Project Title: Redesign of the Master of Public Health Curriculum for Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health

Name and Institution: Yvonne L. Michael, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health

Collaborators: Ana Diez Roux, Dean, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, Nancy Aronson, PhD, Consultant

Background, Challenge or Opportunity: A rapidly evolving public health landscape demands a refreshed MPH training program. In 2014, Dean Diez Roux identified the need to evaluate the MPH and recommend a redesign to meet the external and internal challenges. The redesigned MPH curriculum will meet the following goals: (1) Incorporate novel and state-of-the-art thinking on public health education and MPH training (in terms of competencies and teaching modalities/approaches); (2) Assure that MPH graduates are well prepared for the expanding context and content of public health in the 21st century; (3) Capitalize on the strengths of the Dornsife School of Public Health in terms of potential areas of concentration and emphasis, allowing flexibility and tailoring to student interests and Drexel strengths; (4) Fulfill the workforce needs in a broad range of areas; and (5) Address accreditation requirements.

Purpose/Objectives: The purpose of this project is to develop skills in collaborative leadership through management of a comprehensive reexamination and renewal of the MPH curriculum of the Dornsife School of Public Health to meet the goals outlined by Dean Diez Roux.

Methods/Approach: A task force of faculty and staff was formed to evaluate the current MPH program and identify issues and recommendations. Following submission of the task force report, we planned and implemented two all-faculty “advances” in order to develop consensus on essential competencies and models for an integrated foundational core. The process of engaging the faculty was designed to model the kind of active learning that is a characteristic of the program. A proposal that incorporated the work of the task force and the faculty advances was presented to faculty, alumni, students, and employers for additional input and refinement. Faculty work groups will develop the new curriculum content based on the final proposal for submission to the curriculum committee for approval in fall 2016. The new curriculum will be incorporated into recruitment materials and introduced to the MPH cohort arriving fall 2017.

Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy: The short-term objectives of this project are to (1) create a model of engagement and participation in curriculum review and (re)development, (2) develop a shared vision of educational philosophy, and (3) model active and group-based learning activities. The long-term objectives are to (1) improve student outcomes, (2) increase enrollment, and (3) improve faculty satisfaction related to teaching and mentoring in the MPH program. Short-term objectives were evaluated through process notes and documentation and participant interviews. Long-term objectives will be evaluated through direct evaluation of student competency attainment and student and faculty surveys and interviews.
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Background Challenge or Opportunity

- A rapidly evolving public health landscape demands a refreshed Master of Public Health (MPH) training program. In 2014, Dean Diez Roux identified the need to evaluate the MPH and recommend a redesign to meet the external and internal challenges:
  - Incorporate novel and state-of-the-art thinking on public health education and MPH training (in terms of competencies and teaching modalities/approaches)
  - Assure that MPH graduates are well prepared for the expanding context and content of public health in the 21st century
  - Capitalize on the strengths of the Dornsife School of Public Health in terms of potential areas of concentration and emphasis, allowing flexibility and tailoring to student interests and Drexel strengths
  - Fulfill the workforce needs in a broad range of areas
  - Address accreditation requirements

Objectives of the Project

To develop skills in collaborative leadership through management of a comprehensive reexamination and renewal of the MPH curriculum of the Dornsife School of Public Health to meet the goals outlined by Dean Diez Roux.

Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy

- The short-term objectives:
  - Create a model of engagement and participation in curriculum review and (re)development
  - Develop a shared vision of educational philosophy
  - Model active and group-based learning activities
- The long-term objectives:
  - Improve student outcomes
  - Increase enrollment
  - Improve faculty satisfaction related to teaching and mentoring in the MPH program
- Evaluation
  - Short-term objectives: process notes and documentation and participant interviews
  - Long-term objectives: direct evaluation of student competency attainment and student and faculty surveys and interviews

Approach

- Formed task force to evaluate the current MPH program and identify issues and recommendations.
- Planned and implemented two all-faculty “advances” to develop consensus on essential competencies and models for an integrated foundational core.
- Presented a proposal to faculty, alumni, students, and employers for input and refinement.

Discussion

Interpretation of the results
- 75% of the faculty were involved in one or both of the faculty advance sessions
- Capabilities and models emerged from a foundation of shared information and discussion

Summary
- Accomplished school-wide, broad-based participation and collaboration
- Process of engaging the faculty designed to model the kind of active learning that is a characteristic of the proposed, redesigned program

Next steps
- Faculty workgroups will develop curriculum content for approval fall 2016
- New curriculum will be introduced fall 2017

Collaborators:

Ana Diez Roux, Dean, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health
Nancy Aronson, PhD, Consultant

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