

American Medical Student Association

AMSA Academy

Public Health Scholars Program

[2017-2018]
[Tuesdays @ 8:00pm EST]

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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.

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

We know you don't have a lot of time, but here you are trying to make the most of a few hours of extra time per month you got! Way to go!

- 1) So our first aim is not to bore you.
- 2) Our second aim is to keep discussions relevant to present day problems.
- 3) Our third aim is to help you think historically as well -- where the heck were we before public health ever existed?

By the end of this course, students 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 -- participants will attend the online seminars and pose questions during discussion time via an online platform (Moodle).
- Pre-webinar prep -- participants will be provided with information 1 week before each webinar to help you gain context (i.e. a Youtube 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 5-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.

Final project -- You have 2 choices:

- 1) Interview someone who works in the public health field **LOCALLY** to you! *must be able to be viewed/experienced by me, the Director, online somehow. So email it to me (pdf, mp3, mp4 -- depending on the media you choose).

OR

- 2) Design a local community public health initiative and DARE to carry it out! Give us a report on your design, follow through, and any feedback on your initiative from the community.

We invite you to share your final project at the AMSA conference!

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

- You are to attend no less than 6 out of the 8 online webinar sessions to be provided over the year (lasting 1 hour each).
 - Reading prep (20 mins) per session
 - Pre and post webinar quizzes (3 mins each)
- Complete 1 of 2 final projects (~3 hours)

V. Completion Requirements for Certification (CONSISTENT ACROSS SPs):

- Class attendance
 - *Domestic Students & International Students in the Caribbean and Americas:*
 - Must attend 80% of webinars
 - Can watch **up to two** recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to obtain make-up credit for attendance
 - Complete quizzes prior to and following each webinar
 - *International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia*
 - Must watch 80% of recorded webinars 48 hours after the original session
 - Submit a SHORT reflection of the webinar to the Course Directors 72 hours after the original session
 - Complete quizzes prior to and following each webinar
- Participation policy
 - Must post to 80% of online discussion questions

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

- Final Project option 1
 - Interview someone who works in the public health field **LOCALLY** to you!
 - Guidelines
 - Finished project can be 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"!
- Timeline
 - Due at on February 20th
- Final Project option 2
 - Required: to design a local community public health initiative
 - Optional: DARE to carry it out! Then give us a report on your design, follow through, and any feedback on your initiative from the community.
 - Guidelines
 - plan an intervention to address a public health issue.
 - Intervention does NOT needed actually need to be carried out, but that would be cool.
 - Resource: AMSA Action Toolkit
<http://www.amsa.org/advocacy/action-committees/grassroots-organizing/activism-toolbox/>
 - Ideas
 - Remember, it doesn't have to be CITY-wide or anything -- your target can be a group/community of any size! A classroom! A city block!
 - Timeline
 - Due on February 20th

VI. Inclusivity Statement

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Scholars Program 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)

Date	Themes	Topic	Notes
Oct 10		Public Health Introduction	
Oct 24	HIV	HIV Prevention and Care Planning	
Nov 7	Lifestyle & Wellness	Nutrition and Obesity	
Nov 21		Nature and Wellness	
Jan 9	Women's Health	Artificial Reproductive Therapy	
Jan 23		Teenage Pregnancy	Dr. Blum
Feb 13	Opioids and Drug Abuse	Opioid Drug Abuse	
Feb 27		Prescribing Controlled Substance and Prevention	

Plan:

1. Make contact with Ms. Momah at Georgia Department of Public Health (HIV speaker)
2. Make contact with Dr Kissin who works at the CDC (Artificial Reproductive Therapy
3. Find speaker for Teenage Pregnancy (Dr Blum)
4. Will make contact with the Natalie Johns on Obesity Interventions (
5. Already made contact with Dr Zarr. (Nature and Wellness)
6. Will make contact with Sarah Stephens (Opioid Abuse)
7. Find speaker on Prescribing controlled substance and Prevention (Please Help)