

Health MA
Assessment Plan Summary

Health MA

Ethical Issues In Public Health

Goal Description:

Health MS students will synthesize ethical issues in public health.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Identify Controversial Ethical Issues In Public Health

Learning Objective Description:

Health MS students will identify and synthesize multiple influences, perspectives, and impact of ethical issues in public health.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Ethical Issues Assignments

Indicator Description:

Reading, viewing, and writing assignments in HLTH 5338 – Consumer Health Education will require students to identify factors which influence personal positions and beliefs and explain multiple viewpoints of various controversial and ethical issues facing today’s public health educator. Specific assignments include assigned readings and position papers on Health Care Rationing and Right to Die Issues. One mid-semester face-to-face or skype meeting will be required for students to report on their progress toward this objective.

Criterion Description:

Students must score at least 85 percent on the portion of the course assignments that require them to identify factors which influence personal positions and beliefs and explain multiple viewpoints of various controversial and ethical issues facing today’s public health educator.

Findings Description:

HLTH 5338 will be taught in Fall 2016. Findings on student performance will be reported at the conclusion of that course. In the 2015-2016 school year, there were two sessions of HLTH 5338 with a total of 10 students. The mean grade for the class was above a 90%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Ethical Issues in Public Health

Action Description:

This goal will remain as a priority area in the MS in Health program. During the 2016-2017 assessment period, additional data points will be collected to ensure that the ethical content that is taught in the graduate courses will be captured and reported to the graduate faculty. This information is critical for the professional development of all of the Health graduate students.

Leadership Skills In Health Promotion

Goal Description:

Health MS students will develop and demonstrate competent leadership skills in health promotion.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Understanding Of Critical Leadership Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Health MS students will be able to identify the qualities of effective leaders and managers in public and community health settings.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Assignments In HLTH 5363 Leadership In Health Promotion

Indicator Description:

Reading, viewing, and writing assignments in HLTH 5363 – Leadership in Health Promotion, require students to identify and analyze common leadership skills for health promotion. Therefore, the assignments in this course will serve as the indicator for this goal and objective.

Criterion Description:

All MA in Health students will score a minimum of 90 percent on all module assignments in HLTH 5363.

Findings Description:

Twelve graduate students were enrolled in HLTH 5363 in the Spring 2015 semester. In addition to other course assignments, four learning modules were required. Each module was worth 30 total points. Attainment of 27 or more of the total points would represent a score of 90 percent or greater. Out of a total of 88 modules, 61 of the modules were scored at 27 or more total points. This represents 66 percent of the students, falling short of the criterion that all students would score 90 percent or greater on all modules. The mean grade was 85%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Leadership Skills in Health Promotion

Action Description:

Leadership in Health Promotion will require students to identify and analyze common leadership skills for health promotion. Two actions may be considered as a result of these findings. First, the return of the implementation of a minimum required GRE score for admission into the MS in Health Program may be considered. Second, lowering the level of score attainment on modules may be considered. – i.e. – students will score 80 percent or greater on all modules in HLTH 5363.

Research Enhancement Skills

Goal Description:

MS Health graduate students will be competent in the applicable research skills in the health profession.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Research Enhancement Skills

Learning Objective Description:

MS Health graduate students will be proficient in the research skills of survey development, data collection, statistical protocols, and data analysis.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Research Enhancement Skills

Indicator Description:

Research Assignments

A common embedded portion of the HLTH 5374 and HLTH 5375 classes are to enhance the research skills of the students. These skills include: survey methodology, survey development, statistical protocols, data collection techniques, and analysis of data. Also included is a verbal presentation of research to the students enrolled in both courses.

Criterion Description:

Research Assignments

Students must score at least 85 percent on the embedded portion of the graduate course assignments in HLTH 5374 and HLTH 5375 that focus on the enhancement of research related skills. Students must score at least 85% correct on writing a research proposal.

Findings Description:

Research Assignments

In HLTH 5374, 90 percent of the students scored 85 percent or higher on the course assignments that focus on the enhancement of research related skills and on writing a research proposal. The HLTH 5375 course was not taught during the assessment cycle; therefore, no findings were reported.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Research Enhancement Skills

Action Description:

The Department of Population Health has recently added one new degree option at the graduate level. As the MS in health Care Quality and Safety Program enlists new students, and as new faculty join the Department, a review of teaching assignments will be conducted, with emphasis placed on bringing more full-time faculty members to graduate faculty status, allowing these courses to be taught by full-time graduate faculty within the Department.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan (2015-16) for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

The Health Program faculty will diligently work to prepare students with the content knowledge and the skills they need to be a Master’s level health educator. The next time the leadership class is taught, the target percentage for the leadership skills objective will be increased to 90% and will include a role hypothetical public health project which requires students to identify program partners and conduct a delineation, SWOT analysis and benefit expectation for each partner. The target for the ethical issues objective will remain the same for 2016-2017 and an additional class discussion board will be added to help students understand diverse viewpoints in public health ethical issues.

The Department of Population Health has been formed and three additional program faculty have been hired. Each of the new faculty will add to the Health Graduate course offerings, and they are committed to continuously review the curriculum in an effort to improve the professional development of the health graduate students.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

During the assessment cycle, two new graduate faculty were hired in Population Health. A new graduate coordinator was also appointed for the MS in Health Program. The MS in Health Care Quality and Safety Program has a graduate coordinator as well. These two coordinators, combined with the graduate faculty, are continuing to align course content to national standards, select competent students for the program, determine effective recruiting techniques to build both programs, and review the course assignments and resulting grades for the students enrolled in the programs

The addition of the new graduate degree option, and the addition of new graduate faculty in the Department of Population Health, will result in new resources, ideas, and input into the graduate curriculum. A permanent chair for the department will be hired during the assessment cycle and will provide leadership and support for the MS in Health and the MS in Health Care Quality and Safety programs. A continuous review of all of the graduate curriculum will be conducted in ongoing efforts to improve the quality of all of the Population Health graduate programs.

The Health MS degree is incorrectly referenced as Health MA in the CampusLabs system. This will be corrected for the next assessment cycle.

Plan for Continuous Improvement 2016-17

Closing Summary:

The addition of the new graduate degree option, and the addition of new graduate faculty in the Department of Population Health, will result in new resources, ideas and input into the graduate curriculum. SHSU will hire a permanent chair for the department during the assessment cycle and will provide leadership and support for the MS in Health and the MS in Health Care Quality and Safety programs. The graduate advisors will conduct a continuous review of all graduate curriculum in ongoing efforts to improve the quality of all of the Population Health programs. Further, as the health field evolves, the MS in Health plans to recruit an interagency/advisory board from future employers, graduates of the program and a current student representative to provide input into what employers seek from graduates with the MS in Health. The advisory board will assist in determining future curriculum revision and the direction in which the program needs to go to adapt to changes in the field as well as providing marketing and recruitment guidance to increase the size of the program.

In addition, the MS in Health plans to develop policies in administrative processes that include the following:

- Criteria concerning student suspensions and re-admittance,
- Criteria to admit students under extraordinary circumstances,
- How a student internship is conducted (the manual we had in the past was the same one as the undergraduate internship manual and we often had graduate students doing the same activities as undergraduate students),
- Development of a student internship handbook and an internship manual.
- The development of a thesis by a graduate student and assessing that thesis.