

TITLE: Increasing Employable Skills During Undergraduate Public Health Internships

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: All Public Health Professionals

ABSTRACT: Among universities and colleges nationally, there continues to be a focus on identifying effective ways to prepare undergraduate students for the workforce. Internships and experiential learning opportunities have been identified as ways to bridge the skills gap between education and employment. At Oregon State University, a 12 credit, 360-hour internship is required for all undergraduate Public Health majors and minors. Throughout the internship experience, both students and preceptors are required to complete an evaluation of one another at 5 and 10 weeks, assessing transferable skills and intern performance throughout the internship. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the intern evaluations were analyzed to identify transferable skills throughout the internship experience. The transferable skills that were evaluated have been identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) as skills that hiring managers prefer when selecting applicants for employment. The results indicate that the majority of interns increased these employable qualities, which included interpersonal, detail-oriented, and computer skills as well as overall intern performance. The findings illustrate the importance of Public Health internships for workforce preparedness and increasing employable skills for students.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify the employable skills that are increased throughout the internship experience. Identify the benefits of internships with preparing students for the workforce.