

American Medical Student Association

AMSA Academy

Premedical Scholars Program

2019-2020

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 PM EDT/EST

Course Director: Krunal Patel
Vice Director: Zoreed Mukhtar
Vice Director: Bri'Ana Gardiner
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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 U.S.
- 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 either a phone or a computer equipped with audio.
- There will be eleven sessions that run from October 2019 to February 2020.
- 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 the 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 a professional manner, and possess an open mind.
- Scholars will be highly encouraged, but NOT required, to attend the AMSA National Convention, April 16-19, 2020, 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
- Can watch **up to two** recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to obtain make-up credit for attendance
- Complete quizzes at the beginning and end of each webinar

International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia

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

2. Participation policy:

Must post to 80% of online discussion questions

3. Project guidelines:

- 1) Develop a patient education material (can be a set of brochures, interactive booklet, “white paper” style report, PowerPoint or a 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Optional: Implement your project by carrying out the method detailed in your write-up.
 - 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:
 - 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 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:

October 31: Directors introduce project during session
 November 14: Choose topics
 November 29: Submit project proposal

January 16: Check-in with course directors
 February 13: Check in with course directors
 February 27: Submit final project materials

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

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
	Module 1: Introduction to the Social Mission of Medicine
10/03	Introduction
10/17	AMSA’s Role in Advocacy
	Module 2: Intro to US Healthcare System/Health Policy
10/31	Healthcare Access in the US <i>Final project introduced during session</i>
11/14	The Political Landscape of Healthcare <i>Last day to sign up for final project topics</i>
	Module 3: Community and Population Health
11/29*	Mental Health <i>Final project proposal due</i>
01/02	One-on-One Project Feedback
01/16	Preventative Emergency Medicine: ED Utilization and Chronic Homelessness <i>Last day to check in with course directors</i>
	Module 4: Global Issues in Medicine and Public Health
01/30	Infectious Diseases: Spotlight on HIV/AIDS, Global Health, and Student Activism
02/13	Improving Healthcare Systems Around the World <i>Last day to check in with course directors</i>
02/27	Course Wrap-Up: Professional Development, How to Get into Med School, and Beyond <i>Final project materials due</i>
04/16-19	AMSA National Convention in Washington, D.C.

*Please note that this session is held on a Friday