

Stuart Shapiro, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Faculty
Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Dr. Shapiro,

I am writing on behalf of Professor Debbie Borie- Holtz's consideration for being promoted to Associate Professor in Teaching at the Bloustein School of Public Policy and Planning. I was a former Research Methods student of Professor Borie-Holtz's during the Spring 2019 semester.

After the semester concluded and I began my full-time co-op experience at a top pharmaceutical company, and within the first few weeks I felt compelled to reach out and thank her for the level and quality of education she provided me with. With confidence I can say her class was one of the most genuinely enjoyable and meaningful classes I have taken in my undergraduate career. The ability to decipher data, formulate surveys to minimize bias and use the right metrics to create a desired storyline are invaluable skills that have continually impressed my colleagues. I found myself in the midst of pharmaceutical executives being thoroughly impressed by the work I was able to produce as a direct result of what I gained in Prof DBH's Research Methods class.

What made the class most memorable is Prof DBH's passion for educating and effective teaching style. I truly realized how efficient and organized her class was after taking a different analytical based course- did not go as smoothly! She took the time to make sure each student was well aware of upcoming deadlines, current week assignments while still keeping the focus on the final project so no student was overwhelmed come the end of the semester. Her strategic learning method allowed us to build on topics that directly translated into formulating the final research paper. Each assignment had purpose and students appreciated that. She would email us reminders and instructions as well as having detailed instructions in each module section on Canvas, meanwhile being very transparent about deadlines and expectations. There were ample amount of opportunities to earn points through weekly assignments and participation, along with examinations and the final paper making grade distributions fairly assigned. She was very well communicated with her TAs and they were always on the same page. They put much effort into offering themselves as resources with great flexibility and willingness. I never felt overwhelmed or unable to get the help I needed.

Besides Prof DBH's ability to seamlessly facilitate a course that was difficult for many students, what made the greatest impression on me was her genuine passion for teaching. She made a 9am three-hour class fly by, while making me feel like my presence in class was genuinely appreciated and valuable. Her lectures were engaging and passionate, always using different methods of outreach and keeping students actively participating throughout. Her class consisted of not only lecturing, but also group discussions and group activities. Overall, she is one of the most passionate and experienced educators I've had, and despite her expertise she never ceased to stop improving her methods by appreciating student feedback and applying them.

To conclude, I believe that Professor Debbie Borie- Holtz represents the Bloustein School in the highest manner- possessing the values of being a compassionate, intelligent and motivating educator, being an influential role model to her students. I'm confident it would reflect very well on the Bloustein School to have her as an Associate Professor, and as a student I would be proud to have her represent my school in this manner. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or further elaboration on her behalf.

Best Regards,
Magdalena
Health Administration
Class of 2020