Remote Reference Clinics: Supporting a new Physician Assistant Program in Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) Courses.

Francisco Fajardo, MA, MPA, Information and Instruction Services Librarian
305-348-1464 | ffajardo@fiu.edu
Rebecca Roth, MS(LIS), Clinical Engagement Librarian
305-348-0680 | rroth@fiu.edu

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Florida International University | Modesto A. Madique Campus
Medical Library | 11200 SW 8th St, GL323, Miami, FL 33199
Introduction

Problem:
How to support students in an off-site Physician Assistant program with their EBM courses and related capstone project.

Some Background
• Master’s Program
• Established in 2015
• Provisionally accredited by the ARC-PA
• 45 Students/Class
• 1st “Year”: 15 months of classes (mostly) on satellite campus
• 2nd Year: 12 months supervised clinical rotations all over the Florida
In the last 12 months, students do their clinical rotations (4 weeks per rotation) across Florida.

The HWCOM MPAS program is a 27-month curriculum. The first 15 months are dedicated to didactic education. Almost all classes take place at the off-site campus on in the Flagler Corporate Center.
Background

Some Background

• EBM Skills I – March
• EBM Skills II – November
• Capstone Project: following December
  • Literature Review (Pass/Fail) Master’s Program
  • MPAS Faculty serve as graders
Challenges

• Location
  • Most of their time is spent on the satellite campus

• Student Schedules
  • Writing the paper during their clinical rotations
  • They barely get to breathe between them
  • Location and length of the rotations – could very well be in Tallahassee

• It’s hard to have a reference interview via e-mail
Methods

CO 2018 EBM Skills 1 (late March 2017)
- PowerPoint: (EBM, PICO)
- Hands-on searching in five databases
- Attended a class each month – a chance for students to ask us about their Capstone topics
- Several groups came to campus for help with the assignment

CO 2018 EBM Skills 2 (late October 2017) - Flagler
- PowerPoint: (EBM, PICO)
- Hands-on searching in five databases
- Attended a class each month – a chance for students to ask us about their Capstone topics
- Several groups came to campus for help with the assignment

CO 2018 Capstone (due December 2018) - Flagler
- LibGuide (medical library)
- “Call Back Day” in February
- Several students came to campus for help with their capstone
- Citation Management tools
- One virtual reference session (Skype for Business)

CO 2019 EBM Skills 1 (late March 2018) – Main Campus
- Lecture: Intro to EBM, PICO, Boolean Logic, PubMed, Anatomy of an article
- Attended two classes (to answer follow-up questions)

CO 2019 EBM Skills 2 (late October 2018) - Flagler
- PowerPoint (EBM, PICO)
- Hands-on searching in five databases
- Will demo all of the databases before asking students to search with them
- Will attend classes to help with
  - Group assignments
  - Choosing capstone topics

CO 2019 Capstone (due December 2019) - Flagler
- LibGuide (medical library)
- Attend more “Call Back Days”
- Offer more virtual reference sessions
Results

• Waiting on the 2018 Capstone Projects to be submitted
  • So far, positive feedback from graders

• Using multiple methods to reach students
  • In Person
    • Dedicated/protected class time
    • Call back days
  • Skype for Business

• No formal evaluation
Going Forward

• **New crop of EBM I students this fall**
  • First class next Tuesday (October 30th)

• **Planning with the EBM skills & capstone faculty coordinator**
  • Also, a new faculty member from the school of education (brought in to consult)

• **Formal evaluation**
  • Measure progress between EBM I and II
  • Feedback form