



American Medical Student Association

AMSA Academy

Advocacy Scholars Program (ASP)

Wednesdays, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm EDT/EST, Bi-Weekly

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

I. Course Description

The Advocacy Scholars Program is a six-month program that will engage student participants in webinars, readings, discussions, and activities that promote knowledge of community engagement, the social mission of medicine, and advocacy skills. The course aims to explore the role of physicians as agents of social change and to foster discussion about building careers as effective physician advocates. Participants will complete several assignments and an overarching project in an advocacy area of their choice to further develop the skills addressed by the course. All participants will have the opportunity to present their project at the AMSA National Convention poster session.

This course will support medical and pre-medical students in building careers as physician advocates by helping them to develop the understanding and skills of effective health activists through the lens of current ongoing activism work.

II. Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing the Advocacy Scholars Program, scholars will have met the following learning goals:

- Develop an understanding of the social mission of medicine and the importance of community engagement through conversations with speakers and fellow participants.
- Be able to identify the systems and power structures at play in healthcare that must be considered when developing advocacy strategies.
- Gain a working knowledge of different issues and topics currently relevant to healthcare advocates.

- Learn to utilize and leverage different media and communication avenues to develop advocacy strategies through engagement with experts.
- Develop an appreciation for synergistic collaboration between physicians and community health resources.
- Complete an advocacy project with the opportunity to present at the AMSA National Convention.

III. Format and Procedures

Course Materials: You are required to have access to a computer equipped with audio and webcam, you will be required and encouraged to speak both over the audio and webcam during the webinar series to interact with the keynote speakers, your fellow scholars, and course directors. You are not required to purchase any outside materials, such as textbooks or software for this program. Any reading material will be given to you and posted on Google Classroom, which you will have access to throughout the course.

Course Meetings: ASP will meet approximately every other Wednesday from January 17, 2024 to April 24, 2024 (inclusive). Meetings will be held via an AMSA virtual workspace within Zoom from **8:00 pm to 9:00 pm EST (7:00 pm to 8:00 pm CDT)**. Within this workspace, you will be able to see and hear the speaker and their presentation, your fellow scholars, and the course directors through webcam and audio connections. Each 1-hour webinar will be divided into a 45-minute lecture/discussion and a 15-minute question and answer session with the keynote speaker. A tentative outline of the webinars can be found at the end of this syllabus. Scholars will be given access to the AMSA Google Classroom, where links to each webinar and important course documents will be posted.

Course Start: January 17, 2024

Course End: April 24, 2024

IV. Expectations of Scholars

Prior to the start of the webinar, you are expected to read the corresponding material provided on Google Classroom. During the webinars, it is expected that you will attend as you would lectures at school. Please participate in the discussions, ask questions, and talk with your fellow scholars. There will be a short survey and or discussion question at the end of each session you are to complete prior to the start of the next webinar.

You will be required to complete a final advocacy project that will be submitted at the end of the course (more project details are included in the syllabus below). You will get to choose your topic and also have the opportunity to present at **AMSA Convention in June 2024**. 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. Use the information you are given to explore new things within the world of Advocacy and have fun learning!

We highly encourage participation in National Primary Care Week and Health Equity Week of Action (HEWA), an annual week-long event that focuses on raising awareness about the health disparities that exist across racial, ethnic, cultural, and social groups.

V. Completion Requirements

Attendance: You are expected to attend all webinar sessions and actively participate in the live discussion in each webinar. Please be on time and stay until the end of the webinar. However, it is understood that our scholars are also busy students. In the event that you are unable to attend a session, you must notify the course directors in advance, listen to the recording of the webinar within 1 week of the original webinar date, and write a 1-page make-up reflection paper. This program is not limited to the U.S.

Domestic students, and therefore the attendance requirements are broken down by location due to time zone differences.

The requirements are as follows:

U.S. Domestic Students and International Students in the Caribbean and Americas:

- Certificate 6/8
- 2 sessions missed without communication -> may be subject to removal
- Must attend a minimum 75% of the live webinar sessions
- May watch up to two recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to make up for an absence, which will not go against your attendance record.

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

- Must watch a minimum 6 of the 8 of the recorded webinar sessions within 48 hours of the time the recording was posted
- Since international students will not be able to participate in the live discussion sessions, the scholars must also write a short reflection (half a page) of the recorded discussion. The reflection must be submitted within a week of the time the recording was posted.
- May complete up to two recorded webinars after the 48-hour requirement and complete a reflection of the webinar to make up for an absence, which will not go against your attendance record

Participation: The course will meet for 1 hour online via the Zoom webinar platform. Students will receive an email with instructions for logging in to the online meeting room.

During the first part of the session, students will hear a talk from an expert in healthcare advocacy (see schedule below), and the second part of each session will include facilitated discussion and skill-based learning.

Before each meeting date, students will be assigned a short set of readings, videos, or other materials and a brief written assignment that should be completed on the Monday before the session. In addition to completing assignments and a final project, students are expected to participate in the conversation during each session by contributing thoughtful and respectful ideas, opinions, and questions.

Participation Policy

- Must post to 80% of online discussion questions Final Project
- Students will choose a Bill, existing piece of legislation, medical education crisis, or general issue related to an advocacy area of interest:
 - Students will develop an advocacy strategy either in support of or against their chosen Bill/topic that incorporates at least three different advocacy avenues as discussed in the course.
 - Students will submit 3 reports over the duration of the course: (1) Proposal, (2) Progress Report, (3) Final Report
 - Students will present their project to their peers during our Closing Session ◦ Interested students will create a poster on their project to submit for presentation at the AMSA National Convention, which will be held in the month of May 30 - June 1, 2024 (encouraged, but not required).
 - Students are encouraged to contact and coordinate with faculty members, community organizations, and advocacy leaders in their area as they develop their project
- Examples of advocacy avenues and/or project components could include:
 - Power mapping for your issue of interest
 - Scheduling a legislative visit with an elected official

- Writing a policy brief
- Writing an OpEd or Letter to the Editor on your chosen topic. Submitting the article for publication in AMSA's The New Physician or other media outlets.
- Submitting an article to AMSA's On Call Blog
- Writing and distributing a petition, and delivering it to an appropriate official
- Conducting a letter writing or call-in event or campaign
- Conducting a phone-banking campaign
- Hosting a community education event for classmates, community members, healthcare providers, etc
- Holding a press conference, or writing a press release
- Any ideas you may have!
- The timeline for your project is outlined in the schedule below. Additional check-ins and follow up with course directors will be available as needed.
- Complete quizzes prior to and following each webinar

Evaluation: This course will be graded on a pass/fail scale; a passing score is 80%. Scholars will be evaluated on the following items:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Webinar Attendance (13) <i>*must attend 75% of the lectures to pass</i>	40%
Post-Webinar Discussion (13)	15%
Webinar Discussion Participation (13)	10%
Generous & Reflective Listening Activity (1)	10%
Advocacy Project (1)	20%
Post-Webinar Surveys/Quizzes (13)	5%

Course Credit: Upon successful completion of this course, each scholar will receive a Certificate of Completion from AMSA. You may be able to receive elective credit from your schools for your completion of this course. If you wish to do so, please notify the ASP course directors as soon as possible. AMSA will support you in your school's required documentation process if you choose to seek elective credit.

VI. 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

VII. Course Schedule* (may change to accommodate guest presenters' needs)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Presenter & Topic</u>	<u>Project Milestones</u>
January 17, 2024	<p><i>Welcome ASP Scholars!</i></p> <p>ASP Directors: Program Overview Joel Foster Lowering Rx Drug Prices in the U.S.</p>	<p>January 19, 2024 (11:59 pm ET)</p> <p>Please submit 1-3 activism topics of interest for your final project. Be sure to include at least one reference for each topic (peer-reviewed journal article or well-researched article/web post.)</p>
February 1, 2024	<p>Dr. Matt Moy Plan for Change 101: Identify the Players, and How to Sway Them</p>	<p>February 2, 2024 (11:59pm ET)</p> <p>Please submit your Proposal including your area of interest, a description of project components, a timeline, and key partners/resources for your proposed project.</p>
February 14, 2024	<p>Dr. Mattie Renn Being Heard: Using Social Media for Advocacy</p>	
February 28, 2024	<p>Becky Martin & Anna Hindman Meeting with Elected Officials</p>	<p>March 1, 2024 (11:59pm ET)</p> <p>Please submit your Progress Report on your project (details, useful tools, and rubric provided)</p>
March 13, 2024	<p>Becky Martin Lifting Your Voice: Tools to Protect Reproductive Health Care</p>	
March 27, 2024	<p>Dr. Andrew Kolodny Addressing Responsible Opioid Prescription</p>	<p>March 29, 2024 (11:59pm ET)</p> <p>Please submit a draft of your final project presentation</p>
April 10, 2024	<p>Dr. Tasha Phillips-Wilson Racism in Healthcare: Being an Advocate for Antiracism</p>	<p>April 19, 2024 (11:59pm ET)</p> <p>Please submit your finalized poster/presentation.</p>

April 24, 2024	Rohini Siva, AMSA President How to Activate Your Inner Advocate	Due: Advocacy Project
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*Course Schedule does not include session submissions, readings, quizzes/surveys.