



AMSA Reproductive Health Scholars Program Syllabus

July 13, 2021 - November 30, 2021

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COURSE OVERVIEW

AMSA strives to empower physicians-in-training to effect change through education and advocacy. AMSA Scholars Programs are designed to provide medical and premed students with information not covered in traditional medical school curriculum and to foster an online learning community of future physicians.

The AMSA Reproductive Health Scholars Program addresses the “hidden curriculum” in medical school and prepare students to think critically about abortion-related and education and training opportunities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Students should leave this program demonstrating an understanding of:

- History of Abortion
- Basics of clinical first trimester abortion
- Basics of clinical second trimester abortion
- How to provide options counseling
- Know thyself: values clarification in abortion care
- Reproductive justice and advocacy
- Diversity & equity issues in abortion access
- Rising maternal mortality in the U.S.
- State and federal laws - their impact on access to reproductive healthcare
- Accessing abortion training when it's not offered at your medical school
- Cultural competency and sensitivity within reproductive healthcare

Student should further develop the following skills:

- Gain confidence with speaking and networking in a group
- Be able to discuss the political and historic background of abortion care, in conjunction with clinical terms and definitions
- Advocacy efforts developed through the completion of a final project

Additional readings: Additional readings will be suggested prior to the time of lecture that will enhance your lecture experience and understanding. Some sessions may not have pre-reading.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course is graded Pass/Fail based on the elements outlined below:

Attendance - 8/10 sessions (student must mark attended live or watched recording on the session attendance sheet in EventsAIR)

Participation - 7/10 sessions (during live sessions via Chat or voice, or via Class Comments for session in EventsAIR)

EXPECTATIONS

As you enter the EventsAIR room:

- Mute yourself upon entry
- Please put your phone on vibrate/off
- Prior to the start of the webinar, you are expected to read the corresponding material provided on EventsAIR. During the webinars, it is expected that you will attend like you would lectures at school. Please participate in the discussions, ask questions, and talk with your fellow scholars. - Check the EventsAIR regularly for assignments and updates.
- You will be required to complete a final project. You will get to choose your topic and have the opportunity to present at **AMSA Convention April 7-10, 2022 Poster Session**. Some scholars in the past years have even published their work. Most importantly, you will get as much out of this course as you put into the course.
- You are also encouraged to participate in **National Primary Care Week** and **Health Equity Week of Action (HEWA)**

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. AMSA 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

FINAL PROJECT

Completion of a final project utilizing the knowledge gained from the course to educate & empower others in your school or community.

Project ideas include development of fact sheets, tool-kits, letters-to-the editor, etc.
Projects can be individually or in groups.

See additional details & resource links below.



AMSA Reproductive Health Scholars Program

July 13, 2021 - November 30, 2021

Session Schedule

All sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 8:00-9:00pm ET

Session 1 - July 13, 2021

Program Orientation & Taking Action & Accessing Abortion Training When it's Not Offered at Your Med School

- Aliye Runyan, MD, AMSA Reproductive Health Strategist
email - arunyan@amsa.org
- Becky Martin, AMSA Senior Manager of Education & Advocacy
email - bmartin@amsa.org

Session 2 - July 27, 2021

History of Abortion

- Joel Foster, Deputy Director, Health Care for American Now (HCAN)

Session 3 - August 10, 2021

Basic Clinical Overview of First Trimester Abortion

- Jonah Fleisher, MD MPH FACOG, Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Academic Specialists of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director, Center for Reproductive Health, University of Illinois, College of Medicine

Session 4 - September 14, 2021

Diversity & Equity in Abortion Access & Our Health Care Workforce

- Dr. Kristyn Brandi, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health, New Jersey Medical School

Session 5 - September 28, 2021

Second Trimester Abortions: A Clinical & Political Overview

- Jonah Fleisher, MD MPH FACOG, Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Academic Specialists of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director, Center for Reproductive Health, University of Illinois, College of Medicine

Session 6 - October 12, 2021

Protecting Reproductive Health: State & Federal Laws the Impact Access & Care

- Heather Shumaker, National Women's Law Center, Director of State Abortion Access

Session 7 - October 19, 2021

Reproductive Justice: Framework, Definitions, and How We Win

- Pamela Merritt, Executive Director, Medical Students for Choice

Session 8 - October 26, 2021

Options Counseling & Values Clarification in Reproductive Care

- Zoey Thill, MD, MPP, Family Medicine Physician, Montefiore Medical Center
- Rithika Mathias, MD, Reproductive Health Fellow, Montefiore Medical Center
- Payal Patel, MD, MS, Family Medicine Physician, Barnard College Primary Care Health Service

Session 9 - November 9, 2021

Birth Settings in America: Outcomes, Quality, Access, and Choice

- Melissa Cheyney, Associate Professor Department of Anthropology, Oregon State University

Session 10 - November 30, 2021

When Routine Training is Unethical and Becomes Illegal: The Case of Intimate Exams for Teaching Purposes

- Robin Fretwell Wilson, Director, Institute of Government & Public Affairs, University of Illinois System & Roger and Stephany Joslin Professor of Law, University of Illinois College of Law
- Phoebe Friesen PhD, Assistant Professor Biomedical Ethics Unit, McGill University, Montreal
- Ari Silver-Isenstadt, MD, Pediatrician, Baltimore, MD Former AMSA Region 3 Trustee and co-creator of the AMSA Regional Conference "The Call Beyond Call"
- Ashley S. Weitz is a victim advocate and trauma-informed care educator, lecturer, and consultant in Salt Lake City, Utah

Final Projects Overview & Resources

Completion of a final project utilizing the knowledge gained from the course to educate and empower others in your school or community is a requirement of this course.

Project Timeline

- **Project Proposal/Thesis Statement** limited to 1 page in length and should be submitted for feedback from your Course Directors by **September 28, 2021**.
Group projects done by 3-4 people will be considered.
- **Final Project Outlines** should be submitted by - **November 30, 2021**.
- **Final Projects** completion date, on or before - **December 14, 2021**.
Certificates of completion for the program will be emailed AFTER FINAL PROJECTS are submitted. Students from AMSA Scholars Programs are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts of their projects to the annual AMSA Convention Poster Sessions, see info below.

Projects ideas, project proposals, and final projects should be submitted via your EventsAIR classroom - see Classwork section and Final Projects tab.

Project ideas include: development of fact sheets, tool-kits, letters-to-the editor, op-ed samples, research projects, and medical poster conventions. See samples and tools below. **NOTE:** All group project participants MUST each upload the same project idea description and it MUST include the names and emails of each person in this Scholars Program who is participating in the group project.

Research Project Tips from AMSA 2020 Convention Reproductive Health Poster Awardees - Meg Starcher, MPH, MS3 & Makenzy Sufficool, MS3

[Taking Action: Getting Abortion Training at Your Medical School](#)

AMSA Convention Poster Session (April 7-10, 2022)

Abstracts should be no longer than 350 – 400 words and follow a standard format:

1. Background/Vision
2. Methods/Process/Action
3. Results/Impact
4. Conclusions/Connections/Meanings

Watch our [Poster Session Tutorial](#) with Dr. Matthew Stull

The AMSA 2022 Convention will be held in April 2022, details including poster submission information will be posted later this year.

[AMSA Health Policy Action Committee & Team Advocacy Toolkit](#)

- [Call-Ins to Congress](#)
- [Bird-Dogging](#)
- [Institutional Advocacy](#)
- [Rallying](#)
- [Writing Letters-to-the-Editor](#)
- [Writing Opinion Editorials \(Op-Eds\)](#)
- [Writing Your Congress Members](#)

A Sampling of AMSA Advocacy Tools

- [AMSA 2019 MedEd Week of Action Toolkit](#)
- [AMSA Environmental Health Action Committee Earth Day 2020 Action Toolkit](#) • [AMSA 2020 Advocacy Day - COVID-19 Info Sheet for Congress Members](#)
- AMSA Health Care for All Campaign - [2020 Medicaid Expansion Toolkit](#) • [AMSA Tips When Calling Congress About Medicare for All](#) • [AMSA Medicare for All HR 1384 Fact Sheet](#)
- [MSGs CDC Funding Toolkit](#)