

MPH Capstone Projects: Combining Community with Research

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The Master of Public Health Program

A UNMC/UNO Joint Program in the College of Public Health

Mission - Vision

Mission Statement

The UNMC/UNO Master of Public Health Program's purpose is to improve the health of a diverse public as a professional degree program by preparing students from Nebraska and the surrounding region to serve as ethically, culturally, and scientifically competent practitioners.

Vision Statement

The UNMC/UNO Master of Public Health Program, built from the strengths of the University of Nebraska campuses, will continue to emerge as a highly respected program of education, service and applied research that serves as a resource for the community and for public health practitioners and organizations in the region and nation.

Service Learning – The Concept

The concept of service learning is based on the principles of responsibility to our fellow man/woman and learning through applied theory. Service learning is about meeting human needs while learning; about integrating community service with study and reflection. The National Community Service Trust Act of 1993 defines service learning as “a method under which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet actual community needs, that are integrated into the student’s academic curriculum and provide structured time for reflection, and that enhance what is taught in school by extending student learning beyond the classroom and into the community.” In service learning, there is an equal focus on service and on learning. According to Kendall (1990), service learning:

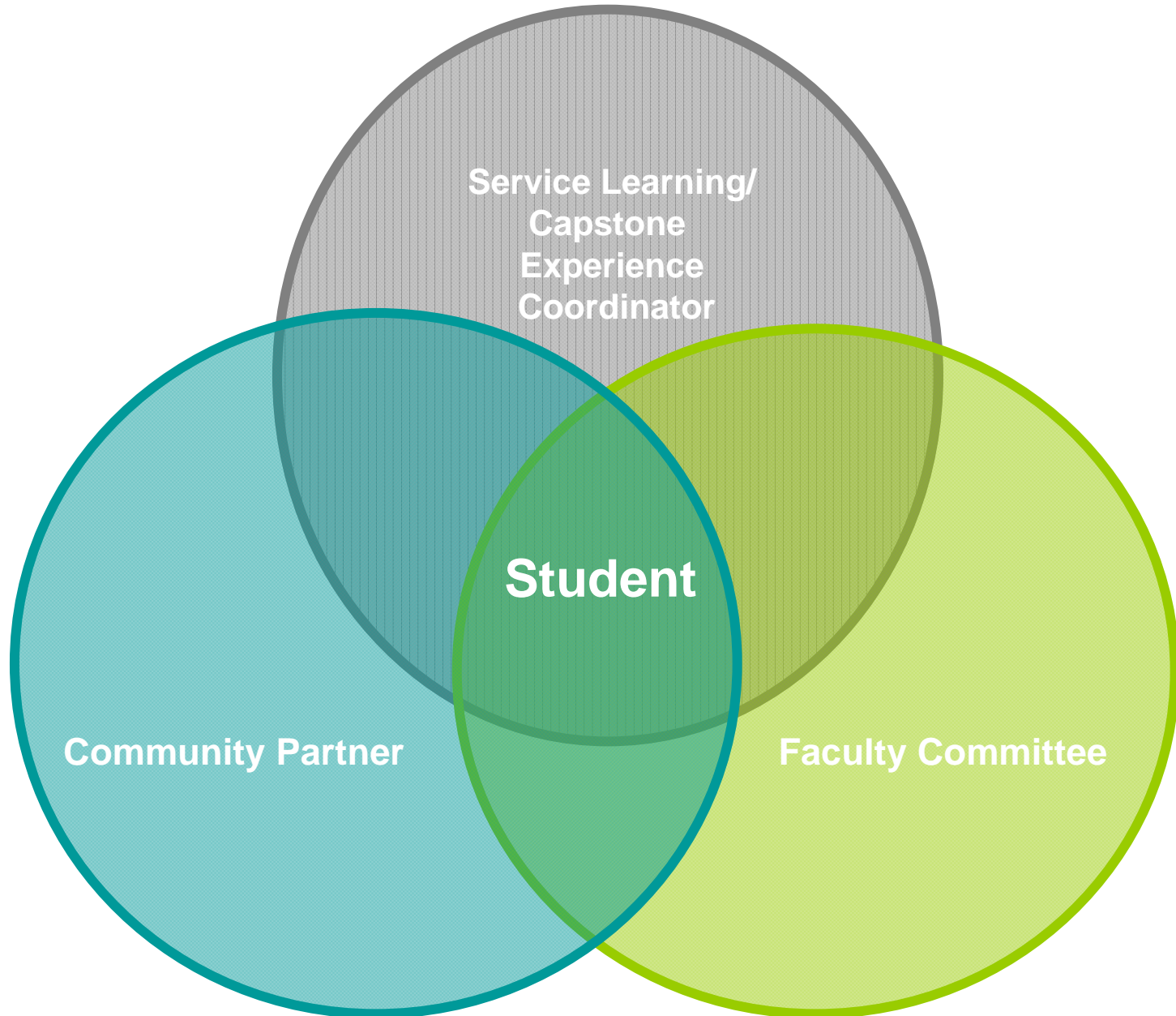
- Engages people in responsible and challenging actions for the common good
- Is committed to program participation by and with diverse populations
- Clarifies the responsibilities of each person and organization involved
- Articulates clear service and learning goals
- Includes training, supervision, monitoring, support, recognition and evaluation of students to meet service and learning goals
- Provides structured opportunities for people to reflect critically on their service experience

The Service Learning/Capstone Experience

The Service Learning/Capstone Experience (SL/CE) is an essential part of the UNMC/UNO MPH Program in the College of Public Health and is required of all students in the MPH degree program. It is designed to provide students with first-hand, scholarly, supervised experience in a practice setting. In the course of this community-based experience, students provide service that contributes to the health of the population while learning and further developing public health competencies under the guidance of established professionals. This experience augments the academic course work, providing students with an opportunity to integrate and apply/test the knowledge, principles and skills acquired through his/her classroom instruction.

In service learning, there is an equal focus on service and on learning. Activities, outcomes, and scheduled hours are negotiated between the placement site, the student and the service learning capstone course faculty member. Service learning is considered a threshold or capstone experience which not only allows students to demonstrate basic public health competencies and further develop essential skills, (e.g. collaborative team work, health education intervention skills, and management skills) but also to integrate academic course work with actual public health practice under the supervision of established public health practitioners. The SL/CE develops an environment of academic participation, collaboration, and engagement among students, faculty, and the community. Students complete individual or group projects at sites approved by the MPH Graduate Program Committee.

Collaborative Design of the Service Learning/Capstone Experience



Guidance for Faculty & Students

The Master of Public Health Program UNMC/UNO Joint Program in the College of Public Health

Service Learning/Capstone Experience Handbook

October 2006

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Guidance for Community Partners

The Master of Public Health Program UNMC/UNO Joint Program in the College of Public Health

Preceptor Handbook

December 2006

Preceptor Orientation Manual

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Community Partners

“Thank you very much! I hope we have an opportunity to work together in the future” **Quote – Community Partner**

Alegent Health Community Clinical Programs
American Heart Association Nebraska Chapter
American Lung Association of the Central States
Camp Kindle Inc & Speak Out
Child Health Specialty Health Clinics
Central Nebraska Area Health Education Center
CityMatCH at UNMC
Community Health Partners Foundation
Douglas County Health Department
East Central District Public Health Department
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department
Fred Leroy Health & Wellness center
Harrison County Home & Public Health Department
Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities
MDS Pharma Services
Munroe Meyer Institute UNMC
National Safety Council Greater Omaha Chapter
Nebraska Aids project
Nebraska Health & Human Services
Nebraska Center for Bioterrorism Education
One World Community Center

Our Healthy Community Partnership
Public Policy Center UNL
Rural Health Education Network/Area AHEC Program Office
Sarpy Cass County Public Health Department
SimplyWell LLC
St Francis Memorial Hospital
Southern Sudan Community Association
Tanglewood Research, North Carolina
The Nebraska Medical Center (Department of Pharmaceutical & Nutrition Care)
Three Rivers Health Department
United States Department of Agriculture-Food Safety Inspection Services
US Department of Homeland Security
VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System
Viet/American Cervical Cancer Screening Project
Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department
Child Specialty Health Clinics
University of Nebraska Lincoln Cooperative Extension
Southern Sudan Community Association
Nebraska Public Health Laboratory

“We are very appreciative of the high caliber of knowledge that was available to us and I hope that can continue” **Quote - Community Partner**

Highlighted Successes

“The research components of my capstone have been truly valuable. I do not work with the research/data analysis side of public health on a daily basis and this project allowed me to experience every step of research first-hand. I also feel I have benefited from the diversity of my committee members: each member brought a different expertise to the table and I value all their guidance.”

Quote - MPH Student

A Diabetic Needs Assessment of the South East Asian Population in Douglas County, Omaha, NE

Student received grant money through the Nebraska Health Ministry Network. This would be one of the first ever studies done on diabetes in South-Asians living in America.(\$2500)

Development of PH Leadership Competences & PH Curriculum for the Food Safety Inspection Service of USDA

Since the completion of the capstone FSIS has adopted these competences.

Smallpox Preparedness for NE Public Schools

Elements such as target audience response and appropriateness of program methods and materials is to be considered and modified before expanding the program to include other school systems.

An Evaluation of the Impact of Delivery System on Completion Rates for a Latent Tuberculosis Control Program

The capstone findings have already triggered a policy change at the One World Health Centers TB clinic

Needs Assessment to assess knowledge, cultural beliefs, attitudes, sexual practices and policy issues in heterosexual women aged 19 years and older in the Sudanese and Bantu Somali women living in Omaha

This project received grant funding from UNMC Minority & Research Education Office. The funding provided clinical research assistantships to two students.

Highlighted Successes

“Applying what had learned in my coursework in a “real life” environment was very helpful. It is nice to apply knowledge and see what works and what doesn’t always work”

Quote - MPH Student

Cultural Competence in Health Care and Public Health

It is currently in use as one module for training medical interpreters in the six-county area of the Hablamos Juntos project, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation designed to create connections between healthcare providers and the Latina health market. A report o was presented at the American Public Health Association 2005

Public Health Impact of Uninsurance among Immigrants in Nebraska

Student’s currently doing a PhD thesis on this topic.

Quality assessment of a Pap smear screening program in Vietnam

This has contributed to some recommendations that have been utilized during this international collaborative process. This is an ongoing project between VACCPP in California, UNMC Cytotechnology Program and laboratories in Vietnam

Evaluation of a Telehealth Consultation System for State Public Health Laboratories

This project provided current stakeholders with a preliminary assessment of the STATPack as it is being deployed in Nebraska. (\$3000)

Promoting public awareness and community participation in the Community Garden and Education Center operated by City Sprouts in the Orchard Hill Neighborhood of Omaha, Nebraska.

The student was sponsored by the North Central Region (NCR) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) to attend SARE’s annual conference in Wisconsin. City Sprout plans to reorganize activities in the garden and in the neighborhood based on the capstone report. (\$3000)

Challenges

- Reaching a common understanding among faculty, staff, students, and community preceptors of what the experience should be
- Achieving proper balance between quality of work and time allocated to the experience
- Engaging faculty
- Ensuring that students are prepared for capstone experience, particularly in research tools and methods
- Applying academic knowledge to practice
- Coordinating multiple parties by service learning coordinator
- Meeting the project needs of community partners

Future Directions

- Increase visibility of capstone projects by holding a “Capstone Symposium Day”
- Foster greater interaction between community preceptors and MPH program
- Increase visibility and number of student research awards
- Integrate MPH student research with other health sciences research events
- Promote competency-based curriculum to faculty and students
- Officially recognize faculty members who serve on capstone committees
- Become accredited as a College of Public Health



Promoting Public Awareness and Community Participation in the Community Garden and Education Center Operated by City Sprouts in the Orchard Hill Neighborhood of Omaha, Nebraska.

This capstone project was funded with City Sprouts, a Community Garden Partnership with Douglas County Health Department, Nebraska sought to determine the level of awareness and sense of ownership of the community garden as perceived by neighborhood residents.



Cảnh giác với căn bệnh ung thư cổ tử cung

(Tập theo trang 1)

Nhập viện khi đã quá trễ

Ở một căn phòng khác của lầu 10 Khoa Xạ, chúng tôi gặp bệnh nhân D.T.M (59 tuổi ở Trà Vinh) đã trải qua phẫu thuật nội mạc tử cung và đã được điều trị bằng tia xạ. Hiện tại bệnh nhân vẫn còn đau, mệt mỏi, không ăn uống được, thậm chí tiểu nhiều hơn trước, đôi khi có máu. Bà kể rằng mình đã chữa bao giờ ở khám phụ khoa vì "đi khám tư không ai biết cái gì cả, đi đâu, đi miễn ăn tiền tiền đong gạo". Tháng 10/07 của một thời gian là huyết trắng, bà đi khám ở BV Phụ sản, các BS đã khuyên bà nên vào TT Ung thư, đầu tư 1 triệu được 300.000 đồng nghĩ là người ta sợ làm tiền (Gần hai tuần sau khám nên tôi mua thuốc đặc về uống). Uống vài má cũng đỡ, nhưng đến ngày 04/09/07 bà bị ra huyết với số lượng ngày xưa con cái mới đầu lên TT Ung thư. Hồ sơ bệnh án của bà ghi rõ: "Ung thư cổ tử cung giai đoạn III - node sau, ngày UTCTC xâm lấn trong tử cung".



Thầy BS - kỹ thuật viên tham gia chương trình phòng chống UTCTC tại TP HCM được tặng kèm các vật phẩm.

Thầy BS, Lê Văn Xuân - Tổng thư ký của chương trình này từ từ đầu tháng 5/08 đến nay

Một bệnh nhân khác nằm cạnh giường bà M. vừa nhập viện trước đó, chỉ 28 tuổi ở Bạc Liêu - cũng bị UTCTC giai đoạn III nên vẫn bị ra huyết liên tục, hồng cầu giảm xuống chỉ còn 14,8%. Tăng tu máu bà M. sách đầu tiên tháng chỉ bị ra huyết từng đợt nhưng cứ ngày một nhiều. Bà cũng khám tại BV Phụ sản, đã cần uống thuốc uống và uống thuốc khác... đến ngày 02/08 chỉ bị ra máu đen đỏ người yếu người chóng mặt nhiều hơn, đau đi đứng. Chỉ còn trạng thái mê man: không biết đón tiếp ai ở nhà hiện này này cái gì mà đi. Như bệnh còn nặng hơn mà chưa có mặt ở bệnh."

Chương trình phòng ngừa UTCTC đã bắt đầu!

Hàng năm tại TP Ung thư, hơn 1.000 ca UTCTC được điều trị bằng tia xạ các loại ung thư ở nữ giới (25%).



Quality Assessment of a Pap Smear Screening Program in Vietnam
 This was a capstone project with the Viet/American Cervical Cancer Prevention Project (VACCPP), a non-profit organization with its headquarters in San Francisco, California, examined the quality of the screening process in the cytology laboratories in Vietnam and make suggestions for improvement. **This has contributed to some recommendations that have been utilized during this international collaborative process. This is an ongoing project between VACCPP in California, UNMC Cytotechnology Program and laboratories in Vietnam**