

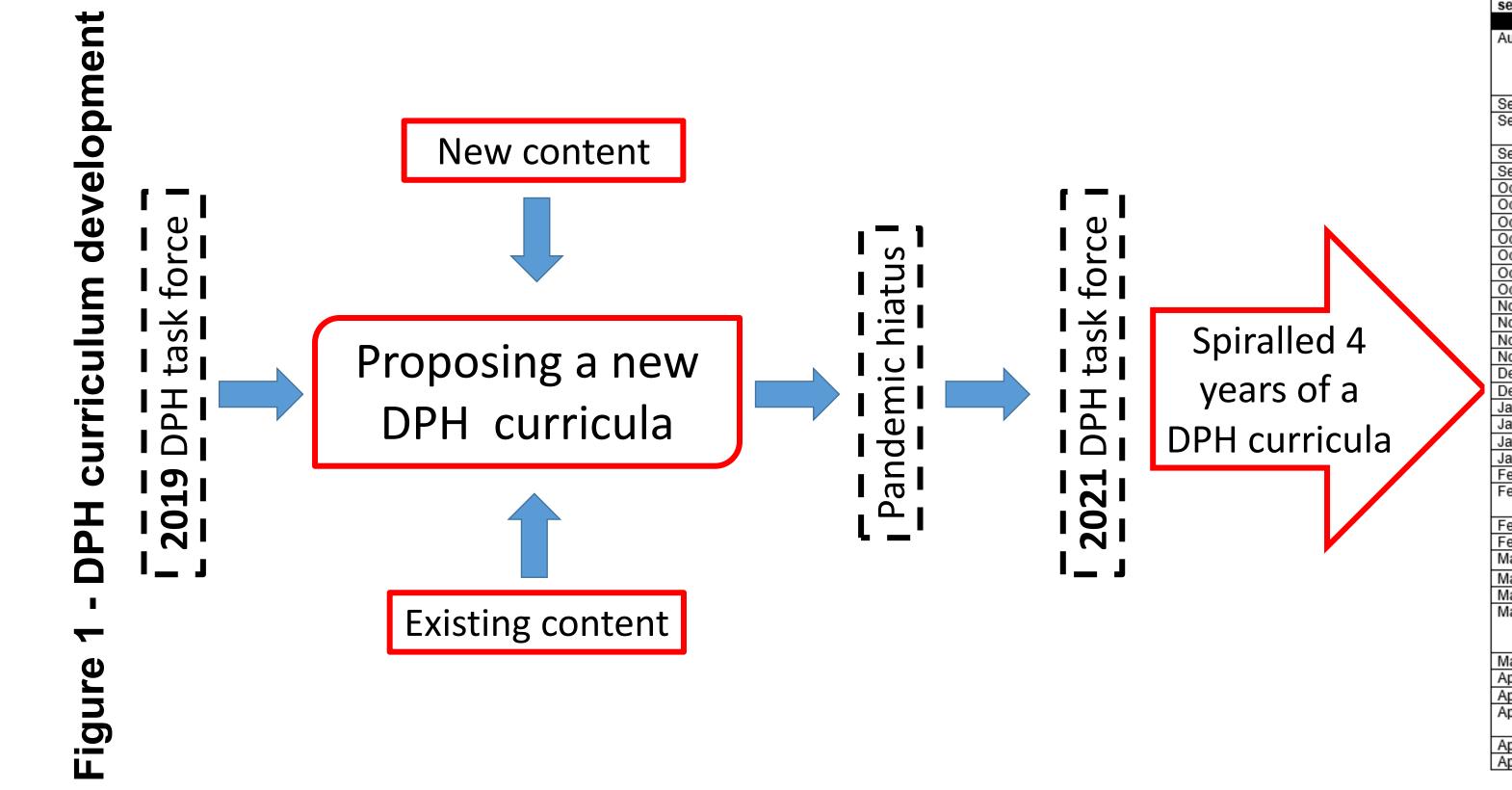
Dental public health mixed pedagogies: bringing the community to the classroom

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Objectives

- ➤ To further develop, finalize and implement a new Dental Public Health (DPH) undergraduate curricula, enhancing the teaching and learning outcomes of both dental and dental hygiene students.
- ➤ The proposed curricula entails 4 spiraled modules within the 4 years of undergraduate dentistry curricula and within 2 years of the dental hygiene curricula: DPH I, II, III, and IV (Figure 1).
- ➤ It combines existing DPH content with new content (Figure 1).



Ongoing process...

- > As of today, DPH I was approved to start in 2023-24 (Figure 1).
- ➤ We are finalizing the DPH content and will implement the proposed sessions for DPH I this upcoming academic year, 2023-24.
- ➤ The curricula employ diverse and inclusive learning materials (i.e., session description, assignment, grading rubric), various innovative pedagogies (i.e., community engaged learning, in-class discussions and self-reflections, community as a teacher) and assessments (i.e., community feedback, peer and self-assessment).

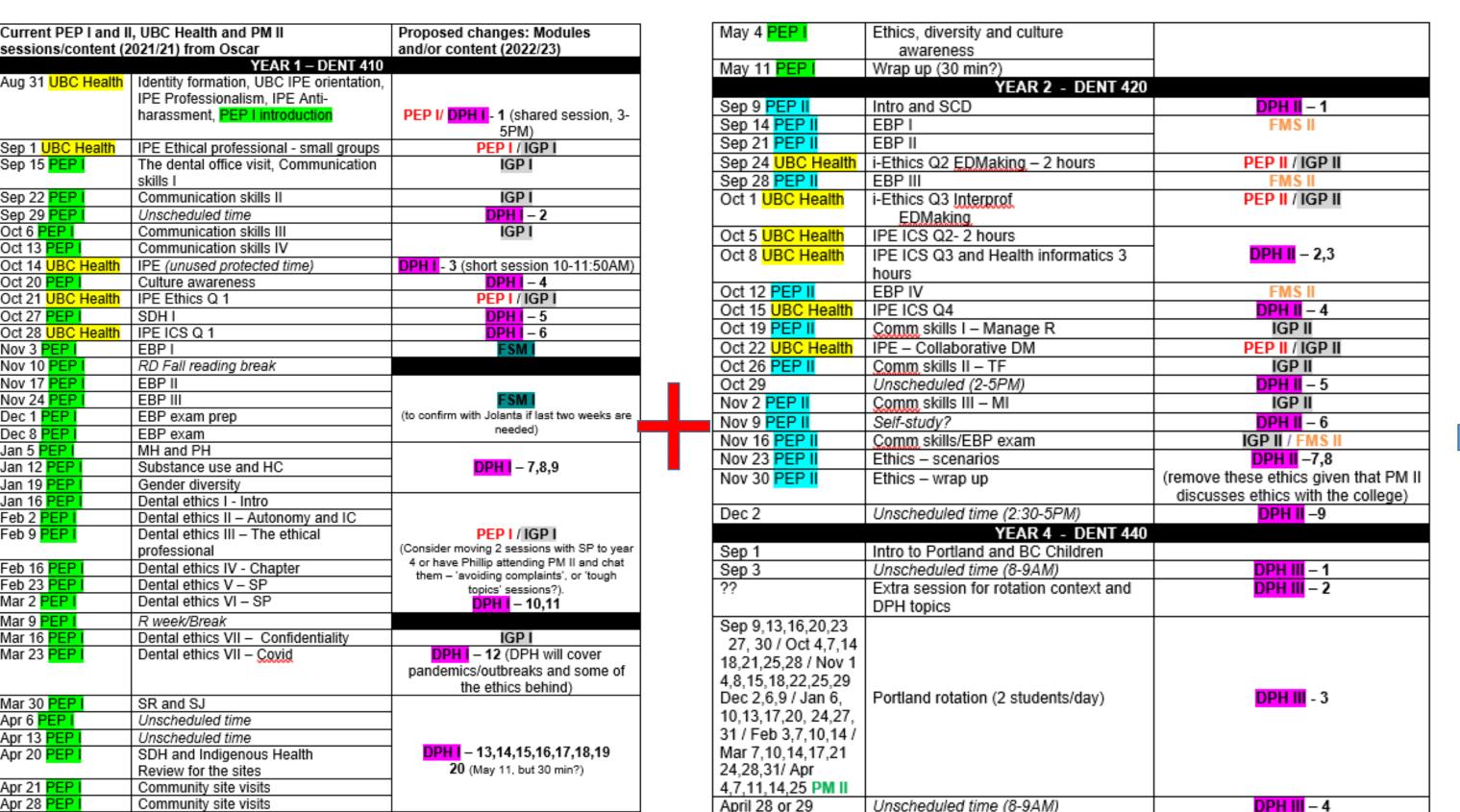
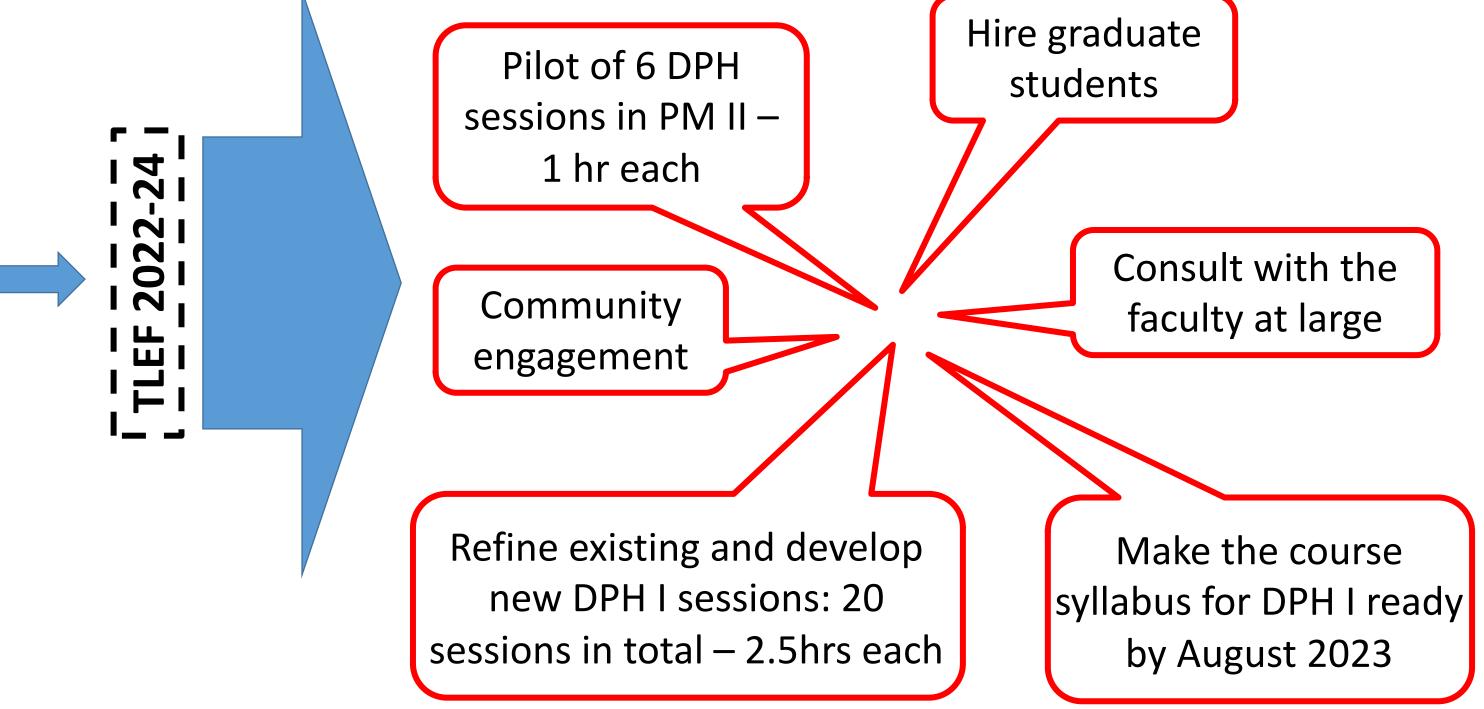


Figure 2 - Students reached by the project thus far:

Course	Section	# of Students	Academic Year	Term
DENT 440	Practice Management II	55	2022/23	Sep
DENT 410	Dental Public Health	65	2023/24	Jan
DHYG 310	Dental Public Health	24	2023/24	Jan



The proposed curricula:

- ➤ Dental Public Health I (year 1): to be finalized during Summer of 2023 with 20 sessions, 2.5hrs each;
- ➤ Dental Public Health II, year 2: to be developed during this project with 6 sessions, 2.5hrs each.

Thus far: we hired two graduate students to help with the development and refinement of the proposed sessions informed by existing sessions and the evidence-based literature. These sessions are for DPH I, in year 1 of the DMD curricula and will be introduced in January 2024.

Low-hanging fruit: recent curricular changes on the current 2022-23 year 4 of the DMD curricula allowed us to introduce and pilot 6 DPH sessions within the Practice Management II course (senior – clinical year); 1 hr each session. These 6 sessions will be re-evaluated in May 2023 and refined to a year 1 level (junior – non clinical year) (Figure 2) as part of the DPH I.

The proposed idea, in a nutshell:

- Didactic content sets the stage for the learning.
- ➤ The proposed curricula takes students to more than 30 different community organizations for collaborative and integrated hands-on learning; small groups are preferred → we are working with the Director of Community Engagement for the Faculty.
- ➤ The small groups perform situation analyses and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses to address an issue raised by the community; they present to the community.
- ➤ Each student reflect in written about specific sessions, including community activities.
- ➤ The proposed curricula brings the community to the classroom to engage with students and discuss issues of substance use, gender diversity, harm reduction, for example..
- ➤ Introduce DPH content 6 sessions within an existing year 4 course called Practice management II → these sessions will now be refined and moved to year 1 of the DPH curricula.

Initial outcomes:

- > The 6 piloted DPH sessions in year 4 will be refined to a year 1 level.
- > Community partners are being confirmed.
- ➤ The entire DPH year 1 curriculum with 20 sessions will be developed over the Summer of 2023.

Future directions:

- > Implement the proposed DPH I in January 2024;
- > Re-evaluate the piloted DPH sessions in PM II;
- ➤ Introduce DPH II in September 2024;
- > Ongoing consultation with the community partners;
- > The bigger picture: what is the impact of teaching DPH to the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene?

Acknowledgements:

The authors would like to express their gratitude to all community partners and for the funding provided by the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Funds.