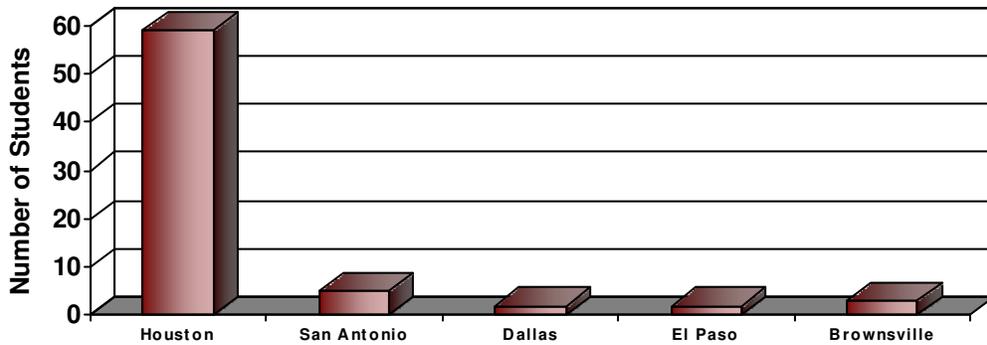


University of Texas School of Public Health Practicum Evaluations Executive Summary – Spring 2008

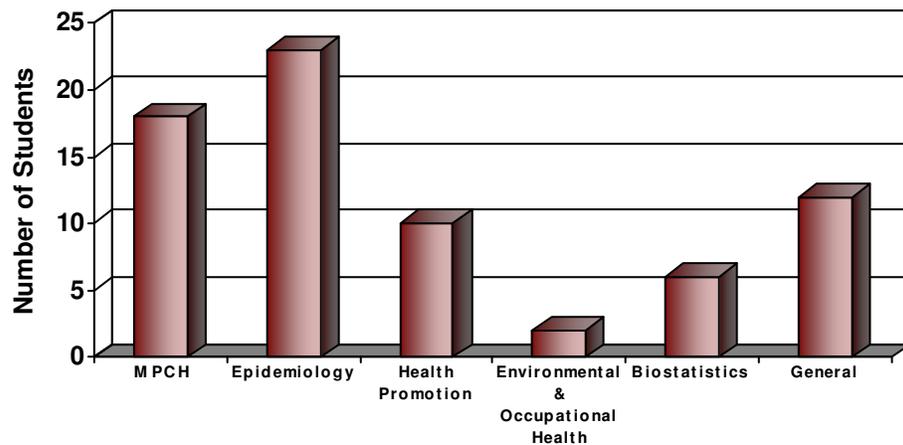
Introduction

Seventy-five students (15% DrPH and 85% MPH) completed practicum during the Spring 2008 semester. Using SurveyMonkey™ procedures students and community preceptors evaluated the practicum experience. Response rates for students and community preceptors were 95% and 84%, respectively. The following data highlight the major findings.

Primary Campus



Division



Students

- University (28%) and hospital/clinic (37%) accounted for 65% of the locations
- Most students reported the practicum as an effective learning experience with 70% reporting that it was very good and 21% reporting that it was good
- The final product for 69% of the students was a report or presentation
- The practicum was effective (98%) in giving students a better understanding of public health
- 68% of the students had a three credit or more practicum with the majority of these students reporting 12 – 15 hours per week on site
- 31% of students reported spending more than 16 hours per week on practice related activities
- 68% of the students had contact with their community preceptor more than 6 times, which were usually face-to-face
- All preceptors were available to answer questions and provide support with 73% 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 55% reporting that they would highly recommend and 35% reporting that they would recommend their preceptor
- 97% of students reported that they would recommend their faculty sponsor with (51%) reporting that they would highly recommend and (46%) reporting that they would recommend

Community Preceptors

- 79% of the final products were excellent (44%) or above average (35%)
- 93% reported that student's proficiency in using appropriate methods were very good (76%) and good (17%)
- Community preceptors were very pleased with students abilities to fulfill the duties of the practicum with 96% rating student performance at good (17%) or very good (79%)
- 95% reported meeting with the student more than six times
- 98% reported that the weekly time commitment was appropriate

Student Comments

- She is an outstanding preceptor. She excels in everything that she does!
- I rate my community preceptor very highly. I recommend him without any reservations.
- She is an excellent encourager but was not the expert consult for my project. As aforementioned, she is also very busy and was out for most of my practicum. However, I was able to resolve most issues.
- He has such a diverse background that he is effective in drawing from past experiences to explain new concepts and perceptions by analogies. Very helpful and knowledgeable.
- He is a graduate of the UTSPH, so he was great and knew exactly how to ensure I gained invaluable experience.

- Overall, my community preceptor was nice and knowledgeable; she was patient in answering my questions.
- My overall rating is that she was a terrific Community Preceptor!

Community Preceptor Comments

- She is exceptional and I am very hopeful that she will become a prominent researcher.
- This is a good program.
- It was an honor to work with such a fine student.
- This practicum was a learning experience not only for the student but for our staff. As a result, what was learned during her practicum will be implemented into our day-to-day operations. Consequently, OBH would love to continue to have additional students participate in future practicum with us.
- He has been a great boon to our section and we enjoy working with him very much.
- I enjoyed working with him very much.
- His work during his internship has proved to be important. His survey of state laws for UEM is one of the most comprehensive, and he created a National Directory for Drug Take-Back and Disposal Programs that is being recognized nationally.
- Thank you for allowing me to participate.
- Have worked with both of them on practicum experiences, both are great students.
- I really enjoyed working with her and appreciated her contribution to the study during this semester!
- The Bureau of Epidemiology was amazed and delighted with her turtle associated Salmonella investigation. Would love to hire this student if I had an opening.
- She was an excellent student and gratifying collaborator.
- We'd love to have future practicum students that are interested in public health communication!

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.