

Leadership Distinction Track for Healthcare Students

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BACKGROUND

Initiated in December 2015, the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine created a distinction track focused on leadership development. The Healthcare Delivery Science, Management and Policy Distinction Track exposes healthcare students to the innovations and integrations of healthcare delivery outside of direct medical care.

Partnering with faculty from the Tippie College of Business and the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa, this track enriches the Carver College of Medicine's core curriculum by offering medical students a program geared toward producing physician leaders of tomorrow.



Credit: Justin Turner - Staff Photographer - The University of Iowa

OBJECTIVE

The program requires completing educational blocks over 3.5 years of medical school. The blocks consist of pre-session independent study, a didactic session, and post-session activities. Didactic sessions last approximately four hours and require in-person attendance. Included in the track is a 2-week elective on Leadership for Future Physicians. Student applications will be offered the fall semester of the M1 year. Accepted students will enter the track the following January. Throughout the track, students must engage in a Capstone Project – a physician mentor directed project centered around one or more of the education session topics.

METHODS

Four blocks are offered each year, usually consisting of pre-session guided independent study; a half-day, in-person didactic session; and post-session application exercises and/or supplemental reading. Students are required to complete a minimum of nine blocks.

Blocks differ slightly depending on content and preference of the instructor. For example, one instructor provides articles and slides to review before the session, while another provides students with recorded lectures. The in-person sessions are held on Saturday mornings to minimize conflicts with mandatory curricular activities and other educational responsibilities. Didactic sessions are designed to foster a small-group atmosphere and encourage discussion among students and faculty.

CONTENT BLOCKS

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| • Negotiations | • Data and decisions |
| • Managerial accounting | • Marketing |
| • Human resources | • Policy |
| • E-health | • Teamwork |
| • Legal issues in medicine | • Quality and safety |
| • Population health | • Insurance |

The Distinction Track model does not increase the length or cost of medical school and appeals to a larger number of medical students than dual-degree programs. While not intended to replace extensive master's-level training, it will provide students with high-quality education on a wide variety of topics, improve their fluency in the "business of medicine," and prepare them to assume leadership roles within a health care organization.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

- Capstone Project – physician mentor directed
- Project centered around one or more of the education session topics
 - Approval of project by Healthcare Delivery Science, Management and Policy Board
 - Summary of project submitted to Healthcare Delivery Science, Management and Policy Board
 - Oral presentation to the Healthcare Delivery Science, Management and Policy Board OR journal publication on project



BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Program benefits include:

- Learning basic skills that are used frequently in healthcare leadership positions
- Networking with physician leaders both at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics and beyond
- Earning a certificate of completion awarded from the Tippie College of Business
- Completion is noted on transcripts and in the Medical Student Performance Evaluation

Correspondence

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