

# American Medical Student Association

## AMSA Academy

### Pre-Medical Scholars Program (PMSP)

Mondays, 8-10 PM EDT/EST

2018-2019

**Course Director:** Krunal Patel  
**Course e-mail:** [pmsp@amsa.org](mailto:pmsp@amsa.org)  
**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 called Zoom. You will need access to either a phone, tablet or a computer equipped with audio.
- The sessions that run from October 2018 to February 2019 (approximately 12-15 sessions)
- 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.
- Complete pre- and post-webinar quizzes for each webinar.
- 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 7-10, 2019, in Washington, D.C.

### V. Completion Requirements for Certification:

#### Class attendance

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

- i. Must attend 80% of webinars
- ii. Can watch **up to two** recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to obtain make-up credit for attendance
- iii. Complete quizzes at the beginning and end of each webinar

*International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia*

- iv. Must watch 80% of recorded webinars within 48 hours of the original session
- v. Submit a SHORT reflection of the webinar to the Course Director within 72 hours of the original session
- vi. Complete quizzes at the beginning and end of each webinar

#### Participation policy:

Must post to 80% of online discussion questions

#### Project guidelines:

- 1) Choose a topic on a first-come, first-serve basis; no more than two scholars per topic.
- 2) 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.
  - a) Scholars are expected to conduct thorough research and produce high-quality, usable materials.
- 3) Complete a write-up detailing what you believe, based on your research, would be the most effective way of delivering this information to your target audience -- after all, any educational material is only effective if it is disseminated effectively.
- 4) Develop a patient education material (can be a set of brochures, interactive booklet, "white paper"-style report, PowerPoint or similar presentation, video, app, other material, or combination of materials) to teach a population of your choice (e.g. underserved patients, children, women, students) about one of the topics listed below.
- 5) Optional: Implement your project by carrying out the method detailed in your write-up.

This project has the potential to:

- Become real, useful tools that make an impact on the community
- Be presented by scholars at the poster session at AMSA National Convention
- Be a service learning and research opportunity that scholars can describe in CV

### Potential Project Topics:

- Affordable Care Act, 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/Due Dates:**

October 15: Director introduces project during session  
 October 29: Choose topics  
 November 15: Submit project proposal  
 December: Check in with course director  
 January 21: Check in with course director  
 February 21: Check in with course director  
 February 25: Submit Final Project

**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
	<b>Module 1: Introduction to the Social Mission of Medicine</b>
10/01	Introduction
10/08	No Session – Columbus Day
10/15	AMSA’s Role in Advocacy Final Project Introduced During Session
	<b>Module 2: Intro to US Healthcare System/Health Policy</b>
10/22	Healthcare Access in the US (Catch-up Session)

	The Political Landscape of Healthcare
10/29	Last day to sign up for final project topics
	Presentation TBD
	<b>Module 3: Community and Population Health</b>
11/05	Mental Health
11/12	Final project proposal due
	One-on-One Project Feedback
11/26	Helping the Underserved
12/03-26	No Sessions – Work on Projects (Check-In with Course Director)
01/07	Presentation TBD
01/14	Preventative Emergency Medicine: ED Utilization and Chronic Homelessness
01/21	Check in with course director
01/21	How Can Doctors Pursue Community Health?
	<b>Module 4: Global Issues in Medicine and Public Health</b>
01/28	Infectious Diseases: Spotlight on HIV/AIDS, Global Health, and Student Activism
02/04	Diet, Nutrition, and Chronic Disease
02/11	Last day to check in with course director
02/11	Improving Healthcare Systems Around the World
02/18	<b>Course Wrap-Up: Professional Development, How to Get into Med School, and Beyond</b>
02/25	Final Course Comments
	Final project Materials Due
03/07-10	<b>AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.</b>



