

Questionnaire Design and Responsiveness in a Data Capture Tool for Student Sharing of Experiences of Statewide Clerkship Sites

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Introduction

Positive clerkship experiences and student performance in the clinical years has been correlated to perceived quality of education and specialty choice amongst medical students [1-3]. The Medical College of Georgia uses a distributed campus model with more than 250 clerkship rotation sites across the state and beyond, making student clerkship choices imperative to their development as physicians. We developed a survey to collect both quantitative and qualitative data from students during their clerkship years and a system to distribute that information to students. The data allowed us to evaluate the effectiveness of various question formats through responsiveness, the length of responses, and time spent on the survey. In addition to this, we looked at the number of responses per clerkship in order to see whether or not our survey was getting information about all of the 3rd year rotations. We aspire to take these findings and utilize them to expand the program and improve the questionnaire in order to yield more responsiveness from students.

Methods

1. Survey Design

- Implemented in Qualtrics
- Included
 - 18 multiple choice questions
 - 1 short response
 - 2 long responses
- 3 mandatory questions
- Designed to be completed in under 15 min

2. Survey Distribution

- Distributed to 190 3rd year students
 - Each had 3-4 rotations completed
 - 101 out of 570-760 responded (13-18%)
- Collected submissions anonymously

3. Data Analysis

- Used Qualtrics to filter data
- Implemented Microsoft Excel to sort data
- Used Airtable to display data

Results

- The average time spent on the survey was 8 min and the average combined word count was 86 for long responses.
- Figure 1 summarizes response number with clerkship.
- Figure 2 displays length of response vs time spent on survey.
- Table 1 shows percentage of responses based on question type.

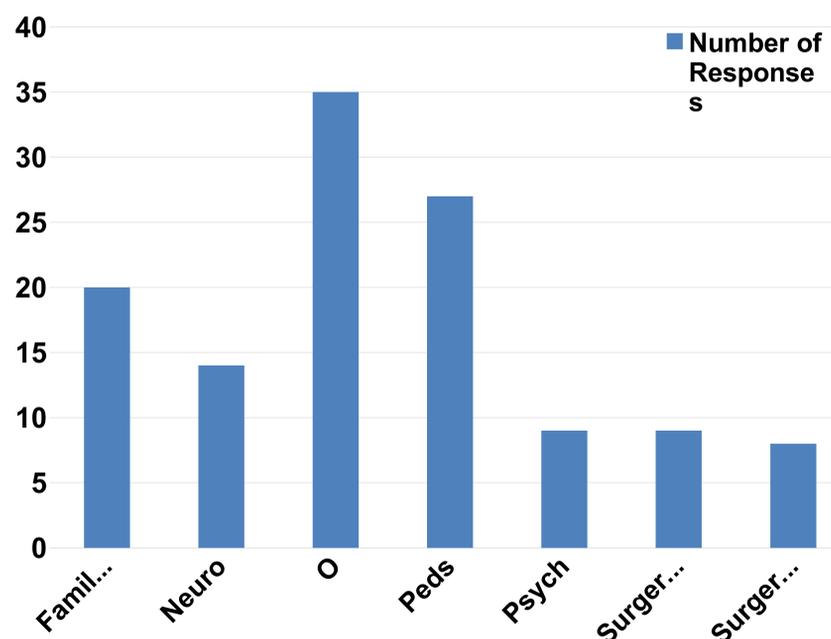


Figure 1: Number of responses per clerkship.

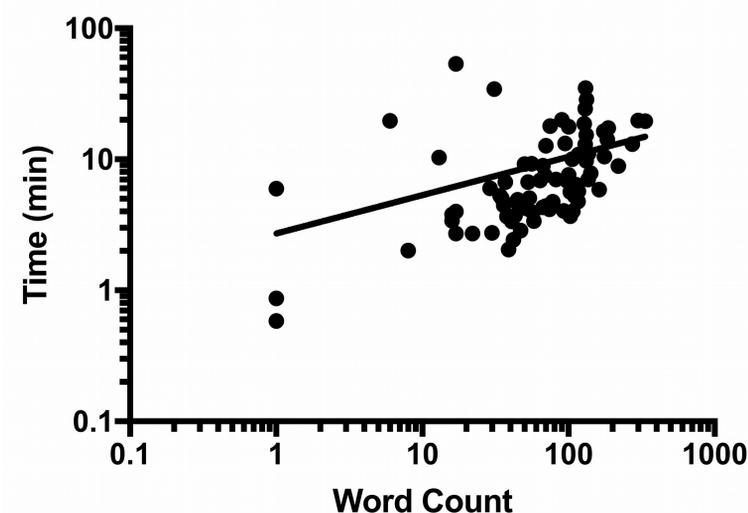


Figure 2: Word length of response and time spent on survey. One outlier at 184 min was removed for the sake of preserving the axes.

	Answered	Did Not Answer
MCQ	96%	4%
Short Answer	54%	46%
≥1 Long Answer	81%	19%
Both Long Answers	25%	75%

Table 1: Response percentage to each question type.

Summary / Conclusions

- Survey response rate was low (13-18%). Students may not be motivated to complete a survey for each clerkship.
- All 3rd year clerkships received responses in the survey, allowing for students to get information from each one.
- Long responses were successful with 81% of students answering at least one, and average length of 86 words.
- Time required to fill questions was not an obstacle.
- Lower response rates (54%) to the short question may be due to the question itself, which stated: "Describe how often you were on call and describe what it meant to be on call."
- Future directions: Reconfigure the survey in order to increase the total response rate by students. Alter the types of questions and increase frequency of reminders.

References

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