**American Medical Student Association**

**AMSA Academy**

**Public Health Scholars Program**

2016-2017

Wednesdays @ 8:00pm EDT/EST

**Course Director:**  Adela Germano

**Vice Director:**  Amrit Mangat

**Course E-mail:** phsp@amsa.org

**Grading:**  Pass/Fail (see below for Completion Requirements)

**I. Course Description**

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases. Overall, it is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country or region of the world.

Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research. Public health works to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Public Health Scholars Program is designed and led by medical students. All of our discussions will springboard from a medical student’s perspective. We will explore different areas of public health through guest speakers, discussions and individual projects. Each topic will feature a webinar facilitated by someone working in that area. We hope to kindle your curiosity (remember what that feels like? This should be fun!) in the people who tirelessly work for the betterment of the public’s health -- let their journeys inspire you!

**II. Course Objectives**

By the end of this Scholars Program, Scholars will:

* Be able to define and explain the function of public health.
* Discuss cases and programs that are currently being implemented.
* Become more familiar with their local health department.
* Plan a public health intervention.

**III. Format and Procedures**

* Webinar -- scholars will attend the online seminars and pose questions during discussion time via an online platform (Moodle).
* Pre-webinar prep -- scholars will be provided with information one week before each webinar to help you gain context (e.g., a video or article relevant to the discussion, as well as a bio of the speaker who is leading the webinar). This should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.
* Pre/post webinar quizzes -- you will take a brief five-question multiple-choice quiz before and after each webinar (same questions on each quiz) to demonstrate your understanding and transfer of knowledge. Completion is required for credit, but your performance will not affect your credit. Answers will be used for research purposes only.
* Complete a final project as discussed below in Section V.

***Course Credit***

* Scholars may be able to receive elective credit from their home institution for this course. While AMSA unfortunately cannot grant elective credit at this time, we are happy to support you with documentation that will aid you as you seek elective credit.
* Each scholar that completes the requirements outlined in Section V below will be provided an official Certificate of Completion.

**IV. Expectations of Scholars**

Scholars are expected to:

* Complete preparation assignments before each webinar.
* Complete pre- and post-webinar quizzes for each webinar.
* Attend at least six of the eight webinars as outlined in Section V.
* Participate in discussion during webinar, when appropriate.
* Complete a final project as outlined in Section V.
* Notify the course directors if they are unable to complete the activities associated with each webinar or are unable to attend a webinar.
* Treat speakers, course directors, and other scholars with respect, humility, and possess an open mind.
* Scholars will be highly encouraged, but NOT required, to attend the AMSA National Convention, February 23-26, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

**V. Completion Requirements for Certification**

* Class attendance
  + - Must gain attendance credit for **6 out of 8** webinars
    - Attendance credit includes: Complete pre- and post- webinar quizzes prior to and following each webinar. Attend the webinar live.
    - If unable to attend webinar live, please complete the pre- quiz, then watch the recorded webinar, complete the post- quiz — and *Submit a SHORT (1/2 a page) reflection* to **phsp@amsa.org** by **Friday at 9pm** the same week of the webinar.
    - \*\*\*\*\*\*Please note that all quizzes and recordings will be locked on Friday at 9:00pm the same week of the webinar. You will no longer be able to gain attendance credit for that webinar after that time.\*\*\*\*\*\*
    - \*\*Simply completing a quiz gives you credit. Whether or not you answer questions correctly simply tells us if we’ve taught you the concepts we set out to teach, but will not affect your credit negatively in any way.

\*\*\*ONLY **ONE** OF THE OPTIONS IS REQUIRED\*\*\*

Final Project Option 1

* Interview a local individual who works in the public health sector.
  + Guidelines
* The interview needs to be documented and submitted to the director in a doc, pdf, mp3, or mp4 form -- depending on the media you choose.
  + Ideas
    - Find someone who inspires you who works in the field of public health
    - Preferably the person you interview has their masters in public health
    - Sit down with this individual and get to know their journey -- what led them to public health? What are some challenges to their job? What are some accomplishments they’ve had?
    - Compile the script of your conversation and either summarize it in a report, or edit it in a fashion that is pleasant to experience (think podcast) -- submissions in audio format may be passed on to the AMSA podcast “AMSA AdLib”!

\*\*OR\*\*

Final Project option 2

* Required: design a local community public health initiative
* Optional: DARE to carry it out! If attempted, produce a report that includes your design, implementation, and any feedback provided by the community.
  + Guidelines
    - Plan an intervention to address a public health issue in your local community.
    - The intervention does NOT need to be carried out, but attempting to implement the intervention is preferred.
    - Resource: AMSA Action Toolkit <http://www.amsa.org/advocacy/action-committees/grassroots-organizing/activism-toolbox/>
  + Ideas - For example, evaluating barriers in health in homebound individuals or setting up a campaign to make the campus smoke-free. We will provide more ideas during the course.
  + Remember, it doesn’t have to be CITY-wide -- your target can be a group/community of any size! A classroom! A city block!

***We invite you to share your final project design and/or implementation at the AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C. on February 23-26, 2017!***

Timeline for Final project:

* Select option (1 or 2) and your topic by **Monday December 12, 2016** (send email to phsp@amsa.org)
* Provide basic outline and goal of intervention/interview by **Monday January 16, 2017**
* Final project submitted (via email) by **Monday February 13, 2017**.

**VI. Inclusivity Statement**

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Academy is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

* Share their unique experiences, values and beliefs.
* Be open to the views of others.
* Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
* Appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community.
* Value each other’s opinions and communicate in a respectful manner.
* Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
* Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and within the AMSA community.

**VII. Course Schedule: (\*\*May change to accommodate guest presenters needs)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** |
|  | **Module 1: Introduction & Public Health and Tobacco** |
| Oct 12 | Introduction |
| Oct 19 | E-Cigarettes |
|  | **Module 2: Opioid Epidemic** |
| Nov 2 | Opioid Drug Abuse |
| Nov 16 | Prescribing Controlled Substances and Prevention |
| **Dec 12\*** | **Select option 1 or 2 and topic for Final Project—> email your choice to [phsp@amsa.org](mailto:phsp@amsa.org)** |
|  | **Module 3: Center for Disease Control** |
| Jan 11 | The CDC and Disease Surveillance |
| Jan 25 | The CDC and Gun Violence |
| **Jan 16\*** | ***Submit Final Project Outline*** |
|  | **Module 4: Wellness** |
| Feb 8 | Nature and Wellness |
| Feb 22 | Obesity Interventions |
| **Feb 13\*** | ***Final Project due*** |
| **Feb 23-26** | ***AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.*** |

Last updated Oct 4

1. CDC Foundation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)