

**University of Texas School of Public Health
Practicum Evaluation
Executive Summary – Summer 2010**

Introduction

Eighty students from all four degree programs completed a practicum experience during the Summer 2010 semester. Students and community preceptors were asked to complete an evaluation through Survey Monkey™. Both student and preceptor response rates were 92%. The key findings are listed below.

Primary Campus and Division

- 48% Houston, 52% regional campuses
- 48% General program; 18% Epidemiology; 15% Management, Policy & Community Health; 11% Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences; 5% Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences; 4% Biostatistics

Students

- Locations: University/college system (33%), hospital/clinic (18%), others (14%), business/corporate (10%), health departments (8%), community service organizations (10%), foundation (3%), international (3%), government (1%), primary/secondary education (1%)
- 87% of students thought the practicum was very effective (61%) or effective (26%) as a learning experience
- Final products: report (35%), more than one product (26%), presentation (20%), instrument/protocol (8%), promotional material (5%), training/procedure manual (5%), or thesis (1%)
- The practicum was very effective (61%) or effective (28%) in giving students a better understanding of public health practice
- 89% of students registered for 3 credit hours
- Student hours per week: 16 or more (54%), 12-15 hours (26%); 95% considered the weekly hours to be appropriate
- 58% of students reported contact with their preceptor 14 or more times
- Overall ratings of preceptors were positive: 79% very good, 14% good
- 94% of students highly recommend (59%) or recommend (35%) their community preceptors
- 90% of students highly recommend (36%) or recommend (54%) their faculty advisor
- Over 93% of students highly recommend (49%) or recommend (44%) their practicum site

Community Preceptors

- 87% of preceptors rated their student's final product as excellent (43%) or above average (44%)
- 100% reported that student proficiency in using appropriate methods was very effective (64%) or effective (36%)
- Preceptors rated overall student performance as very good (71%) or good (25%)
- 81% of preceptors reported meeting with the student 10 times or more
- 98% of preceptors found the student's weekly time commitment was appropriate
- 100% of preceptors are willing to accept another student

Student Comments

- A great learning place. Clinical, research and laboratory components of the institution make it an ideal comprehensive education model.
- Being on site helped facilitate the understanding of the culture behind what was being taught to us in the classroom.
- The agency is well organized and great for anyone who is an amateur traveler and looking to get their feet wet in the field of global health. A great starter trip.
- I would recommend my site for any of the departments (biological, radiation, chemical, fire and life safety). I think the internship gives a good idea of what a career in this field would be like.
- This organization has so many areas to gain experience and/or explore as someone considering a career in public health. They have international programs in health promotion, they have social marketing projects, they have policy, finance, marketing, legal and public relations, as well as cancer information, and education and advocacy. They do a lot. They have a lot of expertise in the building, many professional degrees among the staff. Even though they do so much, they are small and everyone is accessible and approachable and knowledgeable.
- This practicum allows students to be creative, work collaboratively with different services and labor workforce and applies many services of public health in its programs.

My community preceptor was...

- A true leader, he provided clear directions at the same time he empowered me to set meetings with the different services and allowed me to actively participate in discussions. He was very respectful of my time and considered my ideas and suggestions as an important part of our proposal.
- Excellent in guiding me on how to do research in order to develop good survey tools, and assisting me in all aspects of developing my skills for writing up and creating a survey for applicable use on the general public.
- I was very impressed with the program faculty. Their knowledge and passion for public health made the experience incredibly rewarding.
- Proactive in accomplishing my practicum needs. He always wanted to know my goals for each week, and how he could help.
- A very good supervisor and teacher who was committed to helping me achieve my practicum goals.

Community Preceptor Comments

- This student was fabulous wish we could have him back again! The UTSPH interns are wonderful. Hope to have another in the fall.
- The student's professionalism, intelligence, and positive attitude have made it a pleasure working with him. His performance is a commendation to the School of Public Health
- Truly enjoyed this experience and look forward to participating in the future.

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.