Executive Summary – Fall 2008

Introduction
Fifty-nine MPH students completed the student evaluation during the Fall 2008 semester. Using SurveyMonkey™ procedures students and community preceptors evaluated the practicum experience. Response rates for students and community preceptors were 97% and 97% respectively. The following data highlight the major findings.

Primary Campus and Division
- 78% of students were in Houston, while 22% were at regional campuses
- 45% in Epidemiology, 19% in Management, Policy, and Community Health, 15% in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, 13% in Biostatistics, and 8% in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Students
- University (47%) and hospital/clinic (25%) accounted for 72% of the locations
- Most students considered the practicum an effective learning experience; 72% reporting that it was very good and 18% reporting that it was good
- The final product for 81% of the students was a report or presentation
- The practicum was effective (95%) in giving students a better understanding of public health
- 72% of the students registered for three credit hours or more
- 72% of students reported spending more than 12 hours per week on practice related activities
- 84% 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 93% being very good
- All students reported that they would recommend their community preceptor with 68% reporting that they would highly recommend
- All students reported that they would recommend their faculty sponsor with 51% reporting that they would highly recommend

Community Preceptors
- 83% of the final products were excellent (53%) or above average (30%)
- 94% reported that student’s proficiency in using appropriate methods were very good (73%) and good (21%)
- Community preceptors were very pleased with students abilities to fulfill the duties of the practicum with 98% rating student performance as good (18%) or very good (83%)
- 95% reported meeting with the student more than six times
- 97% reported that the weekly time commitment was appropriate
Student Comments
- To witness such a high level of motivation every day from my community preceptor elevated the standard for my own quality of work.
- Very knowledgeable and helpful.
- Amazing. I greatly enjoy working with him.
- Excellent. Knowledgeable and highly experienced in the field.
- Very good about guiding me through the practicum and answering any questions I had and was always there for me.
- She was an excellent teacher/mentor.
- A very nice person and active.
- Wonderful. He enriched my practicum experience and was always willing to help.
- She is a very thorough, committed person. It was a pleasure to do some work for her.
- An erudite, humble and kind man.
- He was very patient in teaching me.

Community Preceptor Comments
- Please refer other students who would like a similar experience.
- She did so well we offered her a position in our program.
- I have really enjoyed interacting with the student.
- I am so glad to have met her! I wish her all the best in the future; she has a bright career ahead!
- I really enjoyed working with her and hope to continue to do so in her professional future.
- For me it was fun.
- Dealing with her has been a genuine pleasure, and it is going to result in some very good data that I believe will help our institution and the community in general in the area of public health.
- The research initiated during the practicum is being continued as her MPH thesis topic. I am delighted to continue my association with her and with faculty at the UTSPH.
- He has a lot of promise.
- I really enjoyed working with her and I wish her all the best!
- Did an excellent job.
- I would be happy to accept more students that are interested in spinal cord injury research and public health.

Acknowledgements
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