Dissertation Mentoring Fellow Executive Summary: Liara Gonzalez

Purpose: To evaluate the veterinary student advising experience at the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine.

Goals:

1. Create a tool (survey) to evaluate the advising program at the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
2. Identify the effectiveness of the current CVM advising program
3. Determine if the advising experience is different between groups (by gender, race, ethnicity)
4. Identify ways to improve advising program

Impact: We have constructed a tool that can be used to evaluate advising in other professional programs. The reach is not limited to evaluating colleges of veterinary medicine but other medical and professional programs as well. The initial work from this project has been published in the Journal of Educational and Developmental Psychology online April 2016, entitled “An Evaluation of the Psychometric Properties of an Advising Survey for Medical and Professional Program Students”. Importantly, this tool may be used as a metric to continue to evaluate improvements to the advising program at the CVM in the years to come.

Reach: We expect to publish two more manuscripts based on the data collected from this survey.

Conclusion: This project has met its goals. The results indicate that there is room for significant improvements to the advising program at the CVM. There do not appear to be major differences when students are grouped by gender, race or ethnicity although some differences were found. The most number of differences in response were found between students grouped by year of graduation. This would seem to indicate that the expectations and needs of students change as they progress through their training. Unfortunately, responses from students of underrepresented background could not be evaluated by graduation year due to the small sample size. One specific way that has been identified to improve the advising program that was derived from the results of this survey was the need to more purposefully match advisors and advisees.