

Criterion IX.D – Student Participatory Roles

Students shall, where appropriate, have participatory roles in conduct of school and program evaluation procedures, policy-setting and decision-making.

Expected Documentation

1. Description of student roles in evaluation of school and program functioning.
2. Description of student roles in governance, as well as in formal student organizations.
3. Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met.

Criterion IX.D – Student Participatory Roles

1. Student Roles in Program Evaluation

Students are encouraged to evaluate school and program functioning through the following means:

- **Course Evaluation Questionnaires** are completed for every course at the end of the term (see Appendix VIII.B.4). All course evaluations are conducted online. SPH utilizes the online survey system developed by the Center for the Advancement of Distance Education (CADE). This system deploys surveys to the students' e-mail account and sends out periodic reminders for a period of three weeks to those students who have not completed the CEQs.
- **Student Evaluation of Academic and Research Advising** is completed at the end of the student's program through our online survey methodology described above. See Appendix IX.C.2.2.
- **Student Exit Surveys** must be completed prior to graduation. In conjunction with ASPH a new exit survey was developed during the 2003/2004 academic year. This online survey includes questions common to exit surveys across School of Public Health and along with questions specific to UIC SPH. See Appendix IX.D.1.1.
- **Student Evaluation of Field Experience** must be completed at the end of the student's field practicum experience (see Appendix IX.D.1.2). Currently this evaluation is not online.

2. Student Roles in School Governance

Participation in SPH Standing Committees

Student participation in SPH standing committees is described in the response to Criterion III.2. There are student members for the Executive Committee, the Committee on Educational Programs, the Committee on Academic Progress and the Committee on Admissions and Recruitment Policies.

Student Council/Public Health Student Association (PHSA)

The basic governing unit of the student body is the Student Council. All students, both full- and part-time, are members of the council and have a vote in all council decisions. The Student Council's purpose is to act as the liaison organization between students and faculty of the school. Members are elected or appointed by the council to the SPH standing committees. The council also serves to promote communication among students in the school and represents the interests of the school on the Executive Student Council of the Health Sciences Center. The assistant dean for student affairs is the administrative officer responsible for providing assistance to the council. A copy of the Student Council

Constitution is in Appendix IX.D.2. More information on the PHSA can be found at: http://www.uic.edu/sph/students_gov_phsa.htm.

Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health (MSAPH)

Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health (MSAPH) at the UIC SPH desires to complement the graduate experience by encouraging community service and social bonding within the Chicago community. MSAPH strives to attain this goal through events and activities focusing on academic support, professional growth and community service.

MSAPH holds monthly general meetings and social activities and participates in community service in the Chicago area. In addition to handling business at our general monthly meetings, it tries to expose its members to issues in the public health community that affect minorities and their professional development opportunities.

Vision of MSAPH

Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health has adopted the motto “Lifting As We Climb” as a symbol of its dedication to being a support system for students as they embark on careers in the health professions. Graduate school can be an extremely demanding endeavor for any student, minority or majority. For a minority student in a majority-dominated field, the obstacles to success can be even more challenging. MSAPH is committed to providing students with the tools critical to achieving academic and professional success. If students need support for personal, academic or professional reasons, they are encouraged to contact members of MSAPH.

Goals of MSAPH

- Provide an atmosphere that will assist minority graduate students in achieving academic and professional success.
- Act as a strong voice for the minority graduate community by actively dealing with issues that affect the growth and success of MSAPH members.
- Work with School of Public Health administration in recognizing and addressing the needs of MSAPH members.
- Represent MSAPH in a manner that will command respect and admiration from fellow graduate students, administrators and professors.
- Provide positive role models for students through the Mentor Program and other initiatives involving area professionals.
- Provide leadership opportunities for students that will help them develop the skills and work habits needed to enhance their future professional growth.
- Emphasize the importance of contributing to the community by encouraging students to volunteer their time with various organizations and become more politically active in issues pertaining to our communities.

- Assist students in identifying employment and financial assistance opportunities through postings, job fairs and networking events.

3. Assessment

Students have several mechanisms whereby they can affect their respective program's policies as well as those of the school. This criterion is met.