Teaching Prevention 2015:

Developing a Joint PharmD/MPH Program at a University for Allied Health Sciences

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Introduction

- Overview of PharmD/MPH offerings
- Development and Implementation Process
- Challenges
- Lessons learned
- Future directions
PharmD Programs

School of Pharmacy, Boston
- Traditional 0-6 year program
- Most students come into the program right out of high school

School of Pharmacy, Worcester/Manchester
- Accelerated 3 year program
- Distance education in real time between the two campuses
- Most students already have a bachelor’s degree or some other advanced degree
- Average age of student: 27
Development of the PharmD/MPH

- A feasibility assessment was conducted:
  - Was the University able to support a dual degree program with the current number of faculty, students and staff?
  - Is there a market for dual degree programs in the region?

- A proposed curriculum was developed and reviewed by:
  - Curriculum committee at each school of pharmacy (Boston and Worcester/Manchester)
  - MCPHS Online
  - Academic Council for final approval
PharmD/MPH, Boston

- Students complete their PharmD/MPH degrees in 7 years
- Program blends classroom didactic classes with courses available online through MCPHS Online
- Concentration is in Community Health that include the five core disciplines of public health
PharmD/MPH, Boston

- 3 Shared Courses: Epidemiology and 2 Electives (9 s.h.)
- Students take courses towards their MPH the summer between Year II and Year III, the summer between Year III and Year IV, and the year after the PharmD is conferred
- Both public health practice and culminating experiences are required for graduation
PharmD/MPH, Worcester/Manchester

- The Worcester/Manchester campus is an accelerated Doctor of Pharmacy program
  - Has a year-round schedule

- Students are able to complete both programs in 4 years

- 3 Shared Courses: Public Health and Policy and 2 Electives (9 s.h.)

- Both public health practice and culminating experiences are required for graduation
PharmD/Certificate in Public Health, Worcester/Manchester

- This program also offers a certificate in public health for those students interested in public health but do not wish to pursue the MPH.

- The certificate program can be completed concurrently with the PharmD – no additional time after graduation is required.

- Certificate program is a total of 15 credits covering the core disciplines of public health.
Implementation of the PharmD/MPH

**Boston Campus**
- Approval for the dual degree program, Fall 2013
- Four students have been accepted (2 accepted their seats)
- Application process underway for second cohort

**Worcester Campus**
- Proposal for the dual degree program was approved in 2014
- A proposal for a certificate in public health was also developed and approved for those students with a strong interest in public health
- Recruitment in the fall with the incoming class (Class of 2017)
- Application process underway for first cohort
Challenges (1 of 2)

- Program approval from each of the curriculum committees and the Academic Council

- Additional costs incurred for MPH degree
  - Different rates of tuition between graduate Online classes and PharmD classes (and also differences between campuses)

- Admission Process
Challenges (2 of 2)

- Curriculum Mapping
  - Dual Degree “coding”
  - Ensuring students are able to register for MPH classes

- Academic advising - make sure students are on track

- Competency Mapping for shared courses
Lessons Learned

- Developing systems with admission, registrar, financial services and other supports for dual degree students
- Building in time for approval process
- Devoting time and resources to academic advising and student support
- Meeting the needs of separate accreditation agencies
Opportunities

- Interdisciplinary teamwork in public health classes
- Model for other dual degree programs at the University
- Pharmacy-based practice and culminating experiences
- Survey of attitudes and behaviors that may be influenced by public health curriculum
QUESTIONS?