

American Medical Student Association

AMSA Academy

Premedical Scholars Program

2017-2018

Mondays, 8-10 PM EDT/EST

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Vice Director: Amanda Altman

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

I. Course Description

The purpose of the Premedical Scholars Program is to introduce premedical students to the social mission and public health context of medicine. It has become increasingly well understood that social determinants and environmental factors have significant impacts on health outcomes. Being a *competent* physician involves doing well in medical school, passing all your board exams, and correctly assessing patients' overt symptoms. Being a *transformative* physician extends beyond simply understanding the biology of disease -- it involves contextualizing care to address the psychosocial and other factors that contribute to overall wellness.

II. Course Objectives

By the end of this Scholars Program, scholars will:

- Gain an understanding of the medical and public health landscape in the US.
- Be able to articulate the social mission of medicine and its significance.
- Learn how to become an advocate in social justice.
- Be able to identify major global health trends and current needs.
- Understand health disparities that affect minority populations.
- Assess the future of medicine and their role as a future physician.

Moreover, scholars will be able to use these skills and knowledge to impact their communities throughout their undergraduate years, medical school, and medical career.

III. Format and Procedures

- The course will largely be conducted via webinar using an online-based web conference platform. You will need access to the internet via a phone or computer equipped with audio.
- There will be eleven sessions that run from October 2017 to February 2018.
- Most sessions will consist of a one-hour lecture by a guest speaker who is an expert in their field, followed by a one-hour director-mediated class discussion.
- Ahead of the first session, the course directors will send out information regarding the online platform that will be used to conduct each session.
- All assignments posted will be due **before** class on the date listed, unless otherwise specified.
- Each scholar will complete a final project as outlined below in Section V.

IV. Expectations of Scholars

Scholars are expected to:

- Complete preparation assignments before each webinar, often in the form of reading or watching a film clip.
- Complete pre- and post-webinar quizzes for each webinar session.
- Attend at least 80% of the webinars as outlined in Section V.
- Participate in discussion during webinar and on discussion boards, 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, conduct yourself in professional manner, and possess an open mind.
- Scholars will be highly encouraged, but NOT required, to attend the AMSA National Convention, March 8-11, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

V. Completion Requirements for Certification:

1. Class attendance

Domestic Students and International Students in the Caribbean and the Americas:

- Must attend 80% of webinars (this equates to 9 out of the 11 scheduled sessions)
- Can watch **up to two** recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to

obtain make-up credit for attendance

International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia

iv. Must watch 80% of recorded webinars within 48 hours of the original session (this equates to 9 out of the 11 scheduled sessions)

v. Submit a SHORT reflection of the webinar to the co-Course Directors within 72 hours of the original session

2. Participation policy:

- Must post to 80% of online discussion questions
- Must complete 80% of the quizzes at the beginning and end of each webinar

3. Project guidelines:

● Develop an online lesson (can be a set of brochures, interactive booklet, “white paper”-style write-up, PowerPoint or similar presentation, video, other material, or combination of materials) to teach an underserved patient population about one of the topics listed below.

● Choose a topic on a first-come, first-serve basis; no more than two scholars per topic.

● After choosing your topic, you will submit a proposal that includes a brief summary of your topic and rationale, guiding questions for your research, and at least three relevant sources.

● Scholars are expected to conduct thorough research and produce high-quality, usable materials.

This project has the potential to:

- ☐ Be presented by scholars at the poster session at AMSA National Convention
- ☐ Become part of an educational community health program compiled by the course directors (with scholars’ permission)
- ☐ Become real, useful tools that make an impact on the community

Potential Topics:

- Access to healthcare
- Allergies
- Asthma
- Behavioral health services (mental health, substance abuse, psychological counseling, social work, etc.)
- Cancer (can choose one cancer or a group of related cancers; can choose prevention/screening, treatment, or both)
- Cardiovascular disease (can choose prevention, management, or both)
- Chronic care management
- Chronic kidney disease (can choose prevention, management, or both)
- Congestive heart failure (can choose prevention, management, or both)
- COPD (can choose prevention, management, or both)
- Dental services, oral health
- Diabetes (can choose prevention, management, or both)

- Disabilities awareness and resources
- Hepatitis C (can choose prevention, management, or both)
- HIV/AIDS (can choose prevention, management, or both)
- How to become a health worker in your local community
- Hypertension (can choose prevention, management, or both)
- Infectious disease (can choose one infectious disease or a group of related diseases)
- LGBT health and resources
- Maternal and child health
- Medicaid, Medicare, commercial insurance
- Neonatal health
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Obesity and related complications
- Primary care vs. specialized care vs. ED
- Research: Clinical trials and observational studies
- Safety net providers (can choose to discuss FQHCs, free and charitable clinics, rural health centers, school-based health centers, and/or local health departments)
- Services for the aging
- Sexual health
- Tobacco
- Vaccination

Tentative timeline:

November 6: Directors introduce project during session

November 13: Choose topics

November 27: Submit project proposal

January 8: Check in with course directors

January 29: Check in with course directors

February 19: Submit final project materials

*Note: All of the above work will be done via Moodle

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: (Subject to change to accommodate guest presenters' needs)

Date	Topic
10/9 (1)	Professional Development and Course Opener
	Module 1: Introduction to the Social Mission of Medicine

10/16 (2)	Introduction to the Social Mission of Medicine
10/30 (3)	AMSA's Role in Advocacy
	Module 2: Intro to US Healthcare System/Health Policy
11/6 (4)	Healthcare Access in the US
	<i>Final project introduced during session</i>
11/20 (5)	The Political Landscape of Healthcare
	<i>Last day to sign up for final project topics</i>
	Module 3: Community and Population Health
11/27 (6)	Mental Health
	<i>Final project proposal due</i>
	One-on-One Project Feedback
1/2* (7)	Preventative Emergency Medicine: ED Utilization and Chronic Homelessness
	<i>Last day to check in with course directors</i>
1/8 (8)	How Can Doctors Pursue Community Health?
	Module 4: Global Issues in Medicine and Public Health
1/22 (9)	Infectious Diseases: Spotlight on HIV/AIDS, Global Health, and Student Activism
1/29 (10)	Nutrition and Obesity
	<i>Last day to check in with course directors</i>
2/12 (11)	Improving Healthcare Systems Around the World
2/19 (12)	Course Wrap-Up
	<i>Final project materials due</i>
3/8-3/11	AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.

*Please note that the 1/2 session is held on a Tuesday, to recognize the New Year's Day holiday. Every other session is held on a Monday.