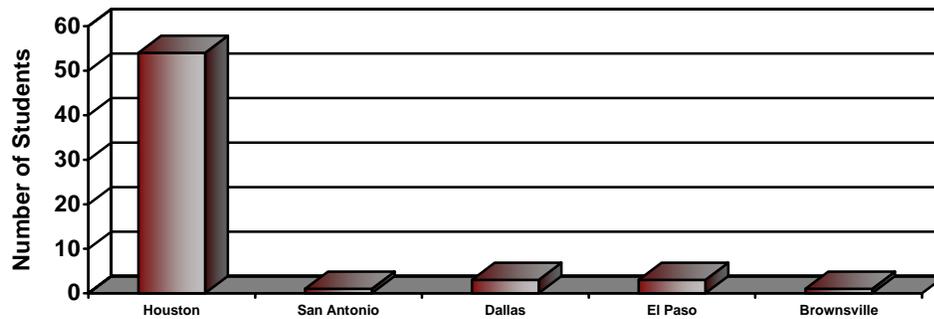


University of Texas School of Public Health Practicum Evaluation Executive Summary – Spring 2007

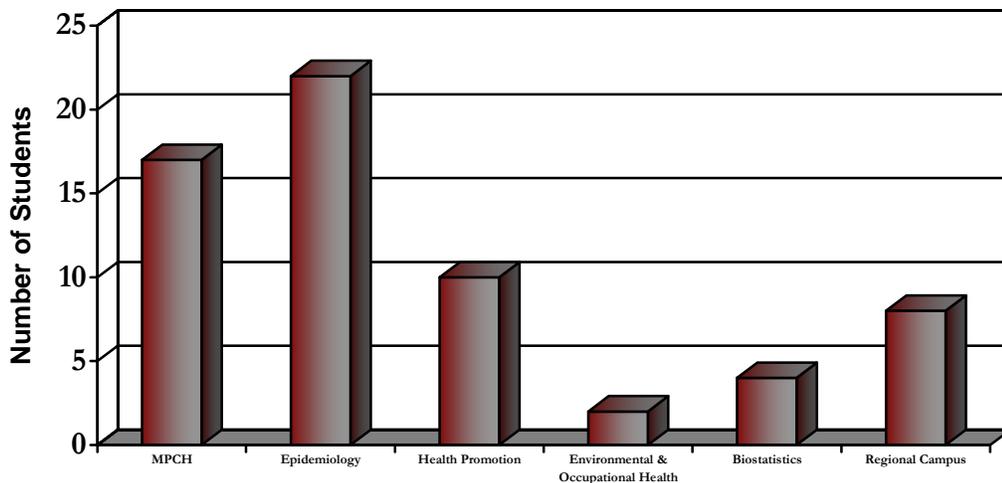
Introduction

Sixty-seven MPH students completed practicum during the Spring 2007 semester. Using SurveyMonkey™ procedures students and community preceptors evaluated the practicum experience. Response rates for students and community preceptors were 92% and 82% respectively. The following data highlight the major findings.

Primary Campus



Division



Students

- University (44%) and hospital/clinic (29%) accounted for 73% of the locations
- Most all student considered the practicum students reported the practicum an effective learning experience with 61% reporting that is was very good and 34% reporting that is was good
- The final product for 70% of the students was a report or presentation
- The practicum was effective (98%) in giving students a better understanding of public health
- 80% of the students had a three credit practicum with the majority of these students reporting 12 – 15 hours per week on site
- 84% of students reported spending more than 12 hours per week on practice related activities
- 98% of the students had contact with their community preceptor more than 6 times, most communication was face-to-face
- All preceptors were available to answer questions and provide support with 69% very good
- Almost all preceptors received a favorable rating with 77% being very good
- All students reported that they would recommend their community preceptor with 48% reporting that they would highly recommend and 45% reporting that they would recommend their preceptor
- 97% of student reported that they would recommend their faculty sponsor with (47%) reporting that they would highly recommend and (50%) reporting that they would recommend

Community Preceptors

- 84% of the final products were excellent (56%) or above average (31%)
- 96% reported that student's proficiency in using appropriate methods were very good (55%) and good (33%)
- Community preceptors were very pleased with students abilities to fulfill the duties of the practicum with 98% rating student performance at good (25%) or very good (74%)
- 96% reported meeting with the student more than six times
- 91% reported that the weekly time commitment was appropriate

Student Comments

- Always willing to provide insight and guidance.
- I had an excellent community preceptor and my faculty sponsor provided me with a good framework for the practicum.
- My community preceptor was very approachable and understanding about the problems faced by students.
- Excellent at understanding my goals.
- Very helpful and knowledgeable.
- A great inspiration and motivation throughout my practicum.
- She provided great feedback and advice.
- Very good learning experience.
- Always available for questions, guidance, and instruction.

- Always there when I needed her.
- My faculty sponsor was more than just an advisor, she is my friend. I could not have gotten through the rough spots without her help.
- Very understanding and supportive.
- I would strongly recommend my faculty sponsor for other students
- Highly recommended!
- Excellent experience!
- Excellent teacher and mentor

Community Preceptor Comments

- I enjoy working with UTHSC SPH. I would be glad to collaborate with your school again.
- This student was very timely, dependable, and very pleasant to work with.
- His involvement was very beneficial and I have already asked him to join me on another project.
- Great work!
- She took ownership of the project and drove it to the end! It was a pleasure working with her.
- Hands on, experiential learning is the hallmark for the apprenticeship and topics can be varied and creatively delivered to the students. This is a win-win situation.
- We all benefit from having the UT-School of Public Health Students working with us so we fully support continuing this effort.
- Your student contributed an enormous amount of quality work to our projects.
- We appreciate the help we've received from the students.
- Great project and good student.
- Very self-directed student. When given very broad and global assignments, she was able to target in on exactly the issues that would meet the objective.
- Enthusiastic about learning; willing to work hard; willing to assume tasks; personable; engaging; willing to take on responsibility (see below); initiator; contributes to group discussions - able to offer opinions.
- Excellent follow-through!
- This student is smart, highly motivated, and committed to this project and the population this project will serve.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the University of Texas 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.