Beginning in Spring 2015, Dr. Horney will offer a new course, Methods in Field Epidemiology, which will focus on teaching applied public health skills such as public health surveillance and outbreak investigation. In addition to regular classroom components, a new service-learning component called EpiAssist will give enrolled students the opportunity to work with local, regional, and state public health staff on applied public health projects developed in partnership with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

The goal of EpiAssist is to provide benefits to students, community partners, and the School of Public Health, including the following:

- Improve learning by complementing traditional classroom teaching;
- Strengthen the relationship between the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and DSHS to accomplish mutual goals; and,
- Engage students in the potential of a future career in applied public health.