

JORDAN KALEOALOHA CANDAY

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I was enrolled in the HMSV 440W the spring semester of 2020. Being that this was my second time taking the course, I was determined to prove to myself that I could to a substantial job, pass the course, and improve my GPA. Being that I had already taken the course, I was fairly familiar with the objectives, and honestly excited to be going through the process again. Program evaluation is a fun thing to do for me as I enjoy projects start to finish.

The timeline of this course was very interesting, as I believe it ended on a more flexible pattern, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It certainly effected my motivation to continue as strong as I started, but I believe my final work speaks to my level of understanding in the course. I'm beyond grateful for my professor's and ODU's accommodations while we all faced this pandemic.

My program evaluation was fun to complete, as I went through each step required to do so. Creating a timeline, identifying research questions to base things off of, were just a few of the things that guided me while prepping to conduct the evaluation. The more challenging pieces was identifying what research method to use. I originally wanted to go with Process Evaluation, but after reviewing more of what my plans were going to be with my evaluation, I decided on the Improvement-Focused Evaluation as I wanted my evaluation report to be a resource at focusing

on the areas of growth in the agency I evaluated on. Recognizing stakeholders was one of the easier components of the course; I was shocked to learn the extension in which an agency can have in regard to stakeholders. For instance, the insurance company is a stakeholder for medical practices- even though that is a sensible correlation, that is not one I would have thought of prior to this.

I am most excited to publish and present my e-Portfolio. I believe my learning is most demonstrated in Task 5 (<https://sites.wp.odu.edu/jordancanaday/tasks/task-5/>), as the research plan shows my enthusiasm to completing the evaluation in the most skilled and comprehensive way possible. I most certainly improved with the Task 3, as my initial annotated bibliography looked more like links with tiny descriptions. I was able to focus on where I went wrong and fix those mistakes. I look to take the skills learned in this course and apply them in my field, as I plan to work in programs, whether they be centered around mental health, community engagement, etc. Knowing the process of an evaluation will allow me to think rationally and accept help when needed, knowing that an evaluation is meant to assist in the overall wellbeing of programs/agencies.

An outside resource I often looked to, surprisingly, was that of the CDC.
<https://www.cdc.gov/eval/guide/introduction/index.htm> It was interesting to come across something from the CDC to use for this course, but the way the information is laid out was such a huge help during this course!

References / Works Cited

“Program Evaluation Guide - Introduction - CDC.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 11 May 2012, www.cdc.gov/eval/guide/introduction/index.htm.