Epidemiology - MSPH
Group 1: Cycle 1 - Fall 2017 - Summer 2019

Currently status is: Report Accepted

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR Group 1: Cycle 1 - Fall 2017 - Summer 2019

Mission Statement

The specific mission of the MSPH in Epidemiology is to prepare students for involvement in epidemiologic research that addresses the distribution and determinants of disease and other health conditions and behaviors promoting health.

Goal 1.

MSPH program graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply epidemiologic methods in identifying the determinants of disease and other health conditions.

Curriculum Map

Curriculum

Students learn these epidemiologic methods primarily in EPID 701 (Concepts in Epidemiology), EPID 741 (Epidemiologic Methods) and EPID 758 (Applications of Epidemiology in Public Health) and secondarily in BIOS 701 (Introduction to Biostatistics), BIOS 757 (Intermediate Biometrics), and EPID 745 (Seminar in Epidemiology), BIOS 745 (Seminar in Biostatistics).

Learning Outcome 1.

Students will demonstrate the ability to calculate and interpret measures of association.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the academic year will be used to assess each student. Specifically, questions from EPID 741 exams which pertain specifically to calculating and interpreting measures of association will be used to evaluate this learning outcome. At least 75% of students will average higher than 75% on these questions.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches EPID 741 will grade each examination and determine the score for each question as well as an average score for each student. Student level as well as program level data will be collected. MPH student data will be separated from MSPH student data and tabulated separately. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester and faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent of students who averaged at least 75% on the exam questions in EPID 741.

Spring 2018: 3/5 (60%)
Spring 2019: 3/3 (100%)
2-year results: 6/8 (75%)

This criterion was met.

Use of Results

The Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH), the accrediting body for schools and program of public health, adopted new curriculum standards for MSPH programs. As a result, we have redesigned our MSPH curriculum and developed new competencies (learning outcomes), which will be rolled out in fall 2019. We are developing a new academic assessment plan for the 2019-2021 cycle, and we are using the results from 2017-2019 to inform the new plan in addition to the new standards.

Learning Outcome 2.

Students will differentiate between common epidemiologic study designs.

Measures and Criteria

All master's students are required to take a comprehensive exam, usually during the Spring semester of their second year in the program. For this learning outcome, questions will be taken from the current academic year's comprehensive examination. At least 75% of students will average higher than 75% on the chosen questions.

Methods

The examination committee will grade each student's exam and determine the score for each question as well as an average score. Student level as well as program level data will be collected. The examination committee chairperson is responsible for aggregating all the information and putting it into a report for the faculty. MPH student data will be collected separately from MSPH student data for learning outcome purposes only. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester and faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent of students who averaged at least 75% on the associated questions on the comp exam.

AY2017-18: 7/9 (78%)
AY2018-19: 3/4 (75%)
Overall: 10/13 (77%)

This criterion was met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Goal 2.

MSPH program graduates will gain a broad understanding of diversity and culture, ethical principles, program planning and systems thinking.

Curriculum

MSPH program students develop an understanding of these concepts primarily in EPID 758 (Application of Epidemiology in Public Health) and secondarily in EPID 745 (Seminar in Epidemiology).

Learning Outcome 1.

Students will describe the roles of history, power, privilege and structural inequality in producing health disparities.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the current academic year will be used to assess this learning outcome. Specifically, questions from the EPID 758 final exam which pertain to health disparities will be examined. At least 75% of students will average > 75% on the questions which pertain to this learning outcome.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches EPID 758 will grade each examination and determine the score for each question as well as an average score for each student. Student level as well as program level data are collected. MPH student data will be separated from MSPH student data for the purposes of evaluating learning outcomes. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester and faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent of students who averaged at least 75% on related questions in EPID 758.

Fall 2017: 6/8 (75%)
Fall 2018: 4/4 (100%)
Overall: 10/11 (83%)

This criterion was met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Learning Outcome 2.

Students will explain how the findings of a program evaluation can be used.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the current academic year will be used to assess this learning outcome. Specifically, questions from the EPID 758 final exam which pertain to program evaluation will be examined. In order to meet this learning outcome, at least 75% of students will average > 75% on these questions.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches EPID 758 will grade each examination and determine the score for each question as well as an average score for each student. Student level as well as program level data are collected. MPH student data will be separated from MSPH student data for the purposes of evaluating learning outcomes. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester and faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent who averaged at least 75% on the related questions in EPID 758.

Fall 2017: 6/8 (75%)
Fall 2018: 2/4 (50%)
Overall 8/12 (67%)

This criterion was not met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Learning Outcome 3.

Students will explain how individuals, social networks, organizations, and communities may be viewed as systems in the analysis of public health problems.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the current academic year will be used to assess this learning outcome. Specifically, questions from the EPID 758 final exam which pertain to systems thinking will be examined. In order to meet this learning outcome, at least 75% of students will average >75% on these questions.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches EPID 758 will grade each examination and determine the score for each question as well as an average score for each student. Student level as well as program level data are collected. MPH student data will be separated from MSPH student data for the purposes of evaluating learning outcomes. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester and faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent who averaged at least 75% on the related questions in EPID 758.

Fall 2017: 3/8 (38%)
Fall 2018: 4/4 (100%)
Overall: 7/12 (58%)

This criterion was not met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Learning Outcome 4.

Students will understand basic ethical principles pertaining to public health research and practice.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the current academic year will be used to assess this learning outcome. Specifically, questions from the EPID 758 final exam which pertain to ethical principles will be examined. > 75% of students will average > 75% on questions which pertain to this learning outcome.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches EPID 758 will grade each examination and determine the score for each question as well as an average score for each student. Student level as well as program level data will be collected. MPH student data will be aggregated separately from MSPH students for learning outcome purposes only. The compiled results will be discussed at the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester and faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent who averaged at least 75% on the related questions in EPID 758.

Fall 2017: 8/8 (100%)
Fall 2018: 4/4 (100%)
Overall: 12/12 (100%)

This criterion was met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Goal 3.

MSPH program graduates will have effective written and oral communication skills for presenting public health information and epidemiologic data to the scientific community.

Curriculum

These skills are taught primarily in EPID 741 (Epidemiologic Methods) and EPID 799 (Thesis) and reinforced in EPID 745 (Epidemiology Seminar) and BIOS 745 (Biostatistics Seminar). They are taught secondarily in BIOS 754 (Discrete Data).

Learning Outcome 1.

Students will demonstrate their research capabilities by designing a research project which is presented orally in class.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the current academic year will be used to assess this learning outcome. Each student in EPID 741 is required to present his/her course project to the class in oral form. Each student is graded on his/her presentation to the class. At least 75% of students will receive a B or higher on the presentation in order to meet this learning outcome.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches EPID 741 will assess the performance of each student on his/her oral presentation. Each student's grade will be recorded in a spreadsheet. The results of these scores will be compiled and reviewed separately for MPH and MSPH students. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year, and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester, and faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent of students who received a B or higher on the presentation in EPID 741.

Spring 2018: 5/5 (100%)
Spring 2019: 3/3 (100%)
Overall: 8/8 (100%)

This criterion was met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Goal 4.

MSPH program graduates will have adequate knowledge in biostatistical procedures as well as be competent in information technologies and data management required for successful completion of epidemiologic studies.

Curriculum

Students will gain this biostatistical knowledge primarily in BIOS 701 (Concepts and Methods in Biostatistics), BIOS 710 (Effective Data Management for Public Health), EPID 741 (Epidemiologic Methods) and EPID 799 (Thesis) and secondarily in BIOS 757 (Intermediate Biometrics), BIOS 745 (Seminar in Biostatistics, EPID 745 (Seminar in Epidemiology) and EPID 758 (Application of Epidemiology in Public Health).

Learning Outcome 1.

Students will create and manipulate datasets and analyze data using appropriate statistical methods and software packages.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the current academic year will be used to assess this learning outcome. Specifically, questions from the BIOS 710 final examination which pertain to creating and manipulating datasets as well as analyzing data will be evaluated. At least 75% of students will average >75% on these questions.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches BIOS 710 will grade each examination and determine the score for each question as well as an average score for each student. Student level as well as program level data will be collected. MPH student data will be separated from MSPH student data and tabulated separately. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year. If curriculum changes are deemed necessary, these suggested changes will be discussed with the BIOS division faculty at the department faculty meeting. Division meetings held twice a semester, and department faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent who averaged at least 75% on related exam questions in BIOS 710.

Fall 2017: 5/5 (100%)
Fall 2018: 3/3 (100%)
Overall: 8/8 (100%)

This criterion was met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Learning Outcome 2.

Students will demonstrate proficiency in creating tables and reports using appropriate software packages.

Measures and Criteria

Data from the current academic year will be used to assess this learning outcome. Specifically, questions from the BIOS 710 final examination which pertain to creating tables and reports will be used to evaluate this learning outcome. At least 75% of students will average >75% on these questions.

Methods

The faculty member who teaches BIOS 710 will grade each examination and determine the score for each question as well as an average score for each student. Student level as well as program level data will be collected. MPH student data will be separated from MSPH student data and tabulated separately. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year. If curriculum changes are deemed necessary, these suggested changes will be discussed with the BIOS division faculty and discussed at the full faculty meeting. Division meetings held twice a semester, and department faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent who averaged at least 75% on related exam questions in BIOS 710.

Fall 2017: 5/5 (100%)
Fall 2018: 2/3 (67%)
Overall: 7/8 (88%)

This criterion was met.

Use of Results

See Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.

Learning Outcome 3.

Students will correctly interpret results from statistical analyses.

Measures and Criteria

All master's students are required to take a comprehensive exam during their second year in the program. The exam is offered at the beginning of the spring semester. We will evaluate questions from current academic year's Comprehensive Examinations. At least 75% of students will average higher than 75% on the chosen questions.

Methods

The examination committee will grade each student's exam and determine the score for each question as well as an average score. Student level as well as program level data will be collected. The examination committee chairperson is responsible for aggregating all the information and putting it into a report for the faculty. MPH student data will be collected separately from MSPH student data for learning outcome purposes only. The compiled results will be discussed in the EPID division faculty meeting at the beginning of the next academic year, and curriculum changes, if needed, will be recommended for discussion with the full faculty. Division meetings held twice a semester and department faculty meetings are held monthly.

Results

Percent who averaged at least 75% on the related questions on the comp exam.

AY2017-18: 6/9 (67%)
AY2018-19: 3/4 (75%)
Overall: 9/13 (69%)

This criterion was not met.

Use of Results

We have found issues with the clarity of interpretation of statistical analysis results, and we have revised our intermediate epidemiology course (EPID 741) accordingly. Going forward, we anticipate the changes we have made will result in students having a better understanding of statistical output and analyses interpretation.

See also Use of Results under Goal 1, Learning Outcome 1.