University of Texas School of Public Health
Practicum Evaluation
Executive Summary – Spring 2009

Introduction
Sixty-six MPH students completed the student evaluation during the Spring 2009 semester. Using SurveyMonkey™ procedures students and community preceptors evaluated the practicum experience. Response rates for students and community preceptors were 94% and 90%, respectively. The following data highlight the major findings.

Primary Campus and Division
- 82% of students were in Houston, while 18% were at regional campuses
- 33% in Epidemiology, 18% in Management, Policy, and Community Health, 12% in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, 14% in Biostatistics, and 6% in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Students
- University (29%) and hospital/clinic (39%) accounted for 68% of the locations
- Most students considered the practicum an effective learning experience; 65% reporting that it was very good and 29% reporting that it was good
- The final product for 79% of the students was a report or presentation
- The practicum was effective (94%) in giving students a better understanding of public health
- 67% of the students registered for three credit hours or more
- 73% of students reported spending more than 12 hours per week on practice related activities
- 88% of the students had contact with their community preceptor more than 6 times, most communication was face-to-face
- All preceptors received a favorable rating with 82% being very good
- All students reported that they would recommend their community preceptor with 64% reporting that they would highly recommend
- 99% of students reported that they would recommend their faculty sponsor with 55% reporting that they would highly recommend

Community Preceptors
- 84% of the final products were excellent (46%) or above average (38%)
- 90% reported that student’s proficiency in using appropriate methods were very good (58%) and good (32%)
- Community preceptors were very pleased with students abilities to fulfill the duties of the practicum with 94% rating student performance as good (21%) or very good (73%)
- 95% reported meeting with the student more than six times
- 94% reported that the weekly time commitment was appropriate
Student Comments

- Excellent experience.
- His projects are good and have the potential for a great practicum experience but at the end of the day it does not culminate as such.
- Great mentor!
- Good experience with community preceptor.
- She is knowledgeable and interested in helping. She was instrumental as a project team member.
- Very kind and experienced in his field of work.
- Very knowledgeable and friendly. My mentor made me feel as though I was a part of their team rather than an intern/volunteer.
- He and his staff overall were excellent. I could not have asked for a better experience or more wonderful people to work with. They truly enjoy what they do and take the time to aid anyone who is interested in policy and making a difference.
- She is excellent.
- He is a great professor to work with and gives full liberty to the student to develop the project according to his/her needs. That is an excellent strategy to use.
- Exceptional.

Community Preceptor Comments

- We appreciate sharing a small part in this student's education. We welcome the opportunity to have other students in the future.
- He is a top student.
- He has performed in an outstanding manner and has demonstrated a true commitment to public health education.
- Excellent student.
- We appreciated the contributions that he made, and are eager to recruit additional students.
- He has been a pleasure to work with.
- She is an exceptional young woman. Bright, thoughtful and flexible. Enjoyed having her.
- Interesting experience.
- Her contribution to health policy in our legislative package was invaluable.
- Thanks. He helped us out by doing a report and I think we helped him out.
- She is a great volunteer. Eager to help out in any area needed.

Acknowledgements

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