

Assessment Initiative for Environmental Health program

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Project Overview

- ▶ Develop a systematic approach to assess Environmental Health Program (EH) effectiveness in preparing students for the profession.
- ▶ Assessment will be focused on three areas:
 - ▶ 1) student technical/professional communication skill (oral and written)
 - ▶ 2) professional knowledge preparation
 - ▶ 3) critical thinking

Background and Rationale

- ▶ What do EH professionals do?
 - ▶ Assess, control, and prevent hazards in our environment
 - ▶ Three disciplines
 - ▶ Public health
 - ▶ Occupational health (industrial hygiene)
 - ▶ Environmental protection

Background and Rationale

- ▶ What do our graduates need?
 - ▶ technical knowledge that changes over time
 - ▶ technical communication skills (oral and written)
 - ▶ critical thinking skills
- ▶ Currently no systematic approach to assess EH program effectiveness

Systematic Approach - Part 1

- ▶ Assessing technical communication skills (oral and written)
 - ▶ Performance in Professional Practice
 - ▶ Assessment of performance in EH class assignments
 - ▶ Rubrics development by EH faculty
 - ▶ External evaluator (non-EH faculty)
 - ▶ Written assignments and video-taped oral presentations
 - ▶ An entry level major core course (HSC 145 - Environmental Health Practice)
 - ▶ A capstone course (HSC 355 - Environmental Health Decisions Processes).

Systematic Approach - Part 2

- ▶ Assessing technical knowledge preparation
 - ▶ Feedback from the Environmental Health Program Advisory Committee
 - ▶ Artifacts from the Professional Practice Course (9-week internship):
 - ▶ student weekly reflections
 - ▶ internship project reports
 - ▶ supervisor evaluations

Student Weekly Reflection

Appendix M

Reflections

Reflections: On a separate sheet, please provide your personal reflections of your internship this week and send it through ReggieNet. What did you enjoy? What aspects of your site or job did you dislike? How do you feel that your EH courses prepared you for your current support role? Please feel free to share your experiences and questions with your Professional Practice Coordinator, and seek their guidance or advice whenever you would like to discuss anything.

Student weekly reflections

| Task description | Course Helped | More Needed | Comments |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Beaches and Pools | Chemistry and Biology, courses in general | GIS, Geology | Hadn't taken Water |
| Vector control | "several classes" [epidemiology] | | |
| Disaster preparedness | Institutions | | |
| Food inspections | Foods | More on temporary foods | |
| Report Writing | | Technical writing | Hadn't taken Decisions |
| Working with spreadsheets | Pollution Prevention, Health Data Analysis | | |

Rubrics for Internship Project Report

| Unacceptable* | Acceptable | Exemplary |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Content lacks professional knowledge and understanding;</p> <p>Poor organization – main points are not communicated with supported arguments; content is not relevant; missing necessary figures/tables/ attachments and/or references;</p> <p>Conventions – writing is hard to follow and/or contains many grammatical and spelling errors</p> | <p>Most content reflects professional knowledge and understanding;</p> <p>Good organization – the main points are communicated with some supported arguments; content is mostly relevant; appropriate figures/ tables/attachments and/or references are included;</p> <p>Conventions – most writing is clear with few grammatical and spelling errors</p> | <p>Content reflects professional knowledge and understanding;</p> <p>Excellent organization - the main points are clearly communicated; well supported arguments; clear, relevant content; all appropriate figures/tables/attachments and/or references are included;</p> <p>Conventions - the writing is clearly and concisely written with very few or no grammatical and spelling errors</p> |

*An “unacceptable” report can be resubmitted to bring them up to “acceptable.”

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This form is due to the Professional Practice Coordinator during the last week of the internship.

Date: _____ Student Name: _____ Evaluation

Period: _____

Name of Evaluator: _____ Name of Organization: _____

Please rate the student's performance during the professional practice experience in the following categories. Add additional comments if needed.

| | Never | | Sometimes | | Always |
|---|-------|---|-----------|---|--------|
| Written Communication – Writing was clear, concise, free of errors and appropriate to the intended audience | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Verbal Communication – Speaking was clear, concise, free of errors, and appropriate to the intended audience; were able to describe complex concepts. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Listening Skills – Listening was active; including the ability to understand non-verbal communication. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Professional Behavior – He/she behaved professionally and exhibited appropriate personal behavior, attendance and appearance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Problem-Solving Skills - When presented with a problem, he/she required little assistance in collecting information, drawing valid conclusions, and resolving the problem | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Interpersonal Skills – The student demonstrated the ability to work as a team member; maintained a positive rapport with clients, colleagues and/or supervisors; and assisted others | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Continuous Personal and Professional Improvement Skills – He/she initiated and promoted/supports new ideas, effectively used traditional and innovative sources of professional information with minimal assistance, and welcomed constructive criticism and made self-improvements. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Systematic Approach - Part 3

- ▶ Assessing critical thinking
 - ▶ Instrument - CCTST (California Critical Thinking Skills Test)
 - ▶ Administer anonymously in the introductory and capstone EH courses.

Progress ...

- ▶ Rubric developed
- ▶ External evaluator confirmed
- ▶ Written assignments and video-taped oral presentations collected
- ▶ Artifacts from the internship collected
- ▶ CCTST administered

Questions?