

**Kansas State University Master of Public Health Program**  
**2016 Feedback**  
**Summary Highlights**

Since 2010, the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at Kansas State University has collected evaluative feedback from students, preceptors, employers and alumni, on a regular cycle. Through these efforts, the MPH staff compile input to make data-driven decisions about the program. In the 2016 calendar year, seven surveys were used to assess the MPH program. Descriptive analyses and qualitative content analyses were conducted on responses provided to survey items and open-ended questions, respectively. Highlights from the analyses are provided below:

**Student Feedback**

- When assessing the program in general, students gave favorable ratings overall. Students gave favorable ratings to their academic advisors and faculty.
- When asked what the most important factors for choosing an MPH program were, students mainly endorsed curriculum, accreditation status of the program, and class schedule/flexibility.
- Students mentioned that they generally agreed that instruction in the MPH program was appropriately rigorous. It was specifically indicated that the program was keeping pace with developments in the public health field, was intellectually challenging, and had high academic standards set by the faculty.
- The field experience was one of the highlights of the program. Students felt that they were able to apply their public health knowledge and skills, that they benefitted the organization with which they worked, and that the MPH program had adequately prepared them for the experience.
- Students identified some challenges that they faced in the program. These challenges ranged from time management and scheduling to issues with courses and in some cases with faculty/advising.
- Students provided some recommendations suggesting providing more opportunities in the form of assistantships, as well as more research opportunities. It was also suggested that more discussion about field experience requirements, specifically providing guidelines/checklists for timelines and deadlines.
- When given the opportunity to share any final comments about their experiences with the MPH program many students from the mid- and exit surveys highlighted positive aspects of the program. One of the quotes provided by the students include. *“The field experience was most helpful in building my workplace skills. Because I had primarily been a student I had never worked in a ‘professional setting’ before. This experience helped me learn how the state health department works as well as learning about their importance as a resource in the state”.*

## **Preceptor Feedback**

- In general, the preceptors were very pleased with the students' performance in their field experiences. Some did note, however, that students were not always prepared for placement. For example, one preceptor shared, *"The advisor should meet with the point person of the field experience before the experience begins and at mid-point. This would help clarify the expectations placed on the student from both parties."* Preceptors also explained the value of the field experience, *"The most valuable aspect for a public health field experience is experience in the networking, implementation, and observation of how public health is lived out in the real world"*.

## **Employer Feedback**

- Employers generally agree that employees in their organization who possess an MPH degree from K-State have a broad knowledge and skill base related to public health. Additionally, employers generally agree that employees with an MPH are better prepared to work in their organization than other employees.
- The most important area of study in the employers' opinion was epidemiology and the least important was social and behavioral sciences. They also believed that the employees who had an MPH degree were well prepared and competitive in their work performance.
- Employers did recommend including topics and practical experiences in the MPH program that focused on financial knowledge, business management skills, as well as courses in statistics, and building students' capacity to work with the county, local and state government.

## **Alumni Feedback**

- The alumni who responded indicated that they were generally satisfied with the program.
- All alumni respondents reported that the MPH program prepared them adequately for their careers. When asked to rate specific aspects of the program, they indicated that they were most satisfied with the quality of instruction by faculty and accessibility of faculty.
- The majority of alumni respondents recommended that the MPH program include more statistical and administrative courses. They also expressed the need for more experiences with real world opportunities, specifically having more project based learning and exposure to the public health system. Overall, alumni were satisfied with the program and said that they would recommend the program to others.