improve the programme.

1.1 Programme Objectives
Programme objectives define the set of knowledge, skills and competences the programme aims to develop in graduate students. They also illustrate the contribution to the development of the field and the society.
Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements Programme objectives define the set of knowledge, skills and competences the programme aims to develop in graduate students. They also illustrate the contribution to the development of the field and the society.   The objectives of PhD program " Public Healthcare" are: • Preparation of academic doctorate (PhD) who has systemic awareness of public health care field, who will have fundamental and systemic knowledge, relevant qualification in relation to possessing scientific-research methods and competence for successful research/academic work in this field. • Preparation of competitive and effectively working academic doctorates within various levels/stages of public healthcare field, who will be able to competitively develop, plan and implement preventive and health supporting programs, programs of environmental medicine, epidemiological supervision, professional medicine, health care administration and management, safe feeding, mother and child health care programs, also to manage medical including curative programs and so on. The urge of PhD program in Public Healthcare corresponds to the mission, strategy, values and vision of Tbilisi State Medical University, responds to defense and improvement of human life quality, protection and service of social responsibility principles and principles defining respect of human rights and freedoms.

Current legislation and requirements of public health are envisaged during preparation of academic staff in the field of public healthcare. The program objectives and learning outcomes are focused on the labor market, considers the interests of graduates as well as of the potential employers, the Law of Georgia on Public Healthcare and also the field-specific professional standards established by the research.

The mission of the TSMU is: Creation/development and dissemination of new knowledge based on high quality teaching, research and professional training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels of medical education; Participation in the enhancement of population quality of life, improvement of Health Care system and its effectiveness; Providing the graduates with knowledge and skills necessary for their harmonious integration in national and international professional communities.

The doctoral program fully complies with these statements. A new strategic plan of TSMU, which derives from the declared mission of the university and elaborated with close cooperation with the representatives of all structures of the university, with students, graduates, employers and other stakeholders, represents a framework for achievement of the main goal of the university.

The objectives of the doctoral program comply with this, they also comply with the law of Georgia on Public Health and is shared by the persons involved in the program. Academic and invited staff, as well as the program graduates and students are actively engaged in the international relations, particularly, they participate in the international scientific projects, conferences, they publish publications in international *papers including in the impact-factor field-specific quarterly issues, which support internationalization of research activity of the staff involved in the program.*

Faculty of Public healthcare has signed agreements with the Public healthcare Schools of Vilnius University and Wuhan University of China. These agreements envisage short-term exchange programs for academic staff and students, preparation of joint publications and it is possible to develop joint educational programs in future.

Evidences/indicators

- PhD program Public Health;
- TSMU Mission, Vision, Values http://new.tsmu.edu/content/2/42/0/0/0/0;
- TSMU Strategic Development Plan http://new.tsmu.edu/content/2/49/0/0/0/0
- Excerpt from the protocol N24/11 of 16 May 2019 meeting of the Academic Council of Tbilisi State Medical University about approval of the program.
- TSMU website - www.tsmu.edu;
- Interviews with the Self-Evaluation team; the Heads of the Programme; with Academic Stuff; PhD Supervisors, students.

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:

Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):
In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation
 	
    ■ Complies with requirements
 	
    ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
 	
    ☐ Partially complies with requirements
 	
    ☐ Does not comply with requirements

1.2. Programme Learning Outcomes

> ➢ Programme learning outcomes describe knowledge, skills, and/or the sense of responsibility and autonomy, students gain upon completion of the programme;
> ➢ Programme learning outcomes assessment cycle consists of defining, collecting and analysing data;
> ➢ Programme learning outcomes assessment results are utilized for the improvement of the programme.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

Mastering of PhD program in public healthcare will give PhD graduate a knowledge and skills, which are necessary for independent conducting of research and employment within received competence. Basis for this is that the learning outcomes of the doctoral program of Public Health comply with the goals of the program and includes main knowledge, skills and/or responsibilities and autonomy envisaged by the content. The learning outcomes of the doctoral program Public Health mainly consider the requirements of the Law of Georgia on Public Health. The competences of the graduates of the doctoral program envisage criteria determined by the higher education qualification descriptor.

The learning outcomes achieved as a result of successful completion of the doctoral program Public Health comply with the criteria determined for the 8th cycle of the national qualification and the Public Health Doctor qualification.

According to the selected field/specialty of Public Health, after completion of the doctoral program, an academic doctor has:

- Knowledge and Understanding

Knowledge based on the latest knowledge of public health and adjacent fields, which gives possibility to expand existing knowledge and using innovative methods gives bases to generate new field knowledge Deep and systemic knowledge about modern methodologies and methods of teaching and research of public health, including - within interdisciplinary format.

Competence to fully, multidisciplinary, complex and critically assess public health and scientific-practical information related to it.

- Skill

Mastering the academic components envisaged by the doctoral program of Public Health and implementation of a scientific research will give graduate knowledge and skills, which are necessary for independent solving of problem and successful employment within received competence.

After completing the PhD program, the graduate within wide/narrow/detailed field will be able to:

- To develop, implement, manage and introduce original research and analytical approaches oriented on generating and transmitting new knowledge;

- Independent planning, implementing and management of innovative, original field research by fully adhering to academic honesty principles;

- Development, implementing and management of epidemiological, public health, preventive, avoiding negative effect on environment and professional factors focused on protection on human health, disease prevention and improvement of life quality and/or field academic, professional, research activities/programs aimed at those goals and also making and implementing effective decisions to solve complex problems;

- Description, systematization, analysis and formalizing of research results of scientific research implemented by himself-herself and/or with his/her co-participation, in accordance with scientific information standards preset in international circulation, also presenting and discussion of results of scientific research with professional and non-professional community at local and international meetings.

  - <u>Responsibility and Autonomy:</u>
  - Independent search for/research of new professional values and develop new methods for their introduction;

  - Description/explaining the research ethics principles in field of public health, use and evaluation of those principles in innovative, independent and specific scientific projects;

  - Protection and evaluation of own and colleagues' professionalism, team work skills, relations between people, professional honesty, human rights and freedom values. Constant update of learning and knowledge, planning and management of teaching others.

The learning outcomes of the pHD program of Public Health are measurable, achievable and realistic, they comply with the specifics, of the field of public health , with the requirements of potential employers, requirements of the professional employment fields of the graduates, they consider professional field-specific standards established by the desk research, which are ensured by the engagement of all stakeholders, academic and invited staff, doctoral students, graduates, employers engagement in the elaboration and development of the program and by the introduction of the learning outcomes to the stakeholders.

The learning outcomes of the doctoral program " Public Health" are determined by the unity of the learning outcomes presented in the syllabuses of the program academic courses, comply with the goals of the program, are depicted in the map of program goals and learning outcomes and in the curriculum map.

Evidences/indicators

- PhD program " Public Health";
- Rule of development, approval, modification and cancellation of the educational program;
- The Rule of Evaluation of Learning Outcomes of Educational Programs of LEPL, Tbilisi State Medical University", decree N24/4 of 26 February 2019 by the academic council;
- A document confirming the participation of the interested persons involved in drafting of the program learning outcomes - protocols of the self-evaluation work teams, curriculum of the Public Health faculty and excerpt from the council minutes.
- TSMU website - www.tsmu.edu;
- Interviews with the heads of the program; Academic Staff; Invited Staff; Employers; Alumni.

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:

Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

■ Complies with requirements

☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Educational programme objectives, learning outcomes and their compliance with the programme	■			

2. Teaching methodology and organization, adequate evaluation of programme mastering

Programme admission preconditions, programme structure, content, teaching and learning methods, and student assessment ensure the achievement of programme objectives and intended learning outcomes.

2.1. Programme Admission Preconditions
Higher education institution has relevant, transparent, fair, public and accessible programme admission preconditions.
Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements Program has defined relevant, transparent, fair, public and accessible program admission prerequisites and procedures. Georgian and foreign citizens can be admitted to PhD/doctoral research program. Rule of admission is defined by Law of Georgia on Higher Education and provision about PhD of Public Health faculty. Admission at the Doctoral Studies announced at the specific doctoral research program approved by the TSMU Academic Council. Preconditions for admission to the educational program for Georgian citizens are Master's degree or equal academic degree in the field of Public Health (or in adjacent field - Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation etc) and winning in the PhD admission competition. This competition includes: a) Evaluation of the submitted documentation; b) passing the exam (tests-interview) in the major specialty and English language (B2 level).   The composition of the Examination Commission is approved by the TSMU Rector in agreement with the relevant department and by the Vice Rector's presentation. Documents of applicants for Doctoral studies will be admitted for the competition within 1 (one) month after the announcement of the competition; A candidate enrolled on the basis of examinations is considered as a Doctoral student. TSMU ensures full access to the information for the applicants of the doctoral program from the university website, on the official social network page of the university, by the coordination of the scientific work, MA and PhD departments' and program heads', active engagement, including in a consultation format.
Evidences/indicators   - PhD program " Public Health";   - Decree on Doctoral Studies of the Public Health Faculty of the Tbilisi State Medical University, approved by TSMU academic council on 7 May 2012 by the resolution N24/5;   - TSMU website - www.tsmu.edu;   - Interviews with the Heads of Program, students, Academic staff.
Recommendations: Not suggested
Suggestions for programme development: Not suggested
Best Practices (if applicable):

N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

   ▮ Complies with requirements

   ☐ Substantially complies with requirements

   ☐ Partially complies with requirements

   ☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.2 Educational Programme Structure and Content

Programme is designed according to HEI's methodology for planning, designing and developing of educational programmes. Programme content takes programme admission preconditions and programme learning outcomes into account. Programme structure is consistent and logical. Programme content and structure ensure the achievement of programme learning outcomes. Qualification to be granted is consistent with programme content and learning outcomes.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

The doctoral program Public health is drawn up by using the methodology of planning, elaborating, implementing and developing the educational programs existing in TSMU. It is based on the current legislation of Georgia normative base and the ECTS system. It is presented as a "rule of development, approval, modification and cancellation of the educational program". According to this rule –

- An educational program is initiated by academic staff of the faculty, basis of it may be the analysis of the labor market and employers' requirements, research priorities of the university, cooperation with the foreign and local higher education institutions and research centers.
- With the faculty academic staff, the employers, students, administration, graduates and professional organisations also participate in the development of the educational program. Upon their joint decision, the ways of achieving the general and field specific competences will be chosen.
- Guiding documents during the elaboration of the program are – the university educational program standards of the respective cycle, sectoral standards, guidelines elaborated by the management of the university, National Qualifications Framework and other relevant normative documents issued by the Minister of Education and Science.

The program elaboration and planning process consists from:

- The ratio of enrolling to the program students, academic, invited and support personnel amounts, which comply with the Regulation of the university and ensure the quality of program components and various students' supporting services;
- Infrastructure, technical equipment, training resources, financial support - necessary for implementation of the program.

The educational program has a head, who is responsible for elaboration of the program, its development and effective performance of all its components.

Educational program is developed at the faculty. The faculty also makes changes and provides the program development, coordinates the program and ensures publicity and transparency of the

curriculum development. The educational program- draft version is submitted for evaluation to the University Quality Assurance Office, upon the evaluation of the criteria established by this office, in the case of positive expert opinion, the program will be sent for discussion to the Curriculum Committee.

The Curriculum Committee, which is represented by the academic staff of the program and employers, with the head of the faculty quality assurance office, discusses the educational programs prepared by the teaching structural units of the faculty, evaluates and prepares opinions with respective recommendations. The curriculum committee submits a recommendation on the modification, approval or cancellation of the program to the faculty council.

The faculty council makes decision on submission of the presented educational program or its modifications to the academic council for approval if:

- the program complies with the university mission and its priorities;
- the program considers the novelties existing in the respective field/sphere;
- the program ensures achievement of set goals and results;
- it ensures competitiveness of the graduates on Georgian and international education and labor market.
- there are material and human resources necessary for implementation of the program.

In the case of a positive opinion of the academic council, the program is sent to the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement via respective procedures.

After the educational program becomes active, the modifications are made in it for the purposes of improvement of learning process. Amendments may be initiated by any stakeholder, while the basis for the modification may be as follows:

- The finding revealed as a result of the systemic evaluations;
- Envisaged by the internal quality mechanisms of the program;
- The results of monitoring of the students' academic achievements and program completion-distribution indicators;
- Program External Evaluation;
- Data of feedback by the students, graduates, potential employers, professional associations and other stakeholders from the satisfaction surveys, the data of international best practices and so on;
- Recommendations issued by the accreditation experts about the program;

Changes in the program that do not change the essence of the program, admission rule and the learning outcome are carried out by the curriculum committee of the respective faculty, they are discussed by the faculty first, then at the meeting of the academic council and then they are reflected in the curriculum.

Engagement of potential employers in the implementation of TSMU programs planning/creating/modifying process is ensured by their representation in the curriculum committees and relations with professional associations with consultations, with joint forums, projects and other types of activities, which significantly determine consideration of labor market requirements in the process of planning, elaborating, implementing, developing and canceling the educational programs.

Engagement of the students and graduates in the process is ensured by the monitoring of the program learning outcomes carried out by the faculty and surveys conducted by the departments and quality assurance office and by the analysis of these results.

Content, volume and complexity of the doctoral program of Public Health comply with the third cycle of education, while the content of the program considers preconditions for admission to the program. Volume of the program is 180 ECTS credits It includes academic (45 credits) and research (135 credits) components. 1 credit includes 30 hours, its distribution in contact and independent work hours in different study courses considering their specifics is differential and is reflected in syllabus.

PhD program "Public Health" is structured in form of functionally integrated educational academic level. PhD study component is unifying element, which is composed of parts which are unified and determined by the research field.

A doctoral student is directly supervised by the research supervisor, which together with doctorate after enrollment draws up credit distribution of study component of doctorates individual research program and doctoral students workload, whose implementation monitoring is done under supervision of scientific work coordination, masters and PhD service of TSMU.

The academic courses of the academic component are based on modern scientific knowledge, which means full and adequate engagement of the latest, evidence-based knowledge and methodology in the teaching process.

Academic Component (45 credits) includes:

1. <u>Major discipline (15 credits)</u> is determined by the field and content (goal, methodology, estimated outcomes and their usage, etc.) of a doctoral research. Teaching and learning methods and evaluation criteria of this course is defined by supervisor of PhD research, which is reflected in relevant syllabus.

2. <u>Doctoral Academic Courses</u> (major and elective, 30 credits), goal of studying these courses is to develop general scientific and academic competences; a student/doctoral student has opportunity to choose 2 elective courses, which ensures electiveness of free components of the program.

List of academic courses is reflected in doctorates individual study plan. Individual PhD research program is unity of academic and research plans of the doctoral students.

135 credits of the doctoral program is allocated for the research component - a scientific research. Its theoretical and experimental results have substantial significance for Public Health science.

Research component of PhD program includes research program of PhD research, program implementation plan, mandatory scientific activities (Participation in Scientific Forums, Publication of Scientific Papers, Reports, etc.) for finishing program and defense of dissertation and performance of dissertation work. Research program is individual and it is performed by one doctorate (main researcher) under supervision of research supervisor.

The research component of a doctoral program is performed during 3 years in doctoral studies according to the individual plan of a doctoral student.

Evaluation form of research component is an annual attestation (reporting) of a doctoral student to the base department/s.

The result of doctorates scientific-research work is scientific thesis (dissertation) containing scientific novelty.

Doctoral studies are completed by public defense of the dissertation. Qualification of Public Health Doctor is granted to a doctoral student according to the order N69/n of 2019 by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia on National Qualification Framework and Learning Fields Classifier.

TSMU ensures publicity and accessibility of the information on the program, particularly, it is posted on the website.

Evidences/indicators

- PhD program " Public Health";
- Rule of development, approval, modification and cancellation of the educational program;
- TSMU website - www.tsmu.edu;
- Interviews with the heads of program, Academic Staff, Invited Staff

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Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:
Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):
N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation
▉ Complies with requirements ☐ Substantially complies with requirements ☐ Partially complies with requirements ☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.3 Course

> **Student learning outcomes of each compulsory course are in line with programme learning outcomes; Moreover, each course content and number of credits correspond to course learning outcomes;**
> **Teaching materials listed in syllabi are based on the core achievements in the field and ensure the achievement of intended programme learning outcomes.**

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

Student learning outcomes of each compulsory course are in line with programme learning outcomes; Each course content and number of credits correspond to course learning outcomes.

Teaching materials listed in syllabi are based on the core achievements in the field and ensure the achievement of intended programme learning outcomes.

In order to ensure provision of the sectoral knowledge, the program includes academic courses of profile disciplines. The educational program is based on studying those significant issues, which are necessary to implement professional activities in various fields of public health (according to the selected field) considering modern requirements.

The list of mandatory courses includes: Scientific Research Methodology with Biostatistics (7 credits), The Higher Educational Pedagogy and Psychology (5 credits), Biomedical Sciences Ethics (4 credits), Foreign Language – professional English course (10 credits) and elective academic courses (each – 2 credits).

Elective academic courses are - Adjacent specialty determined by research specifics, Methodology for Drafting a Scientific Project, Evidence-based Medicine in Public Health Practice, Assertive Medicine in Medical Practice, Academic Writing in English, German Language (Precondition for admission is B2 Level), French Language (Precondition for admission is B2 Level), Russian Language (Precondition for admission is B2 Level).

In the renewed structure of syllabi, the employers and alumni survey results were considered. Particularly, the volume of the university courses was increased. The content of some disciplines has been changed. Educational plans were improved and newly elaborated.

Unity of the learning outcomes depicted in a separate academic course syllabus of the program determines the results of the program and complies with the standard established by the third cycle descriptor of the Higher Education National Qualification Framework's level/academic education.

Each syllabus of the academic course determines components and criteria for evaluation of doctoral students (knowledge and understanding, abilities, responsibility and autonomy), which are written in details and introduced to the doctoral students. The academic course syllabi include mandatory and auxiliary learning materials, which are textbooks, methodical recommendations, various orders, normative acts, scientific quarterly publications etc. Benchmarks of the learning materials are sufficiency, consistency and accessibility. Respective literature is available at TSMU library and at the respective department, it can be found on the Internet on professional websites. TSMU library fund has printed and electronic textbooks necessary for doctoral students of Public Health; TSMU library is involved in the international electronic library network, which significantly supports doctoral students to easily find information necessary for research work.

Evidences/indicators

- PhD program " Public Health";
- Interview with the Heads of program, Students, Academic and Invited Staff;
- A tour through Library

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:

Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):

N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

■ Complies with requirements

☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.4 The Development of practical, scientific/research/creative/performance and transferable skills

Programme ensures the development of students' practical, scientific/research/creative/performance and transferable skills and/or their involvement in research projects, in accordance with the programme learning outcomes.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

The Doctoral program " Public Health", according to the learning outcomes, ensures the development and strengthening of Doctoral students practical and transferable skills.

By program the Doctor of Public Healthcare will realize the need for knowledge based on the latest achievements in the field of public healthcare through the critical understanding of existing knowledge, which is obtained through the use of innovative methods and approaches. He/she will be able to plan, implement and manage the innovative, original field research independently, fully following the principles of academic integrity, evaluate scientific-practical information in public healthcare and its sub-disciplines, completely, multidisciplinary, complexly and critically.

The Doctor of Public Healthcare will be able to develop, implement and manage field's academic, professional, research activities / programs through effective and complex problem solving, decision making methods for the purpose of protection of human health, disease prevention and improvement of life quality focusing on epidemiological, social-healthcare, prophylactic and aiming at avoiding and / or minimizing harmful impacts of environment and professional factors.

The Doctor of Public Healthcare will be able to describe, analyze, analyze and format the results of scientific research conducted on his/her own or with his/her co-participation in accordance with international scientific information standards, also to present and dispute results of scientific research at national and international meetings with professional and nonprofessional societies, organizing various scientific conferences and forums.

Doctoral students of Public Healthcare regularly participate in conferences, forums and grants projects, publish in publications, including in impact-factor journals and also take part in various student activities, exhibitions, charity events, etc.

During the implementation of the program, by co-authoring of the PhD students are published 41 scientific works, including 18-in Georgian journals, 23 in International Reference journals. PhD students also participated in 9 local and 22 international conferences and 13 projects (USAID TB Prevention Project, World Vision International in Georgia, NGO "Real People, Real Vision" Supporting People Living with HIV and act.).

The Faculty for successful implementation of the Doctoral Program is actively cooperating with National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, LEPL - National Food Agency of Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture, as well as sanitation, hygiene and medical ecology and labor medicine and Ecology Scientific-Research Institutes, academician N. N. Kipshidze Central University Clinic, Center for Medical, Social, Economic and Cultural Issues "Urant"

In the mentioned institutes, doctoral students perform fragments of the research component, enhance professional skills under the supervision of the by qualified professors and practical workers, are involved in research projects.

Evidences/indicators

- Statistical data on student's involvement in scientific research projects;
- The works published by the co-authoring of the students;
- Participation in student scientific conferences, grant projects;
- Relevant memorandums with profile institutions;
- Interviews with the heads of program, Head of the University and faculty QA;

Recommendations:
Not suggested
Suggestions for programme development:
Not suggested
Best Practices (if applicable):
N/A
In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress
Evaluation o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard ■ Complies with requirements ☐ Substantially complies with requirements ☐ Partially complies with requirements ☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.5 Teaching and learning methods

Program is implemented using student centered teaching and learning (SCL) methods. Teaching and learning methods correspond to the level of education, course content, student learning outcomes and ensure their achievement.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements
The Doctoral Program "Public Health" is decentralized doctoral program based on researches methods, statistical analysis. Its research part, learning courses are based on modern scientific knowledge, this implies the full and adequate involvement in the learning process of the accumulated and newest, evidence-based knowledge and methodology in public health care, which ensures achieving the learning outcomes of the program. *The learning is based on student-oriented methods*. Research work means active involvement of the doctoral students in the learning process, including practical activities, group work, situational analysis, discussions, case-study, preparation and presentation of the thesis, empirical learning, seminars and projects.
The methods of academic activity separately and their integrity provides the achievement of the results provided by program.
The Program components content, volume, and teaching methods ensure achieving objectives and outcomes of the Program that are consistent with the eighth level of higher education Qualifications Framework/the results of the third level of academic education.

Learning courses are structured in the framework of the Higher Education Law. Methods of teaching comply with modern methodological, including specific requirements for preparation of the doctoral student. The Doctoral Program structured according to the European Credit Transfer System.

The Doctoral student implements the research component of the Program during three years minimum under the direct supervision of the Head of Program. The Doctoral student participates in local and

international scientific forums, where the results of his/her research are presented, publishes publications. The research component includes implementation of scientific thesis (dissertation) and completes by defense of the thesis.

Independent work of the doctoral students implies successful completion of spent time and labor (working time) envisaged by the curriculum, which is used for studying and mastering basic and additional literature, finding, introducing, processing new scientific papers in research field, enhancing knowledge in research field.

Evidences/indicators

- Doctoral program " Public Healthcare";
- Interview with the Heads of program, the Heads of QA departments.

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:

Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):

N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

■ Complies with requirements

☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

2.6. Student Evaluation

Student evaluation is conducted in accordance with established procedures. It is transparent and complies with existing legislation.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

The assessment of the achievements of doctoral students is conducted according to relevant administrative-legal acts. The calculation of the credits of educational program and assessment of the achievements of doctoral students is transparent and is conducted in accordance with the system of credit transfer and the European system of accumulation active in TSMU and the order N3, of 5.01.2007 by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.

The calculation of the credits of Public Healthcare doctoral program and assessment of the achievements of doctoral students is conducted by a 100-point system.

The analysis of the effectiveness of assessment methods of the Doctoral Program **academic component** will be implemented for all PhD students in accordance with the existing rules in the University and implies quantitative and content evaluation of the midterm examination and final academic results of the latter.

While learning each academic course constituent of the **academic component** the summary of the work performed by the doctoral student envisages two components - the assessments of midterm and final examinations. Each element has its percentage share in the overall system of assessment:

- <u>Midterm assessment</u> is divided into components (academic activity, practical skills, working in group, midterm exams, etc.), which have their percentage share within this element. Due to the specifics of the certain academic course, it is possible to specify the components included in the midterm assessment element. The content and the relative share of the component is determined by the head of the academic course. In midterm evaluations, the doctoral student can accumulate a maximum of 60 points.

- <u>The final examination</u> is mandatory, its relative share in the evaluation system is maximum 40 points. The doctoral student must receive no less than 20 points at the final examination.

- <u>Prerequisite for admission to a final exam</u>: The right to pass the exam is given to the doctoral student, who accumulates 51 points taking into account the maximum scores of the midterm assessment and final exams (40);

- <u>Summarizing assessment</u> is the sum of midterm assessment and final examination assessment;

Evaluation components and their relative share are reflected in syllabus of each course. Information about the assessment system and components is known to the doctoral students immediately after the start of the learning course. Principles and criteria for assessing the knowledge of the doctoral student are transparent and are known to all the subjects involved in the academic process. They comply with the interest of the objective assessment of the quality of mastering not only of theoretical knowledge by the student, but also of the practical skills. In assessing knowledge and skills, are used verbal, as well as tests and combined exams, presentations, abstracts / thesis.

The assessment is objective and developing, which is caused by transparency, publicity, and diversification. <u>The assessment form of the PhD program research component</u> at the TSMU is an <u>annual attestation </u>(reporting) by the doctoral student before the basic department/s. The annual attestation format of the doctoral student is a report on the work performed in the reporting period before the base department/s.

On attestation criteria, the Doctoral student is informed upon the start of the learning. criteria are as follows:

- Compliance of the academic component / credits performed with Doctoral student's plan;

- The academic course /courses provided by the map;

- The academic course /courses successfully mastered;

- Compliance of completed research activity with doctoral student's plan;

- Planned research activity,

- Conducted researches/ observations,

- Scientific publication /s.

- Assessment of the individual PhD research plan / topic on the doctoral student work by the supervisor.

According to the criteria established in compliance with the Doctoral student work report at the Basic Department/s session, the work performed by the doctoral student can be assessed as "sufficient" / "insufficient" / "inadequate"/totally insufficient."

- In the case of receiving "sufficient" evaluation of the work performed by the doctoral student, he / she is given a recommendation to continue working in accordance with his/her plan-map.

- In the case of receiving "insufficient" evaluation of the work performed by the doctoral student, he / she is given a recommendation:

  - On changes in plan-map and / or individual doctoral research plan, or

  - On suspension of the status of a student, if after the restoration of the status before completion of the doctoral program in the remaining period of time it is possible to perform the work envisaged by the individual doctoral research plan.

  - In the case of receiving "totally insufficient" evaluation of the work performed by the doctoral student, after complex analysis of the adverse circumstances of the work by doctoral student, as well as taking into account the explanations of the doctoral student and his/her scientific supervisor, the doctoral student is given a recommendation on the suspension /termination of student's status.

In case if the research has not started according to individual doctoral research plan of the status of a doctoral student / student with terminated status, and this is confirmed in written by the former PhD student, his/her scientific supervisor and the base department, competitive admission is announced once again on completion of the individual doctoral research.

The protocol of the session of the Basic Department / s, describing the results of the doctoral student's annual attestation, and is submitted to the TSMU Scientific Work Coordination, Master and Doctoral program Services.

The work on PhD research is completed by the defense of the thesis. The prerequisite for presenting the thesis to the Dissertation Council is the implementation of the learning courses provided by the Doctoral Program (Doctoral Program learning component) and the preliminary review of the Dissertation work (approbation) in the Department, where the Doctoral research was performed.

Dissertation work should be submitted and supported by professional / field associations. The dissertation presented for obtaining the academic degree of doctor must be a completed scientific research, in which the current scientific problem (problems) is solved and has been adopted in the relevant field of theoretical, experimental and / or clinical outcomes.

The main results of the thesis should be published in the field reviewed and referenced scientific journals, in the collections of the scientific works and monographs, which are printed in Georgia and abroad and is spread on the international level. The minimum number of scientific works is 4, one of which should be published in the international reviewed edition, at least one in the Impact-Factor edition.

The dissertation should fully reflect: Information / data on the actuality of the PhD research, scientific novelty, research objectives and tasks (Introduction); Review of scientific literature on the topic of Doctoral research, including the data of the last 10 years, description of research material and methodology / methodical, detailed and observable description of the results of his/her own research, description of the criteria of the convincing results, the review and analysis of the results of his/her own research, the obtained scientific conclusions, scientific theoretical and / or practical significance of the results, the list of scientific literature used, the annotation of the work in English, which should include information / data on the theoretical, scientific novelty, research objectives and tasks, research theoretical and practical value.

Two reviewers of the dissertation thesis, one of which may be the representative of the department, in which the work was performed, assigns the head of the structural unit, where the approbation should be conducted. The reviewer may be a person with a Doctor's academic degree in the field of science in which the thesis is performed. The reviewer may be as TSMU academic staff, as well as a specialist possessing Doctor's academic degree. In the conclusion should be assessed the actuality, novelty, originality, theoretical and practical value, the adequacy of the research design and methodology, objectivity and reliability of the primary material of research, the structure of the thesis, the quality of the formatting and the language fluency. The comments expressed by the reviewer and /or at the approbation on the dissertation work should be corrected by the respondent in case of sharing under observation of the supervisor.

The Expert Commission is created within 10 days after receiving the paper and the relevant documentation by the Dissertation Council. The composition of the Expert Commission shall be approved by the Dissertation Council with the suggestion of the Dissertation Council through the majority of the list of the members.

The Expert Commission is composed of 3 members with the Doctor's academic degree. The expert may be a person with a Doctor's academic degree in the field of science in which the thesis is performed. The expert may be as TSMU academic staff, as well as a specialist possessing Doctor's academic degree.

In the expert conclusion should be assessed the actuality, novelty, originality, theoretical and practical value, the adequacy of the research design and methodology, objectivity and reliability of the primary material of research, the structure of the thesis, the quality of the formatting and the language fluency. Expert conclusion will be submitted to the Dissertation Council no later than one month.

The dissertation is presented and defended in the state language.

Dissertation Council makes decision on granting the PhD academic degree by secret ballot. For conducting the secret ballot existence of the quorum is necessary. For degree awarding evaluation of the dissertation work by the council members on average by 51 points at least is required.

Dissertation evaluation by the Dissertation Council is conducted in accordance with p.10,11,12,13, art .4, order #3 of January 5, 2007 by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgian, the dissertation work shall be evaluated by established criteria by each member of Dissertation Council separately. The final assessment of the work is determined by the mean arithmetic of separate assessments. receiving "unsatisfactory" (42-51 points) evaluation of the work performed by the doctoral student as a final evaluation, the doctoral student is given the right to submit a processed dissertation thesis within one year. In case of receiving the evaluation a "completely unsatisfactory" (41 points), the doctoral student loses the right to present the same paper.

Evaluation criteria of the dissertation work

95 -100	**Excellent** – excellent dissertation (summa cum laude)
87 -94	**Very good** – result that exceeds the defined requirements in all aspects; (magna cum laude)
77 -86	**Good** – result that exceeds the defined requirements (cum laude)
66 -76	**Medium** - the result that meets all the requirements (bene)
51 -65	**Satisfactory** – an outcome that, despite its deficiencies, still meets the defined requirement (rite)
42 -51	**Unsatisfactory** - a result that fails to meet the defined requirements due to major deficiencies (insufficienter)
≤41	**Completely Unsatisfactory** - a result that does not meet at all the defined requirements (sub omni canone)

1.	Quality of scientific novelty of the work	0 -10 points
2.	Quality and adequacy of the purpose and objectives of the work	0 -10 points
3.	Methods and methodological conformity of research design with research tasks and / or their quality	0 -10 points
4.	The selected criteria for the credibility and conviction of research results	0 -15 points
5.	Theoretical value of research results;	0 -10 points
6.	Practical value of research results;	0 -10 points
7.	Academic accuracy of the work	0 -10 points
8.	information and completeness of presentation of the work	0 -10 points
9.	the quality of conducting of scientific discussion by an author of dissertation	0 -15 points
	summarizing assessment of the dissertation work	**0 -100 points**

Evidences/indicators

- The doctoral program "Public Health";
- The provision "on the Doctoral studies of the Faculty of Public Healthcare of TSMU (approved by resolution #24/5 of 7.05.2010 by the Academic Council)";
- The Provision of "Tbilisi State Medical University Public Healthcare Faculty of Dissertation Council on creation, activities and awarding Doctoral Academic Degree ".
- "The Rule of Evaluation of Academic Results of Educational Programs of LEPL, Tbilisi State Medical University".
- TSMU website - www.tsmu.edu;

• Interviews with the head of the Program, Students, Alumni.

Recommendations:
Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:
Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):
N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

▊ Complies with requirements

☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Teaching methodology and organization, adequate evaluation of programme mastering	■			

3. Student achievements and individual work with them

HEI creates student-centered environment by providing students with relevant services; programme staff ensures students' familiarity with the named services, organizes various events and fosters students' involvement in local and/or international projects.

3.1. Student support services
Students receive appropriate consultations and support regarding the planning of learning process, improvement of academic achievement, employment and professional development.
Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) ensures student's awareness and their involvement in various local and international university related projects and events. TSMU is supporting student's initiatives. The Doctoral student of the Doctoral program "Public Healthcare" timely receives information, support and consultation on planning the learning process, improving academic achievements andcareer development, as well as social services. For each of the educational levels, TSMU has developed regulations for assignment, suspension and termination of student status, mobility, qualification granting, issuing educational documents as well as recognition of education received during the learning period. Upon admission to the university, a contract is signed with every student, which defines any formal relations between a student and University. The contract determines students' rights and represents a legal guarantee for protection of their rights, which provides full protection of their doctoral rights and status. Elective (optional) learning courses are used as one of the forms of realization of individual aspirations and opportunities for doctoral students. Optional subjects for doctoral students are defined by the content of the educational program, transparency and freedom of choice is provided with access to information on elective subjects, which is conducted through the coordination of scientific work, active involvement of Master and Doctoral Department, Doctoral Program and PhD Research.

Various consulting servicesfor students are available at TSMU including consultation provided by the faculty Dean / Program Manager.

In other cases, envisaged by the "Rules for Developing a Student's Individual Curriculum" established by the Academic Council of the TSMU for the student with special educational needs, an individual curriculum is prepared. The student himself/herself can participate in the preparation of the plan. The individual curriculum agreed with the student is approved by the Faculty Dean.

According to the TSMU Representative Council, "the workload of academic staff implementing educational and research activities of Tbilisi State Medical University", it is defined that academic staff will allocate for students' consultation minimum 2 hours per week.

The Service of the Relations with Students and Graduates also provides for a student useful consultations on planning the learning process and improving academic achievements. The functions of the mentioned service are regulated by the TSMU Rector's Regulations. The priority direction of this service is development of career service, implementation of internship programs and communication with potential employer companies for the purpose of employment and professional development of students.

The doctoral students have the opportunity to participate in local and international projects, events, conferences, and researches, also, benefit from the international mobility.

In 2014-2018 years one of the doctoral students participated in different projects (USAID TB Prevention Project, World Vision International in Georgia, NGO "Real People, Real Vision" Supporting People Living with HIV).

The TSMU ensures participation of all stages of students, including doctoral student, internships and international mobility, to facilitate students' learning and career development in the international space. All the above-mentioned is mainly implemented by using the resource of the Department of International Relations. There are bilateral exchange programs at the university, in the EU-funded international mobility programs (Erasmus+, Erasmus Mundus). Information about exchange programs is open and transparent. It is regularly posted on TSMU website.

The scientific conferences of Doctoral students are organized annually by the initiative of Scientific Work Coordination, Masters and PhD Service and the Department of Quality Assurance, where the PhD students present fragments on the work performed by them. For example, in 2016, 2 PhD students of the Faculty of Public Healthcare participated in the PhD scientific session (1. Irakli Gvilava - "Radio-protective Action (Experimental Survey) of Citrus Extract" Scientific supervisors: Professor, Tamar Sanikidze, Assoc. Professor, Mariam Giorgobiani, 2. Lia Gumbaridze - "Medical Insurance Development Stages in Georgia" Scientific supervisor - Prof. Levan Baramidze).

TSMU supports the involvement of students in the current University and countrywide projects and activities.

Organizations where are the doctoral students involved in scientific projects and scientific conferences activities: Student Scientific Society, Young Scientists Association., European Medical Students

Association - Tbilisi (EMSA), International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA); Health Care Youth Organization.

In the TSU budget is envisaged the article to finance student projects, by which is funded by student self-government and other small student organizations projects.

The TSMU facilitates participation of students in international activities and implements it, the Service of the Relations with Students and Graduates conducts coordination with several Georgian representations of youth (students) organizations (EMSA, EDSA, EPSA, IFMSA) at the university base, within which our students are able to participate every year in conferences and meetings in different European countries.

In addition, doctoral students are actively involved in the management of TSMU. Students' rights and interests are protected by their representation in management bodies: In Faculty's (s) councils and representative councils. They are presented in the Curriculum Committees. At the council sessions they raise questions and discuss the intractable issues. Students (in case of necessity) are also presented at the University Ethics Commission, where are discussed the cases of violation of the University regulation, University ethics by the students or staff.

In accordance with the Law of Georgia "On Higher Education", students at Tbilisi State Medical University have the right to participate and be elected in the governing bodies of the University: In faculty councils - with 25% composition, and in representative councils - with no less than 1/3. As the Academic Council chooses members of the Faculty Council, they may indirectly have members of the Academic Council supported by them.

All the documents regulating the students' rights and obligations are placed on the TSMU website.

Evidences/indicators

- Code of Ethics of LEPL, Tbilisi State Medical University
- Statute of LEPL, Tbilisi State Medical University
- Internal Regulations of LEPL, Tbilisi State Medical University
- "Regulation of TSMU Rector's Office"
- "The rule of Elaboration of an individual educational plan of students"
- "Procedure for Recognition of Student mobility, internal mobility and credits recognized at LEPL, Tbilisi State Medical University"
- "Procedure for Granting Qualification to Graduates of Educational Programs of Tbilisi State Medical University, Use, Issuance and Accounting-Reporting of Diploma forms"
- Samples of contracts signed between TSMU and students (Doctoral Program)
- Personal files of the graduates and Doctoral Students
- "Workload of Academic staff implementing educational and research activities of Tbilisi State Medical University"
- TSMU website - www.tsmu.edu
- Component evidences/indicators including relevant documents and interview results

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:
Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):
N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

■ Complies with requirements

☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

3.2. Master's and Doctoral Student supervision

Master's and Doctoral students have qualified thesis supervisors.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

Each doctoral student of the Doctoral Program "Public Healthcare" is directly supervised by a supervisor and, if necessary, one or more co-supervisors / consultants.

Preliminary review of the PhD research program is conducted at the session of the Direction (Department), where the Doctoral Research is prepared by the Faculty Dean's decision. The supervisor of the Program should be a professor, Associated Professor or Emeritus, an academic degree doctor, a major scientific researcher at the TSMU Scientific-Research Unit. Co-supervisor can be a person with a Doctor's academic degree.

After the preliminary review, the PhD research program expertise is conducted. The expertise of PhD research programs implies the theoretical and practical evaluation of scientific, methodical and anticipated outcomes of the Doctoral research program presented by the established rule of the Doctoral Studies of Public Healthcare Faculty, the adequacy of the academic component with the content of the program.

The PhD research program is supposed to be handed over to the Quality Assurance Service of the Faculty for expertise, which should be attached by the conclusion of the relevant department's review of the presented program.

Quality Assurance Service of the Faculty ensures assessment of the Doctoral Research Program in accordance with the established Regulation of Quality Assurance Service.

Within 10 days after the completion of the expertise, the Quality Assurance Service will prepare relevant recommendations to be presented to the Services of Scientific work Coordination, Master and Doctoral programs, and the latter - to the Head of the Doctoral Program.

The interested person is entitled to prepare and submit a Doctoral Research Program taking into consideration comments and recommendations, or express justified refusal to consider comments and recommendations.

The cost estimate of the PhD research program is conducted by the TSMU Economic Department, approved by the TSMU Representative Council. Programs financed by scientific grant are not subject to financial expertise at the faculty.

If the Doctoral Research Program considers the involvement of a human and / or research on human biological materials and / or data, also experimenting on animals, the program and accompanying documentation for ethical evaluation of the scientific component of the program will be submitted to the Ethics Committee of Biomedical Research of Tbilisi State Medical University, the positive conclusion of which is necessary to approval of the Doctoral Research Program.

The Dean of the Faculty will submit to the Faculty Council the Doctoral research Program along with the expertise and ethical evaluation materials. After the positive conclusion of the Faculty Council and the authorizing by the Vice Rector, the program will be handed over to the Academic Council for approval. The Academic Council approves the Doctoral research program and its supervisor.

Doctoral research program approved by the University Academic Council is published in the university printed body, will be posted on the website and the competition of enrollment is announced.

Making the amendments to the approved Doctoral Research Program can be performed only by the decision of the Academic Council, on the basis of the Faculty Council and the Vice-Rector's mediation.

The TSMU has elaborated the documents reflecting the rights and responsibilities of the management and the leadership of the Doctoral Research Program.

The program supervisor is responsible for following issues: The supervision of the Doctoral student in the process of performing the Dissertation research, for the involvement of the Doctoral student in searching and processing of scientific literature, in mastering of selected methods and conducting of the high quality of research work, in preparation of scientific publications; Consultation for doctoral students, including the issues of planning and implementation of the Doctoral program learning component by doctoral student; To provide the conditions for the preparation of the dissertation by the doctoral student at a relevant academic level and for presenting within the established timeframe.

Doctoral Research Program supervisor, together with the doctoral student, is responsible for the scientific and practical/ applied significance of the results of the dissertation, the adequacy of research design and methodology, objectivity and reliability of the primary material, design quality and fluency of the language of the work, in respect of originality/scientific novelty of the main results of the work.

The Head of PhD Research program collaborates with the Scientific Work Coordination, Masters and PhD service, the Dissertation Council of the Public Healthcare Faculty.

The Head of the Doctoral Research Program may have for each academic year, as a rule, no more than three doctoral students.

According to the resolution №23/10 of October 3, 2017 by the TSMU Representative Council on "Workload of Academic Staff Implementing Educational and Research Activities of Tbilisi State Medical University", Management of Doctoral research within the timeframe established by the legislation envisages for the supervisory marginal workload of the auditorium / contact hours no more than 30 hours in the semester, in case of two or more PhD studies supervision - no more than 50 hours per semester.

The head of the research together with the doctoral student, after his/her admission, compiles credit allocation of the individual doctoral research program learning component and workload of the doctoral student, which is reflected in detail in the PhD research plan and the accompanying / integral part - syllabuses and the performance of which is monitored by the Scientific Work Coordination, Master's and PhD Program Service.

Responsibility of research supervision is delegated to research scientific supervisor; Responsibility for performance of academic component of PhD program and organizing learning process (including - considering separate PhD research field) is delegated to program supervisors, who act in coordination with Scientific Work Coordination, Masters and PhD Service.

The supervisor of the Doctoral Thesis is responsible for the quality of Doctoral Thesis, which implies: The theoretical and practical value, the adequacy of the research design and methodology, objectivity and reliability of the primary material of research, the structure of the thesis, the quality of the formatting and the language fluency, originality of the main results of the work.

Performance of the work by the Doctoral student, as a rule, is conducted in the research and practical institutions of the relevant profile, due to the field of research.

The prerequisite for presenting the thesis to the Dissertation Council is the implementation of the learning courses provided by the Doctoral Program (Doctoral Program learning component) and the preliminary review of the Dissertation work (approbation) in the Department, where the Doctoral research was performed.

The main results of the thesis is always published in the review and as scientific papers.

Evidences/indicators

- Rights and Obligations of the Heads of the Doctoral Research Service:
- According to the resolution №23/10 of October 3, 2017 by the TSMU Representative Council on
- "Workload of Academic staff implementing educational and research activities of Tbilisi State Medical University".
- Personal files of the staff implementing the Doctoral Program "Public Healthcare".
- TSMU Doctoral Studies Provision.
- Faculty Council's certifying protocols on Doctoral themes and supervisors.

• Orders on defense of Doctoral themes, Orders on issuing Diploma of Public Healthcare Doctor.	
Recommendations: Not suggested	
Suggestions for programme development: • To increase financial support by the TSMU side for students and professors' participation in conferences, and for publication of student's articles where the payment from students' side is expected	
Best Practices (if applicable): N/A	
In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress	
Evaluation o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard ▇ Complies with requirements ☐ Substantially complies with requirements ☐ Partially complies with requirements ☐ Does not comply with requirements	

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Student achievements and individual work with them	▇			

4. Providing teaching resources

Programme human, material, information and financial resources ensure programme sustainability, its effective and efficient functioning, and achievement of intended objectives.

4.1 Human Resources

- ➢ Programme staff consists of qualified people who have necessary competences in order to help students achieve programme learning outcomes;
- ➢ The number and workload of programme academic/scientific and invited staff ensures the sustainable running of the educational process and also, proper execution of their research/creative/performance activities and other assigned duties. Balance between academic and invited staff ensures programme sustainability;
- ➢ The Head of the Programme possesses necessary knowledge and experience required for programme elaboration. He/she is personally involved in programme implementation;
- ➢ Programme students are provided with an adequate number of administrative and support staff of appropriate competence.

Description and Evaluation

Persons implementing the Program are involved in the program at TSMU in accordance with applicable legislation and internal regulatory acts of the University.

The management of staff in Tbilisi State Medical University is conducted with basic guideline documents, namely charter, internal regulation, ethics code. Also, in accordance with individual administrative-legal acts adopted by the managing bodies.

The University has developed a Human Resource Management Policy,which reviews the selection, employment, professional development and motivation of human resources.

The Academic and Scientific staff of the University is selected by open competition, Articles 34 and 35 of the Law of Georgia "on Higher Education" and in accordance of "The rule of conducting the competition for the academic and scientific position at Tbilisi State Medical University and the Regulation of the Competition Commission" approved by the TSMU Representative Council by Resolution # 23/6 of 27 April 2015, in which is listed the documents to be presented in the competition and the rule of conducting the competition.

At the university also has been developed "Methodology for determining the academic, scientific and invited staff in accordance with the programmes of TSMU", "The rule of affiliation of academic staff at the Tbilisi State Medical University","Workload of academic staff implementing educational and research activities of Tbilisi State Medical University", "Rule of Planning of Students Contingent".

Qualification of the staff implementing the Doctoral Program"Public Healthcare"is in compliance with their qualification requirements, functions and current legislation.

Qualification of the staff implementing the Program is proven by the knowledge, experience and competence required for the expected outcomes of the program. One of the key criteria for involving the academic staff and invited teachers and / or researchers in the educational program is his/her research activity proven with scientific / scientific-methodical publications. Priority is the publications in impact factor editions. An important determining criterion for obtaining the status of an invited teacher is his/her practical and / or academic experience.

According to the Rule of Electing at the Academic Position and the Regulation of the Competition Commission, the list of documents along with other documents presented by the applicant, is a list of scientific-methodical works published during the last 10 years and its certifying materials. Accordingly, these data are qualitatively considered during the competition selection. It is considered that the existence of publications and / or other research activities is one of the (but not the only) markers of academic competence of staff. Due to the specifications and the development of the field of Public Healthcare, each of the program supervisor is equipped with the latest knowledge, has been actively involved in scientific researches, and has published a scientific work which corresponds to the general direction of the doctoral student's thesis.

Altogether 29 persons are involved in the Doctoral Program implementation: Out of them 20- academic staff (12 professors, 7 associated professors, 1 assistant professor) and 9 - invited staff. The number of academic /invited staff at the program is adequate with regard to the number of students;

The program has an individual workload scheme for academic and invited staff, which is updated every semester, and implies learning and / or scientific research, clinical (clinical specialties), administrative (in appropriate cases) and other activities.

The balance between academic and invited staff of the program ensures the sustainability of the program and consists of 20/9.

The academic and invited staff are also involved in the course of students' consulting and various activities planned within the program, the heads of the programs from the program implementing staff receive information on important issues of academic processes, as well as research, teaching-learning, evaluation of learning outcomes, doctoral students' annual conferences, different activities and other topical issues.

The program is managed by Professor Levan Baramidze of Professor of Public Health, Management, Policy and Economics Department, and Nino Kiladze, Associated Professor of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health Hygiene and Medical Ecology Department, they are responsible for the Program development, improvement and assurance of all components of the program (functions and responsibilities of the head of the program are described by the TSMU relevant resolution). Both of them have theoretical and practical knowledge of the field, which is needed for the proper development of the program and to conduct the learning process properly. They are the authors of several textbooks and of scientific works.

To facilitate the implementation of the program, program students are provided with the appropriate number and the relevant administrative and support staff with the corresponding competence, the number of which corresponds to the needs of students' learning process (Faculty Dean, Learning Process Administration Service, Quality Assurance Service, Program Implementing Departments, Libraries and etc). The University has elaborated a rule for selection of administrative and support staff, which defines the basic principles of selection. The number of administrative and support staff of the Public Healthcare Doctoral Program, which are directly involved in the program are 10.

Evidences/indicators

- The rule of conducting the competition for holding the academic and scientific position at Tbilisi State Medical University and the Regulation of the Competition Commission.
- The Methodology for defining academic, scientific and invited staff number according to programs of TSMU.
- The rule of affiliation of Academic staff TSMU.
- Workload of Academic staff implementing educational and research activities of Tbilisi State Medical University.
- The rule for determination of student contingent of Tbilisi State Medical University.
- The rule for selection of support staff of Tbilisi State Medical University.
- A document defining the duties and responsibilities of the Head of the Program.
- The regulation of Public Health Faculty.
- Personal files of the academic, invited and administrative staff;
- The evaluation rule of academic and invited staff.
- The list of staff implementing the education program indicating the doctoral theme.
- The list of PhD works defensed during the last 5 years indicating the title of the work, defense year, supervisor, points.
- Forms of contract concluded with staff.
- The CVs of the Heads of the Program and agreements concluded with them.
- Dissertations defensed during the last 5 years.

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:

Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):

N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

■ Complies with requirements

☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

4.2 Professional development of academic, scientific and invited staff

- ➢ HEI conducts the evaluation of programme academic, scientific and invited staff and analysis evaluation results on a regular basis;
- ➢ HEI fosters professional development of the academic, scientific and invited staff. Moreover, it fosters their scientific and research work.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

TSMU regularly performs and actively uses the results of assessment and satisfaction surveys by those involved in the implementation of the program and analyzes these results The TSMU Quality Assurance Service has been developed a questionnaire for the purpose of evaluation of the learning course and the teacher by the student / doctoral student and students anonymously fill up the questionnaire, the data of which is analyzed by the quality assurance service together with the heads of the programs.

Results and recommendations are discussed at the Faculty Council and / or in case of necessity with the individual academic or invited staff individually. The TSMU has developed and from 2019-2020 academic year will be introduced the rule of assessment of academic and invited staff (Rules of assessment of TSMU academic and invited staff approved by the resolution N24/6 of TSMU Academic Council of March 7, 2018).

In assessing the academic, scientific and invited staff, the attention is paid not only to their teaching, but also to scientific activities. Based on the assessment results the staff can be promoted and encouraged. In the TSMU functions also the "The rule of Evaluation of Productivity of Academic and Research staff (approved by the resolution N24 / 7 of March 21, 2018) of the Academic Council". It is planned to conduct staff assessment in electronic form and determine the productivity of academic staff from 2019/2020 academic year.

Various activities are carried out for the development of academic, scientific and invited staff. Academic staff of the Program is actively involved in both local and international seminars and conferences. With their active participation and under leadership and support of TSMU and the Faculty of Public Healthcare the conference "Health and Ecology" is held annually during 10 years. For example, in the city of Mtskheta in 2017 and in 2018 in Telavi there was held 10th Conference, in which actively participated invited teachers and representatives of relevant public healthcare and environmental medicine services.

Professional development of academic staff is conducted by conferences and seminars. During the past 5 years, by the efforts of academic staff of the Faculty of Public Healthcare have conducted a number of conferences dedicated to public healthcare issues:

- The actual issues of Environmental Health - National Week of Poisoning with lead. Tbilisi, October 28, 2016

- Healthy lifestyle, scientific evidences and controversial issues. Tbilisi, October 28, 2017.

- Topical problems of public healthcare. Sachkhere, 28-29 October, 2017. It is noteworthy that in the conference work participated students of Masters' program, G. Lomtatidze and M. Sajaia, who have made a report on the topic "health effects caused by mercury".

- Modern approaches of health ecological risk management in urban areas (systems). Tbilisi, 7-8 October, 2017.

Also, the academic staff involved in the program actively participates in the Annual International Festival of Science and Innovations. Organizational provision of all above mentioned conference was carried out with the help of the TSMU administration.

At the University functions the Teacher Training Center, where regular trainings of academic staff and invited teachers are conducted in the "Medical Education Methodology". All the academic staff of the program have passed the mentioned training.

The staff involved in implementation of the Doctoral Program presented reports at 151 conferences in the last 5 years, among them 78 international conferences. Also participated in 24 grant projects. Publications Under their authorship were published 31 textbooks, 3 supportive manuals and 8 monographs.

The academic staff involved in the Doctoral program participate in international projects, researches and conferences. During the last 5 years Academic staff and invited teachers participated in the following **International Conferences and Events:**

1. Regional contributions and synergies for Global Health Security, 27th November-1st December, 2017, Brussels (Belgium).
2. 9th Global scientific conference: building on 20 years of Applied Epidemiological Training to Advance Disease Surveillance, Response and Sustainable Development, August 7-11, 2017, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
3. MediPIET Annual Scientific Conference: Applying Public Health Science to the Field. Skopje, 6- 8 December, 2016.
4. MediPIET Annual Scientific Conference: Applying Public Health Science to the Field. Skopje, 18-19 November, 2015.
5. 10th Warsaw International Medical Congress for Young Scientists. Warsaw, 15-18 May, 2014. 6.   Scientific Congress - Conference on Bioethics and Medicine. Israel 2015.
7. II International Scientific Conference "Pharmaceutical Sciences in XXI Century", 2014,

Tbilisi, Georgia.

8. MUMEENA Closing Conference "Celebrating Achievements and Looking to the Future of Medical Education in Eastern Europe". July, 1-2, 2014, Tbilisi, Georgia.

9. „2nd international symposium on Ethics of Environmental Health", 15-19 June, 2014, Ceske Budejovice.

10. International Scientific Conference "Future Technology and Quality of Life", Batumi, 29 September - 1 October, 2017.

11. Health Impact Assessment and Health in Environmental Assessment – developing further implementation strategies. WHO expert meeting, Bonn, Germany, 24-25 September 2015.

12. Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) 2018, 20-23 June; London, Great Britain.

13. Social and Humanitarian Sciences 6th Mediterranean Interdisciplinary Forum, MIFS 2018, 24-27 May, Barcelona, Spain.

14. Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) 2017, 20-25 May; Rene, France.

15. Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of European Health Schools, (ASPHER) Athens, Greece, 2016.

16. Health promotion / health education; Malta, 2016

17. Migrant and minority health; OMI Workshop, Salzburg, Austria, 2016 (3-9 April).

18. Optimisation in X-ray and M Molecular Imaging, 2015, Gothenvurg, Sweden

19. EPR Biodose 2015, Hanover Inn, NH, USA, 2015.

20. 3-ed International Conference on Nanotechnologies and Biomedical Engineering, Moldova Chisinau, 2015.

21. 5-th IEEE International Conference "E-Health and Bioeningeenering: EHB-2015, Iasi, Romania, 2015.

22. 4th DHU 2020 Autumn School, "New determinants for chronic diseases" 26 October - 27 October 2017. CCI Nantes, Nantes, France.

23. International Conference on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities International Conference on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, Vienna, Austria, 13–17 November 2017.

24. EPR Biodose 2018, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany.

25. European Roundtable on Hepatitis Cure & Eradication 2015. 9- 10 September 2015 Frankfurt, Germany.

26. 1st Central Eastern European Meeting on Viral Hepatitis and Co-Infection with HIV. 22-23 June 2015, Warsaw, Poland.

27. Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver, London, U.K., April 9, 2014.

28. 21st Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2014), March 3-6, 2014, Boston, MA, USA (Poster presentation).

29. International Neonatal Conference 3-5 April, 2014. Valencia, Spain.

30. World Health Organization Regional Meeting on Vaccination Issues for National Immunization Program Managers 18-21 March, 2014, Antalya, Turkey.

31. AMEE 2018, Conference of European Association for Medical Education, 25-29 August, Basel, Switzerland.

32. AMEE 2017, Conference of European Association for Medical Education, 26-30 August, Helsinki, Finland.

33. AMEE 2016, Conference of European Association for Medical Education, 26-30 August, 2016, Barcelona, Spain.

34. AMEE 2015, Conference of European Association for Medical Education, 5-9 September, 2015, Glasgow, UK.

35. AMEE 2014, Conference of European Association for Medical Education, 30 August – 3 September, 2014, Milan, Italy.

36. VI Latin American Conference in Biomedical Engineering. October 29-31, 2014, Parana, Argentina.

37. Joint Meeting of the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) and International Society of Hypertension (ISH), June 13-16, 2014, Athens, Greece.

38. 8th International Congress Quality in Healthcare, Accreditation and Patient Safety. April 24-27, 2014 Antalya, Turkey.

39. Particifate Internacional Scientific Conference Future Technology and Quality of Life. October, 2017, Batumi, Georgia.

40. BMSB (Halyomorpha Halys) – Global Challenge Internacional Experience for BestSolutions.

41. March 8, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia.

42. Dental Academy Baku lecture "From Endodonty to Restoration"MaksimBelograd.Baku,Azerbaijan
 - 15-16.10.2015.

Evidences/indicators
- The Provision on the holding elections of the Tbilisi State Medical University and the Faculty Management bodies - Resolution # 23/3 of March 7, 2018 by the TSMU Representative Council   - Rule of assessment of TSMU academic and invited staff;   - The Rule for Evaluation of Productivity of Scientific-research activities of Academic and Scientific staff;   - Personal files of the academic, invited and administrative staff.

Recommendations:
Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:
Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):
N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation
o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard ■ Complies with requirements ☐ Substantially complies with requirements ☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

4.3. Material Resources

Programme is provided by necessary infrastructure and technical equipment required for achieving programme learning outcomes.

Description and Evaluation

The program "Public Healcare" is outfitted with library, material and technical resources, which ensure quantitative and qualitative quality of the program objectives and achievement of academic outcomes. The Library of Tbilisi State Medical University is focused on providing information support of learning and research activities of university professors, scholars, staff and for all stages of students and residents. The library's environment, resources, services and vision of their development facilitate effective implementation of learning and research activities. The library's activities are regulated by the library's regulations.

The library includes bookstores (1 main and 2 supportive), working rooms of the library staff, auxiliary space and area for library users. Library resources can be used for students, teachers and other beneficiaries in the following modernly-equipped spaces:

- Space for information-technology equipment; 3 computer halls with more than 50 upgraded computers,
- reading halls; 2 halls with 12-seat tables - 102 and 74 students,
- group work space: 2 halls with 12-seat tables - 48 and 36 students,
- Three reading halls of foreign literature on the first floor of the library, which can serve up to 150 students at one time,
- the Library Conference Hall, which is intended for meetings and debates, is designed for 80 people.

Reading and computer halls are equipped with necessary inventory - – tables, chairs, computers, air conditioners and etc. In the library students can use multi-function printers and projectors.

- The library is provided with high speed internet. The quality of Internet as computers connected to the University network, as well as wireless Wi-Fi for personal use laptops, different tablets and mobile phones is regularly controlled.
- The library is available to students and staff for 6 days a week, 60 hours: Monday through Friday - from 10:00 to 21:00 o'clock; On Saturday from 10:00 up to 15:00 o'clock; Day off - Sunday.
- The rules of using the library is established and posted in visible place in the TSMU and are available in Georgian, English and Russian languages (on the application board and on the web

- on the library website). The library provides services in Georgian, English, German and Russian languages.

- Students and professors' services are provided both at the place as well as through a library inter-library membership card.

- The existing fund of the university library printed and electronic is diverse (according to latest description - 330058 copies), constantly updated in the field of development and provides educational and research activities. Books of the library are processed in accordance to the library regulations; The full documentation of the Library is registered and maintained in both magazines and material catalogs, as well as in the electronic catalog, which is filled in by using the library platform Koha. Electronic Catalog is posted on the Library website: http://new.tsmu.edu/library/. Simple search system makes it easily available to find the desired literary source.

- Purchase of new literature is conducted annually in accordance with the requirements of departments representatives, scientists and students. For example, in the period from 2018-2019, the TSMU purchased the literature of 337734 GEL with the request of the above contingent. For the year 2019, in addition, the library has subscribed to 34 periodical edition of the field, which are not found in international electronic library databases or articles in full text are published there with delay.

- Students and staff have full access to international electronic library databases;

- TSMU has purchased the license for the use of the WHO program Research4life Electronic Bases (HINARI, AGORA, OARE, and ARDI).

- Through grant of the Rustaveli Science Foundation, free access is provided to the publishing corporation Elsevier's two search engines:

- ScienceDirect - 2200 academic journals and more than 25000 e-books full text base.

- Scopus - The largest database of referenced scientific literature; Information Hub for Scientific Research, Statistics, Citation Index and other valuable data for scholars.

- The library requests from suppliers of electronic science bases on annual basis, annual statistics for consumption, for the purpose of further analysis.

- Students' surveys are conducted to evaluate the work of the library, library service, among them availability of literature, educational materials and sources of new professional information indicated in the syllabus of the course, the main purpose of which is to study the issue of satisfaction of the beneficiaries. Analysis of the users' feedback is one of the grounds further optimization of the library work.

- Basic and supporting literature in the syllabus of the program is available in the University library as in the form of printed as well as electronic carriers. As syllabuses are updated and filled with new literature regularly, accordingly, the literature will be placed and will be available in the library.

- The material resources existing in ownership or possession of TSMU is used to achieve the goals set out by the TSMU and correspond to the number of existing students.

- TSMU owns clinical bases (5 clinics) and pharmaceutical enterprise where training, clinical, research and production activities are conducted. The learning area equipped with appropriate inventory is 29 341.07 sq.m.

- All academic and working rooms have both natural and artificial lighting possibilities. The buildings are equipped with the required number of well-equipped bathrooms, which are constantly supplied with water. Sanitary units are provided with uninterruptible lights and ventilation;

- TSMU's electricity is supplied by JSC "Telasi". The university also has three electrical substations with two transformers in each (basic and spare) on its base. In case of termination of power supply from JSC "Telasi", the TSMU is supplied with electricity (if necessary) autonomously, by diesel electrical generators.

- The state of fire safety in the TSMU is satisfactory; buildings are equipped with fire protection and special equipment.

- The existing environment at TSMU is adapted according to the needs of special educational needs and persons with disabilities. Elevators, ramps, bathrooms (toilet), and etc. are arranged for them at the university. Nearby the building is arranged parking lot for people with disabilities, which enables easy access to the buildings.

- The material resources existing in ownership or possession of TSMU is used to achieve the goals set out by the TSMU and correspond to the number of existing students.

Evidences/indicators

- The provision of the TSMU library.
  TSMU library fund.
- Document certifying access to international electronic library databases.
- A document certifying inventory, technical equipment of TSMU. Document certifying the learning area.

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:

Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):

N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

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Evaluation

o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

■ Complies with requirements

☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

4.4. Programme/faculty/school budget and programme financial sustainability

The allocation of financial resources stipulated in programme/faculty/school budget is economically feasible and corresponds to programme needs.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

Funding sources of the Doctoral Program are self-financing, grant or combined financing.

All individual research programs have a budget that includes university and non-university expenditure (in case of performing research in full or partially within non-university structure). The budget expertise is conducted by the TSMU Economic Department (Planning-Financial Division), except for the programs funded by scientific grants; The latter is not subject to financial expertise. Program budget is approved by TSMU Representative Council.

Financial provision of costs within program is performed by university joint budget, in accordance with reflected incomes and written costs categories of relevant articles of budget. Main activities of expenditure part include: Expenditure elements of labor remuneration, organizing study processes, care-maintenance of existing infrastructure and communal expenses. Within the existing program, financial incomes and expenses are balanced. Therefore, program is financially sustainable.

Evidences/indicators

- Individual cost estimates of doctoral students of Doctoral program "Public Healthcare".
- The 2019 budget of the Public Healthcare Faculty of TSMU.
- The 2019 budget of the TSMU.

Recommendations:

Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:

✓ To develop closer communication with social partners and potential employers to have improved PhD programme marketing

Best Practices (if applicable): N/A	
In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress	

Evaluation
 	
   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard
 	
     ☒ Complies with requirements
 	
     ☐ Substantially complies with requirements
 	
     ☐ Partially complies with requirements
 	
     ☐ Does not comply with requirements	

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Providing teaching resources	■			

5. Teaching quality enhancement opportunities

In order to enhance teaching quality, programme utilizes internal and external quality assurance services and also periodically conducts programme monitoring and programme review. Relevant data is collected, analysed and utilized for informed decision making and programme development on a regular basis.

5.1 Internal quality
Programme staff collaborates with internal quality assurance service(s) available at the higher education institution when planning the process of programme quality assurance, creating assessment instruments, and analysing assessment results. Programme staff utilizes quality assurance results for programme improvement.

Description and Evaluation

Integrated policy of quality development in TSMU is. The Quality Assurance Service (QAS) is a structural and functional entity in the university administrative hierarchy, which conducts the main principles of quality policy. The Quality Assurance Service has a clearly defined provision, the basic principles and conditions of which are based on the "plan-do-check-act" cycle, quality assurance mechanisms and criteria are open to all interested persons, the Quality Assurance Service (QAS) constantly works on the development of its instruments; the Quality Assurance Service (QAS) reports as a rule, are structured on the model of this cycle. In the activities of QAS, moreover, in planning of all its internal university mechanisms are involved all those circles of the University, which have communication with the academic and research process and / or their resources (cycle phase-P).

For internal quality evaluation strategic development plan envisions to improve instruments for evaluation of academic and invited staff activity, the Rule of elaboration, approval of educational programs, of making amendments and abolition, the Rule for Evaluation of Productivity of Scientific-research activities of Academic and Scientific staff, monitoring of students' academic achievements, alumni employment, improvement of employer's approaches and labor market research tools and their mechanisms for management. The Quality Assurance Service (QAS) of the Faculty (s) was fully involved in elaborating criteria and indicators of master's and doctoral works (i.e., Master's and PhD programs research component) of the relevant faculty.

The Quality Assurance Service has developed and the Academic Council has approved the criteria and procedures for evaluation of doctoral research, syllabus, scientific publications and textbooks of educational programs (among them, doctoral program). All new or renewed educational program are evaluated by these criteria and the process of reviewing the program depends on the results of this assessment. If the assessment is negative, the material is returned to the author for processing and the relevant recommendations are given. Expertise procedure is confidential, which increases the quality of objective assessment of Expertise. The issue of exclusion of conflict of interests is also envisaged. The Quality Assurance Service tries to involve in the expert evaluation the relevant field professional society, as an university and as well as external resources. However, it is noteworthy also that the expert panel is limited according to a number of scientific directions. Therefore, QAS is working on the

development of those mechanisms and resources, which will create the possibility of involving foreign colleagues to peer review process. The results of the student evaluation and the recommendations developed on their basis for the improvement of the educational process will be submitted to the faculties / academic councils, departments, is based on the development of curriculum and learning plan, administrative and organizational-technical changes. Expert assessment of the PhD programs research component under the auspices of the QAS, if it is "insufficient" for submitting to the subsequent stage of review, excludes the continuation of this component in the presented form and is based on the correction and improvement of the project, which is one of the tools to achieve better quality. In case of, so called, critical indicator of comments, the review of the project in the presented form will not be continued. It is possible that such material is then presented as completely renewed; And in this case the review process begins again.

Planning, elaborating, developing, effective implementation and development support and monitoring coordination of educational programs at TSMU is performed by University as we as Faculty Quality Assurance Services and departments. The survey of graduates and employers are conducted by electronic system. The final survey of the PhD students was conducted by the Quality Assurance Service in December, 2018. The results were reported to all faculty councils and was considered by staff involved in the implementation of the program.

The Doctoral Program Self-Assessment Team is represented by the Administration (Dean of the Faculty of Public Healthcare, Deputy Dean, The Head of the Quality Assurance Service of the Faculty), and by academic and invited staff, doctoral students, graduates and employers. Quality Assurance Service has implemented a program evaluation with full involvement of program administration, academic and invited staff, other participating parties, students and employers

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Evidences/indicators

- Main objectives and acting principles of quality assurance service of Tbilisi State Medical University (Quality Development policy)http://new.tsmu.edu/content/5/126/0/0/0/0
- "The Provision of Quality Assurance Service of Tbilisi State Medical University - Legal Entity of Public Law" approved by resolution No 23/3 of the TSMU Representative Council on March 9, 2010;
- Tbilisi State Medical University Mission and 2018-2024 Strategic Development Plan
    - http://new.tsmu.edu/content/2/0/0/0/0/0;

    - http://new.tsmu.edu/content/2/49/0/0/0/0

- "The Rule of Evaluation of TSMU Academic and Invited Sraff" approved by the resolution N24/6 of March 7, 2018 of the Academic Council of the TSMU
- "The Rule for the development, approval, amendment and annulment of an educational program" approved by the resolution # 24/2of December 29, 2017 by the Academic Council of TSMU;
- The "The rule of Evaluation of Productivity of Academic and Research staff (the resolution N24 / 7 of March 21, 2018 of the Academic Council)".
- Results of expert assessment (s) of PhD programs conducted by TSMU Quality Assurance Service.
- Results of the Survey on opinion of PhDs conducted by TSMU Quality Assurance Service
- Statistical data (students' progress, status suspension and termination indicator).
- Results of research conducted for self-assessment of academic staff.
- Document confirming the involvement of stakeholders involved in drawing up the learning outcomes

of the program - protocols of self-assessment working group, curriculum of the Faculty of Public Healthcare and the extract of the Council

Recommendations:
Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:
✓ To update the syllabi of modules by adding information from students' surveys/assessments more often

Best Practices (if applicable):
N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation
o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard ☒ Complies with requirements ☐ Substantially complies with requirements ☐ Partially complies with requirements ☐ Does not comply with requirements

5.2 External quality
Programme utilizes the results of external quality assurance on a regular basis.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements The TSMU regularly uses the following sources of quality evaluation with the purpose of external evaluation of the program: The results of the monitoring and annual self-evaluation report of the program, its accreditation, authorization and performs the analysis of expert conclusions and recommendations, on the basis of which modifies the program. The external mechanisms for assessing the Doctoral Program Implementation are based on the "Provision of Accreditation of Educational Programs of Educational Institutions" and "Authorization Provision of Educational Institutions."

The TSMU will present to the Legal Entity of Public Law, National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, once in three years the self-assessment report in accordance with the established deadlines and forms covering the information on each educational program.

Accreditation of the Doctoral Program "Public Healthcare" was held on May 27, 2014, during which the Expert Group of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement issued recommendations concerning technical errors in the syllabus and indicating issue of the pages of literature. All recommendations were considered and implemented.

The evaluation of external quality of the doctoral program "Public Healthcare " was conducted by Natalia Kazakhashvili, Professor of Public Healthcare Department of the Faculty Medicine of Tbilisi State University, a Member of the Council of the Higher Educational Program of Public Healthcare. Evaluation has revealed the strengths of the program and areas for improvement. The expert positively evaluated the program (by 91 points out of 100 points) and offered four recommendations to the program, namely:

-Elaboration of permanent renewal mechanism of the existing material-technical base for the purpose of ႦConducting actual, scientific / research works with relevant scientific value;

- Increasing the level of cooperative doctoral researches, the closer "linking" of academic issues to the field of applied healthcare, which ensures that the research results have not only the value of creating new knowledge / information, but also the ability to use this knowledge in the public health service

- Diversification of funding sources for the implementation of Doctoral Research Programs;

- More opportunities for internationalization of research and planning activities for doctoral students oriented on it.

The staff implementing the Doctoral Program has reviewed and, as far as possible, considered the presented recommendations, reflecting them in the program self-assessment in the short-term and long-term activities for improvement. The heads of the Program and Quality Assurance Service reviewed the program's external quality assessment document and planned to take appropriate measures and actions during the implementation of the program to consider these recommendations.

Evidences/indicators
- An external quality assessment document of the Doctoral Program "Public Healthcare".   - The resume (CV) of an external assessor of the Doctoral Program "Public Healthcare".

Recommendations:
Not suggested

Suggestions for programme development:
Not suggested

Best Practices (if applicable):
N/A

In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress

Evaluation

   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard

     ■ Complies with requirements

     ☐ Substantially complies with requirements

     ☐ Partially complies with requirements

     ☐ Does not comply with requirements

5.3. Programme monitoring and periodic review

Programme monitoring and periodic review is conducted with the involvement of academic, scientific, invited, administrative staff, students, graduates, employers and other stakeholders through systematically collecting and analysing information. Assessment results are utilized for programme improvement.

Descriptive summary and analysis of compliance with standard requirements

Planning, development, effective implementation and development of the education program supports and monitors the Quality Assurance Service of the University / faculty. Quality Assurance Service conducts monitoring and periodic evaluation by the involvement of academic, scientific, invited and administrative staff, graduates, employers and other stakeholders through the systematic collection, processing and analysis of information.

The Quality Assurance Service has elaborated a questionnaire on the work of the departments for research of the opinions of the students / masters / doctoral students, a questionnaire for the graduate's research. For doctoral students, the survey is carried out regularly, at certain times, in particular once a year, for Doctoral Studies, as required, according to the need of printed learning and scientific products, for academic attendance of Doctoral students once a year. From 2018 through the electronic system is conducted survey of graduates and employers. The electronic system of student surveys and processing were developed.

In the process of implementing the program, based on the analysis of the results obtained from the student survey and the monitoring of study process, is determined the level of competence envisaged by the educational program. University Quality Assurance Service, using the mechanisms of internal (students' survey, the learning process, monitoring of exams materials, the process of exams, analysis of academic performance, assessment of academic and invited staff activities, scientific-research activities, and etc.) and external (surveys of graduates, employers, other interested parties, educational programs external

expertise and etc.), systematically develops the recommendations, based on which the development of the program is conducted.

Program monitoring results will be reviewed at the Faculty of Public Healthcare, Curriculum Committee, and Academic Departments. Based on the analysis of the results of evaluation, modification of the program and / or assessment system to ensure its renewal.

The results of Doctoral Opinion Survey of the Doctoral Program "Public Healthcare"

11 out of 12 doctoral students, currently involved in the program, were interviewed, as 1 doctoral student was admitted to the program in April. The results showed that doctoral students have made a conscious choice. Percentage indicator of positive assessment of the program is very high. However, it should be noted the low percentage of neutral mood. Focusing and taking effective action is required on the following points: Increase productivity of professional practice, increase availability on required textbooks/ educational materials, Increase involvement of students' in university activities during learning. Also, the conditions of employment of graduates was researched. The following result was received: Employed - 100%, works according to the qualifications - 62,5%, on adjacent specialty - 37.5%; (See P. 18 - Results of the survey of Doctoral Program Graduates).

it should be noted, that small number of doctoral students according to these types of parameters gives us possibility to discuss only some tendencies. For deep, qualitative analysis, the expansion of doctoral students' panel and more homogeneity is advisable was identified as a result above mentioned survey.

Evidences/indicators
• Main Objectives and Action Principles of Quality Assurance Service of Tbilisi State Medical University
Recommendations: Not suggested
Suggestions for programme development: Not suggested
Best Practices (if applicable):   N/A
In case of accredited programme, significant accomplishments and/or progress
Evaluation   o Please mark the checkbox which mostly describes your position related to the programmes compliance with this specific component of the standard   ☒ Complies with requirements   ☐ Substantially complies with requirements

☐ Partially complies with requirements

☐ Does not comply with requirements

Programme's Compliance with Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
Teaching quality enhancement opportunities				

Enclosed Documentation (If Applicable)
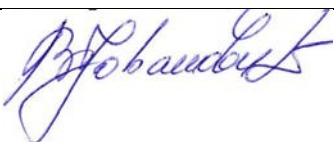
HEI's Name: Tbilisi State Medical University
Higher Education Programme Name: Doctoral study Public Healthcare
Number of Pages of the Report: 54

Programme's Compliance with the Standard

Standard	Complies with Requirements	Substantially complies with requirements	Partially Complies with Requirements	Does not Comply with Requirements
1. Programme objectives are clearly defined and achievable; they are consistent with the mission of the HEI and take into consideration labour market demands	YES			
2. Teaching methodology and organization, adequate evaluation of programme mastering	YES			
3. Student achievements and individual work with them	YES			
4. Providing teaching resources	YES			
5. Teaching quality enhancement opportunities	YES			

Expert Panel Chair's	Assoc. prof Verica Jovanovic
signature	
Expert Panel Members'	Assoc.prof Tamar Valishvili
signature	
Expert Panel Members'	Dr. Irakli Gagua
signature	
Expert Panel Members'	Ms. Lana Bokuchava (Student Expert)
signature	