Almost 1/3 of entering students to UCSD identify as pre-med or as other pre-health professionals. Most new students (both freshmen and transfer students) feel somewhat lost when they arrive on campus. The Health & Medical Professions Preparation Program (HMP3) Welcome Week Orientation is here to serve their needs with a warm welcome, an orientation to the life of a pre-health professional at UCSD, some concrete ideas for how to acclimate to campus and excel in their studies, where to go for information and professional advice, plus an opportunity to be paired with a current student to help them get off to a good start.

Assessment Project Description:

Students were given a Post-Event Survey with 4 questions designed to assess their level of understanding about the variety of pre-health opportunities and services available to them at UC San Diego, their opinions about the location and their comfort level with asking questions during the orientation, and their level of commitment to attending future HMP3 events. A fifth question asked for their comments and feedback.

They were also given the opportunity to sign up for individual HMP3 programs:

1. HOPE: HOPE stands for Healthcare Opportunities Preparation & Empowerment, and is intended to help underrepresented minority and/or first-generation, and/or financially disadvantaged students. It is also open to any student who is dedicated to providing health care for the underserved.
2. Peer Mentor Program: The PMP matches incoming freshmen and transfer students with an upperclassman to ease their transition to UCSD, provide support and help guide them as they pursue admission to graduate school in a health profession.
3. SEARCH: This program helps students who are undecided about which health profession they might want to pursue. Students are exposed to a wide variety of possible health professions through their involvement.
4. Service: All students who wish to pursue a health profession must do volunteer work in service to others. This program develops opportunities for students to work with the homeless, hospitalized children, senior citizens, community health fairs, etc.

HMP3’s motto is “Helping students become the next generation of healthcare professionals.” This Welcome Week Orientation is the first encounter these students have with UCSD as pre-health professionals. Such students can be highly competitive, driven and are often a little scared. HMP3 strives to create a warm, inclusive, supportive atmosphere where students can feel welcome and know that their needs will be met while they are at UCSD.

HMP3 strives to provide students with important information and resources that will help them in their preparation and application for graduate school in the health professions.

HMP3 also provides opportunities for real-world experiences to help students solidify their choice of a health profession, and to increase the likelihood of their acceptance to graduate school in the field.
Other Assessment
Type(s):
Assessment Methods: Surveys
Other Assessment
Method(s):
Data Collection Tools: 226 paper surveys were collected and entered into an Excel file.

Data Analysis Methods:
Numbers were tallied for each question asked on the paper survey, and percentages were derived from the numbers. A comprehensive list of the comments and feedback was created.

How Your Results Will Be Presented:
A copy of this assessment report will be given to my supervisor, Dr. David Artis.

Progress: 100%

Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline:
No items to display.

Summary of Findings: Total surveys recorded: 226.

219 (97%) said they now have a better understanding about the variety of pre-health opportunities and services available to them at UC San Diego.

138 (61%) said the location of the event was very convenient, 80 (35%) felt that is was somewhat convenient, 6 (3%) felt that it was slightly inconvenient and 2 (<1%) felt that it was extremely inconvenient.

Based on the orientation, students indicated how many HMP3 future events they were likely to attend. 38 (17%) said all of them, 136 (60%) said most of them, 52 (23%) said some of them.

When asked if they felt comfortable asking questions at the event, 190 (84%) said yes, 35 (9%) said no, 15 (7%) gave no response.

Students who attended the orientation were overwhelmingly better informed afterwards, felt comfortable in the atmosphere that was created, and indicated enthusiasm for attending future HMP3 events.

Fifty-nine students wrote additional comments on their surveys. 40 (68%) were positive, only 1 was negative, and 18 gave helpful suggestions. Some of them are not possible to implement due to lack of funds, such as handing out pens and note paper for everyone. But those that are feasible will be attempted next year.

Impact of Assessment: The assessment confirmed our thoughts that such an event continues to be very needed and appreciated during Welcome Week. Suggestions that will be implemented in 2015 will include provision of handouts and improvement of quality of speakers.

Lessons Learned: Taking suggestions from last year’s surveys, this year we offered the orientation twice so that everyone who wanted to attend could attend. We also operated two "swipe" machines, so that students could be processed more quickly and the event was able to begin on time. Both of these changes were very beneficial.

For next year we plan to provide handouts, because several students said the PowerPoint slides went too quickly for them to take notes. Others complained about the lack of public speaking ability of some of the speakers. Next year we will try to make sure the speakers are comfortable presenting in front of such a large group. Because this event provides a valuable opportunity to gain public speaking experience, however, no one on the HMP3 Student Board will be discouraged from trying, if they indicate an interest.

Supplemental Information:

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