046:127 Pharmaceuticals Management for Underserved Populations
Course Evaluation, Spring 2007

Evaluation of Course by Instructor:

Overall, this is a rewarding course to teach – students self-select and are very interested in course topics, course has the potential to attract health care students from various disciplines, course also has the potential for including team assignments and community engagement.

Course Enrollment:
The course enrollment was disappointingly small. However, this is not unusual for the first offering of a course. One segment of potential students, College of Public Health, has not approved this course for their students. They tend to advise students to take only courses from their own faculty. Also, as this course required students to write, students may be reluctant to enroll and several students dropped the course because of the team writing obligation. Pharmacy students are infrequently required to write papers of the size or complexity of those required in this course.
Another aspect of enrollment is whether or not there are competing courses offered during the same semester. In the College of Pharmacy, a course on cultural competency and health disparities is taught spring semester. Enrollment may improve if 046:127 is moved to fall semester.

Guest Speakers:
Students were receptive to multiple guest lecturers and they provide strength for the topics. While several lecturers did not cover their topics as well as the instructor hoped, the students seemed engaged with what was presented. The ability to attract knowledgeable, experienced speakers from the global health area is a challenge and is most difficult for small courses. Pairing a speaker working in the local area with a speaker who works in the global environment worked well – however, this is most challenging class period to arrange.

Use of Elluminate™ for Guest Speakers:
Technically the software worked well and was able to sustain two hour blocks of lecture/discussion. Students related better to Elluminate™ speakers when the speaker used a small camera to project an image. Elluminate's™ advantages include its low cost, ability to bring in speakers from anywhere in the world where there is reliable internet service, sessions can be recorded for future viewing, students can participate and interact from distance sites.

Course Content:
In general the selection of course content/topics provided a coherent organization and match with course objectives. The text, *Managing Drug Supply*, offers more content than the course could cover. Guest speakers were able to match their topics/material to the text with variable success. There was no time in the course to discuss the case material from the text.

Course Engagement Activities:
One case study was discussed in class. Students were assigned the various stakeholder roles in the case and discussed a solution to the case's problem from the viewpoint/interest of the stakeholder. This activity worked well.
Each student was assigned to one of two community visits to gather information from the site [school district health office or herbal medicine retail store] and all students visited a free community health clinic. While the scheduling of these activities was a challenge, the activities were valuable and informative. By limiting the site visits to only a few sites there was ample time to discuss the site and its service mission.

Course Assignments:
Individual research paper: Students were "forced" to start the paper early in the semester, seek expert help for their literature search, write several drafts of the paper and discuss the drafts with knowledgeable individuals to obtain help and suggestions. These requirements were invaluable in keeping the students on task and providing direction and help early and at each writing step.
Team research report: Scheduling time for the team to meet face-to-face was difficult. The early work of the team was closely monitored by the instructor. This assignment could be shortened by parsing into several independent work pieces or by giving students research to use for the report. It would also lend itself to a separate instructor lead "lab" project.