

## Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group 2015-2016 Student Survey Results

The Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group (PHCNPG) Student Committee completed an online member survey in September 2015. A total of 59 student members responded to the survey. The survey reflects an overall response rate of 18% of the membership. The intent of the 2015-2016 newsletter survey was to obtain feedback from members on their interests and ways to provide better benefits to student members. Results of the student survey are presented below:

**1. Are you a new PHCNPG member this year?**

New Membership	Percent of Responses n=59
New member in 2015	64% (38)
Joined before 2015	36% (21)

**2. If you are not a new member this year, how many years have you been a member of PHCNPG?**

Maintained Membership	Percent of Responses n=18
1 year	72% (13)
2 years	17% (3)
3 or more years	11% (2)

**3. How did you hear about PHCNPG? Please select all that apply.**

Source of Information about PHCNPG	Percent of Responses n=59
Internet Search	3% (2)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Brochure	20% (12)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Website	51% (30)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Registration	37% (22)

Fellow Student/Colleague	14% (8)
Professor	34% (20)
Nutrition/Dietetics Professional	14% (8)
FNCE	3% (2)
Other (please specify)	2% (1)

**4. What is your current education level?**

Education Level	Percent of Responses n=58
College Freshman	2% (1)
College Sophomore	0% (0)
College Junior	3% (2)
College Senior	28% (16)
Master's Degree Student (MA, MS, MPH)	35% (20)
PhD Student	7% (4)
Dietetic Intern	14% (8)
Concurrent Dietetic Intern/Master's Degree Student	12% (7)

**5. Please rank your reasons for joining PHCNPG, with 1 being the most important reason and 8 being the least important reason.**

Reasons for Joining PHCNPG	Average Rating n=57
Leadership Skill Building	4.7
Networking Opportunities	2.6
Public Health/Community Information/Current Events	2.7
Professional Skill Building (i.e. Webinars/Training Opportunities)	3.9
Job Opportunities	4.6

Volunteer Opportunities	5.5
Mentorship Opportunities	5.6
Scholarship or Funding Opportunities (i.e. Stipends to Attend FNCE, Travel Scholarships, Student Award Opportunities)	5.9

**6. Based on your experience with PHCNPG, how would you rate your satisfaction in each of the following areas, with 1 being 'Very Satisfied' and 5 being 'Not Satisfied'?**

Offerings of PHCNPG	Average Rating n=39
Leadership Skill Building	2.4
Networking Opportunities	2.3
Public Health/Community Information/Current Events	1.7
Professional Skill Building (i.e. Webinars/Training Opportunities)	2.2
Job Opportunities	2.8
Volunteer Opportunities	2.5
Scholarship or Funding Opportunities (i.e. Stipends to Attend FNCE, Travel Scholarships, Student Award Opportunities)	2.7
PHCNPG Website Content	2.2
Social Media Communications	2.4
Relevant Information and Opportunities for Career Paths	2.4

**7. How could PHCNPG improve your student experience in any of the above areas? (21 Respondents)**

- Career opportunities (5), volunteer opportunities (4), scholarship opportunities (4) and mentorship opportunities (1)
- Networking opportunities (3) to connect with students and seasoned members (2)

- Increased visibility and involvement on social media (2) and interesting website content (1)
- Inform student members about the student community (1) and get us interacting more (1)
- Connect the student committee and professional committee better (1)
- Make the above info more accessible (1)
- More opportunities for students to share original research. Devote areas specific to undergrads, grad and PhD students (1)

**8. The Student Digest is a newsletter specifically for PHCNPG student members. What topics would you be interested in reading about in The Student Digest? (42 Responses)**

- Job opportunities (6) and how to choose a career path (3)
- Volunteer opportunities (2) and getting involved (2)
- Interviews to highlight successful dietitian and student members (6) and their advice (2) with who to contact for questions (1)
- Current research (5), advocacy issues (1), policy and program updates (6), and trends and changes in nutrition (6)
- Internship (4) and graduate degree (1) information
- Successful public health studies (2) and stories (2)
- Networking tips (3)
- Unusual public health and community nutrition careers (2)
- Coverage of specific topics of interest: food insecurity (2), epidemiology (1), cancer in young children (1), ethical issues (1), entrepreneurship (1), grants and funding (1), grocery lists for students on a budget (1) and motivational techniques for mothers (1)
- Interesting seminars and webinars (1)
- How to make small steps in my own community to promote wellness -- i.e. what should I ask for at my grocery store? What is the appropriate way to get involved even on a volunteer basis for speaking engagements at schools, grocery stores, etc. (1)
- I don't receive it. I wasn't even aware it existed! (1)
- Efforts combining nutrition with public health. (1)

**9. What social media platform(s) do you use most often? Please select all that apply.**

Social Media Platform	Percent of Responses n=58
Facebook	90% (52)
Twitter	22% (13)
Instagram	55% (32)

**10. How often do you read your emails from PHCNPG?**

Read Emails	Percent of Responses n=56
Always	37% (21)
Sometimes	61% (34)
Never	2% (1)

**11. Are you more likely to open email from PHCNPG or check the Facebook Page?**

Best Method of Communication	Percent of Responses n=57
Email	81% (46)
Facebook	19% (11)

**12. Please share comments/suggestions you may have about Student Membership. (6 respondents)**

- Increased use of social media and blogs (2) or local meetings for students unable to network via FNCE (1)
- Provide students with a variety of opportunities (2), the job opportunity emails seem to all be fairly high level positions (1)
- Change the banner of the Student Newsletter to something to connect it to the PHCNPG group, but not identical. I.e. same colors, different picture. (1)
- I really like this group! I would love more information about student-specific benefits to being in the group like mentoring though. (1)
- Signing up can be so confusing. Some of the web pages are very busy and as a new member, I easily get lost. I would say simplify and more tutorials or beginners videos, so we know how to tour the site. (1)
- Overall, I really like having the student membership. It definitely provides an opportunity to hear about important topics and events that I might not otherwise have known about. My only suggestion would be to make sure that several emails don't all flood in at the same time. (1)