

## **Master of Public Health Program Assessment Report (Academic Year 2014-2015)**

Dear MPH Program students and supporters,

The MPH Program, as a Council on Education for Public Health-accredited program, conducts annual assessment of student performance on required competencies. Competency-based Education is linked to outcomes that represent critical workforce skills, knowledges and values as defined by employers and the profession.

### **WSUMPH Program Core Competencies**

1. Apply evidence-based knowledge from behavioral and social sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, and health care organization to understanding and improving the health of the public.
2. Use appropriate research and analytical strategies to address public health issues.
3. Communicate public health principles and findings to professional and community audiences using a variety of media and methodologies.
4. Collaborate sensitively, professionally, and ethically with individuals from diverse cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
5. Recognize dynamic interactions between human and social systems and how they affect relationships among individuals, groups, organizations, communities, and other structures.
6. Demonstrate the ethical choices, values, and professional practices implicit in public health decisions, giving consideration to the effect of choices on community stewardship, equity, social justice, and accountability.

### **Evidence of Competency Attainment**

In 2014-2015 evidence of student competency attainment was collected from assessments of student scholarly work in the Master's Project course. In this course students prepare a scholarly paper involving an analytic activity relevant to public health (e.g. a policy draft, case study, needs assessment or program evaluation, , clinical improvement project, secondary analysis of existing data). The findings are presented orally in a research presentation to faculty, peers, and the public.

In 2014-15, using Master's Projects to assess competencies, student scores in areas assessed averaged between 88-92%, with a mean score of 90%. Student competency performance is far above the program's minimum expectation of at least 83% for graduation.

These outcomes are consistent with our performance measures historically and they indicate that students are exceeding MPH Program outcome requirements; however, we note that there are opportunities for improvement in our assessment process. In preparation for the 2016-2017 year, we revised and updated our assessment rubrics to sharpen competency assessment in the Master's Project course and expanded competency assessments into the Practicum course. The new assessment process is being pilot-tested for 2015-2016.

Thanks to program stakeholders and students for important contributions to ensuring the quality of the program and its graduates.

Drs. Campbell-Voytal, Neale, and the MPH faculty