

University of Texas School of Public Health Practicum Evaluation Executive Summary – Fall 2012

Introduction

One hundred one students from all four degree programs completed a practicum experience during the Fall 2012 semester. Students and community preceptors were asked to complete an evaluation through Survey Monkey™. Student and preceptor response rates were 91% and 89%, respectively. The key findings are listed below.

Primary Campus and Division

- 75% Houston, 25% regional campuses
- 38% Epidemiology; 20% Management, Policy & Community Health; 17% Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences; 12% General program; 8% Biostatistics 4% Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences

Students

- Locations: University/college system (33%), hospital/clinic (26%), health departments (12%), community service organizations (11%), business/corporate (7%), foundation (4%), federal (2%), government (2%), international (1%), primary/secondary education (1%)
- 92% of students thought the practicum was very effective (65%) or effective (27%) as a learning experience
- Final products: Report (45), more than one product (20%) [*thesis included*], presentation (5%), instrument/protocol (5%), training/procedure manual (4%), promotional material (2%), or journal article (1%)
- The practicum was very effective (60%) or effective (36%) in giving students a better understanding of public health practice
- 92% of students registered for 3 credit hours or more (registrar's data)
- Student hours per week: 16 or more (38%), 12-15 hours (42%); 98% considered the weekly hours to be appropriate
- 54% of students reported contact with their preceptor 14 or more times
- Overall ratings of preceptors were positive: 87% very good and 12% good
- 95% of students highly recommend (60%) or recommend (35%) their community preceptors
- 96% of students highly recommend (54%) or recommend (42%) their faculty sponsor
- 92% of students highly recommend (40%) or recommend (52%) their practicum site

Community Preceptors

- 77% of preceptors rated their student's final product as excellent (54%) or above average (23%); 4% of students had an incomplete mainly because the final product was a publication
- 98% reported that student proficiency in using appropriate methods was very effective (77%) or effective (22%)
- Preceptors rated overall student performance as very good (75%) or good (17%)
- 81% of preceptors reported meeting with the student 10 times or more
- 92% of preceptors found the student's weekly time commitment was appropriate
- 92% of preceptors are willing to accept another student

Student Comments

- My community preceptor was extremely helpful and concerned for my own personal learning and professional growth. She was a pleasure to work with.
- My community preceptor is an excellent mentor and I would like to work more with her to learn more.
- Dr. Campbell went above and beyond in helping me feel welcome and helping me whenever I had questions!
- Superb leader. Competent, fair, pleasant, smart, witty, with a comprehensive understanding of the entire Medical Center operation and integration of administrative and clinical activities.
- A+++.

My community preceptor was...

- A mentor, a colleague, and a friend. He has fuelled my interest in cancer research.
- My community preceptor was very supportive and showed willingness to help in any matter I needed throughout my project.
- Jennifer Moore was a great community preceptor. She was always willing to help out, guide or answer questions. I also learned a lot about leadership and organization simply by watching her and her work ethic.
- Claire is amazing. She is very supportive of my learning and development of skills, and takes every opportunity to have me involved in new experiences. She gives useful feedback and provides examples to work from when it is a new project. She also models a strong professional work ethic and personal demeanor that is friendly and welcoming.
- Had a great time working with Dr. Hwang. He is very thorough with his work and provides all the necessary support and guidance for me to be thorough with my work. He is very approachable and sets a positive learning environment!
- Very kind and wanted to help me learn about both what I was interested in and about other areas to bring me a diversity of knowledge.
- Mr. Bryan Bayley, my preceptor at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center was always flexible and approachable. He made time in his busy schedule to meet and mentor me. He is extremely busy as the Deputy Director leading the VA Medical Center operations and strategic activities within the VISN 16 as well as within the medical center. Mr. Bayley upholds the highest standards and strives to work collaboratively in an inclusive respectful environment. He has a long rich successful VHA experience with extensive understanding of the entire integrated system. He is cool, calm, and collective even when addressing crises or difficult situations. I was very lucky to have him as my preceptor. It would be an honor to someday work for him or with him in any capacity.
- Very approachable and truly inspirational! I think I have found a life-long mentor in her as well.
- Dr. Bocchini was excellent throughout the entire practicum experience. She was hard-working, accessible and trusting. She helped build my confidence while simultaneously helping me better myself as a professional in the public health field.

Community Preceptor Comments

- Thanks for sharing an intern with us. We would love to have an opportunity to work with another intern in the future if needed.
- Student's willingness to participate on all levels will be missed. Her openness to working with the GLBT community was valued and created a complete experience.
- HDHHS needs more UTSPH students. Establish a more fluid partnership with the health department to encourage students to complete practicums.
- We had a wonderful experience with the student. Her work experience/ethics/motivation was superior.
- We have had a great experience working with this student.
- Appreciate the flexibility and high level of responsibility of the students we've had come from your program.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health, the Office of Public Health Practice extends our warmest gratitude to the organizations and community preceptors who graciously allowed our students to gain practice experience. Without your continued support and feedback, we would not be able to offer this invaluable experience to our students.