American Medical Student Association
AMSA Academy

Public Health Scholars Program (PHSP)
Thursday, 8PM-9PM EST
Spring 2022-2023

Course Directors: Sierra Smith, Ngoc Le
Course e-mails:
 phsp@amsa.org
sierra.smith@amsa.org
 thanhngoc.le@amsa.org

Grading: Pass/Fail (see below for completion requirements)

I. Course Description:
Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through the promotion of healthy lifestyles, research on disease and injury prevention, and detection and control of infectious diseases. Overall, it is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood or as big as the global community.

 Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring by implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services, and conducting research. Public health officials work to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting health care accessibility, equity, and quality.

The Public Health Scholars Program is designed and led by medical students

and public health students. We will explore critical aspects of public health through guest speaker presentations, discussions, and individual projects. Each topic we examine will feature a webinar hosted by a public health expert. We hope to kindle your curiosity in the people who tirelessly work for the betterment of the public's health -- let their journeys inspire you!

II. <u>Course Objectives:</u>

We know you don't have a lot of time, but you're dedicated, determined to improve the health of communities around the globe, and trying to make the most of a few hours of extra time per month! We promise to:
- keep discussions relevant to present-day problems
- help you think about the invisible forces that affect patient health.

By the end of this course, students will:
- be able to define and explain the function of public health
- discuss cases and programs that are currently being implemented around the world
- become more familiar with their local health departments
- plan a peer-reviewed, public health intervention that can be referenced as a part of their professional portfolios

III. <u>Format and Procedures:</u>

Pre-Webinar Prep -- Participants will be provided with information 1 week before each webinar to gain context of the upcoming webinar topic, i.e. a Youtube video or article relevant to the discussion, as well as a bio of the speaker who is leading the webinar. Participants will submit questions for presenting speakers prior to attending the online seminars.
- Webinar -- Participants will join an online platform to attend webinars.
- Post-Webinar Discussion -- Participants will post a thoughtful response after each webinar to demonstrate their understanding and the transfer of knowledge. Completion is required for credit.
- Final Project -- Students will interview a local public health expert for a report/podcast/other deliverable, design a local community public health initiative or launch a personal website focused on developing the scholar's public health brand and showcasing expertise on a public health topic of interest.

We invite you to share your final project at the <u>*AMSA National*</u> *Conference June 15-17th, 2023 Phoenix, Arizona*

Course Credit:
● Scholars may be able to receive elective credit from their home institution for this course. While AMSA unfortunately cannot grant elective credit at this time, we are happy to support you with documentation that will aid you as you seek elective credit.

IV. Course Schedule: (subject to change to accommodate guest speakers)

Dates	Topic*
January 12	**Impact of Physician Burnout on Healthcare**
January 26	**Racism in Health**
February 9	**Reproductive Health and Justice**
February 23	**Public Health Advocacy**
March 9	**Climate Change and Environmental Health**
March 23	**Opioid Crisis**
April 6	**Big Pharma**
April 20	**Gun violence**

V. Expectations of Scholars:
● You are to attend, at a minimum, 6 out of the 8 online webinar sessions over the year. Each 1-hour webinar has 2 components:
   ○ Reading pre-webinar materials assigned by the presenting speaker (~10 minutes)
   ○ Completing a post-webinar discussion post (~5 minutes)
● You are to complete 1 final project

We highly encourage participation in **National Primary Care Week (NPCW) and Health Equity Week of Action (HEWA)**

VI. Completion Requirements:

● Class Attendance (*Domestic Students & International Students in the Caribbean and Americas):*
    ■ Must read assigned course materials and submit pre-webinar questions for 80% of webinars
    ■ Must attend 80% of webinars
    ■ Complete quizzes following each webinar
    ■ Missed attendance: Can watch up to three recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to obtain make-up credit for attendance
        ○ *International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia:*
            ■ Must watch 80% of recorded webinars 48 hours after the original session
            ■ Submit the post-webinar discussion post
    ● *All Students:*
        ■ Submit final project

****Only ONE of the final project options is required****

Final Project Option 1 - Deadline: 04/21/2023
● Interview someone who works in the public health field
    ○ Guidelines
        ■ Finished project can be submitted to the director in a doc, pdf, mp3, or mp4 form depending on the media you choose.
    ○ Ideas
        ■ Find someone who inspires you and works in the field of public health
        ■ Preferably, the person you interview will have an MPH
        ■ Sit down with this individual, and get to know their journey. What led them to public health? What are some challenges associated with their job? What are some of their accomplishments?
        ■ Compile the script of your conversation and either summarize it in a report or produce a podcast-like deliverable.

Submissions in report format can be submitted to The New Physician AMSA magazine while submissions in the audio format may be passed on to the AMSA podcast "AMSA AdLib"!

Final Project Option 2 - Deadline: 04/21/2023
- Develop your own personal public health blog or social media post
  - Guidelines
    - Finished project can be submitted as a blog link or post link
  - Ideas
    - Write blog pieces or social media posts and share commentary about current public health issues
    - Author news reports about public health initiatives in your city, school or neighborhood!
    - Develop a public health opinion portfolio for yourself as an emerging public health scholar that you can continue to grow after AMSA Academy graduation!

Final Project Option 3 - Deadline: 04/21/2023
- Design a local community public health initiative
  - Guidelines
    - Plan an intervention to address a public health issue.
    - Digital interventions count! How can you use technology to lower barriers to public health information and access?
    - Optional: DARE to carry it out!
    - Resource: AMSA Action Toolkit (http://www.amsa.org/advocacy/actioncommittees/grass roots-organizing/activism-toolbox/)
  - Ideas
    - Remember that your project does not have to be CITY wide -- your target can be a group/community of any size, such as a classroom or a city block!
    - Publish your work! Record a PowerPoint presentation or create a YouTube video. Share your ideas with the world! This is advocacy in action!

Final Project Deadlines:

Final Project Proposal: February 24th, 2023
First draft: March 24th, 2023
Second draft: April 7th, 2023
Final: April 21st, 2023

VII. Inclusivity Statement:
We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Scholars Program 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