

Course Director

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Internal Medicine

Rationale

"Service-learning" is defined in the literature and LCME accreditation standards as a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.¹

Objectives

1. To prepare by planning one's participation in a community service experience.
2. To participate in community service.
3. To reflect upon one's experience and capture that reflection in an essay.

Format

There are three requirements for this elective: 1) a project proposal sent in advance of the experience, 2) at least 12 hours of community service experience as guided by that project proposal, and 3) an essay. **Medical Students apply by submitting a single page proposal for their service learning project to the course director no later 11/01/2017.**

Each project must describe where the student hopes to do community service, how the hours spent there will be accounted for, and what the student hopes to learn from the experience (preparation). The student must then spend at least 12 hours in this community service activity and subsequently submit an essay reporting on the lessons learned from the experience (reflection). The essay must be at least five pages long, with normal font size, margins, and single spacing. Proposals and essays will be evaluated and approved by the course director of this elective.

The UT Southwestern Student Center website hosts a list of volunteer opportunities. The most active are The Monday Clinic (a free clinic set up by our medical students in

¹[Definition from Seifer SD. "Service-learning: Community-campus partnerships for health professions education." *Academic Medicine*, 73(3):273-277 (1998).

conjunction with a faith-based community organization), Southwestern Community Outreach, STD Lectures (a series of lectures by medical students to area elementary and middle school students on the dangers of sexually transmitted disease), nutrition and obesity lectures, and Tar Wars (similar lectures on the dangers of smoking). There are many other community service activities performed by medical students that have not been registered at this site, including volunteering at area homeless and/or refugee clinics and participating in toy drives during the winter holidays and the UT System “United to Serve”. Any of these opportunities, as well as others not listed, could serve as venues for completion of this elective.

Student Evaluation

Grades will be pass/fail. The 12 required hours of community service must be documented in the essay in some manner. **The reflective essay must be submitted to the course director for evaluation.**

Course Evaluation

An **online course evaluation of the course must be completed** before transcript acknowledgement may be provided for this elective.