



1 s.h. Elective Courses
For
MD Students

(updated 08/09/24)

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MD students have the option to enroll in one semester-hour elective courses during fall and spring semesters of the pre-clinical curriculum. Course meetings occur during the noon hour or after 5pm, to avoid any conflicts with the required MD coursework. While there are multiple elective courses to consider, students should remember their primary focus is on their required pre-clinical coursework. Additional details will be emailed to students in August/January from the instructors, concerning course timelines and registration. Email the listed administrative contact to register.

**Students are limited to a maximum of two elective courses per semester, unless otherwise approved by an OSAC Dean.*

MED:8021 Community Health Outreach 1

Faculty: David Asprey, Ph.D., PA-C
david-asprey@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall

Administrative Contact: Cody Pritchard, M.S.Ed.
319-384-1725
cody-pritchard@uiowa.edu

Max Enrollment: 16

Special Conditions: Application required

Community Health Outreach (CHO) is a student-led, discussion-based elective focused on the healthcare professional's role in community health. Discussions will center on a variety of topics including healthcare systems, health equity, marginalized populations, and effective and sustainable outreach practices. Students will also discuss and consider avenues for community involvement available both during student years and throughout their medical careers. Students involved in CHO will have opportunities to engage with the community around them and learn from experts in their respective medical and non-medical fields. CHO I is facilitated by two M2/PA2 student facilitators who were previous CHO participants.

Course Objectives

1. Establish a foundation for students to pursue their interest in, widen their perspective on and explore the nuances of community health in order to help them build upon and integrate these interests in their future careers.
2. Cultivate trust and camaraderie among students to foster an environment that encourages an open process of learning, allowing for mistakes and promoting reasoned discussion.
3. Support student engagement with community health both directly through volunteer experiences and more broadly through education about and access to advocacy.
4. Learn about local community resources and encourage students to share these resources with peers and future patients.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: Full semester; Wednesday, 12:00 – 12:50 pm

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: None

Registration contact: Cody Pritchard, cody-pritchard@uiowa.edu

MED:8022 Community Health Outreach 2

Faculty: David Asprey, Ph.D., PA-C
david-asprey@uiowa.edu

Offered: Spring

Administrative Contact: Cody Pritchard, M.S.Ed.
319-384-1725
cody-pritchard@uiowa.edu

Max Enrollment: 16

Special Conditions: MED:8021 CHO I

Community Health Outreach (CHO) is a student-led, discussion-based elective focused on the healthcare professional's role in community health. Discussions will center on a variety of topics including healthcare systems, health equity, marginalized populations, and effective and sustainable outreach practices. Students will also discuss and consider avenues for community involvement available both during student years and throughout their medical careers. Students involved in CHO will have opportunities to engage with the community around them and learn from experts in their respective medical and non-medical fields. M1/PA1 CHO II participants will each lead a week of class. Students will identify the topic and coordinate community guest speakers.

Course Objectives

1. Establish a foundation for students to pursue their interest in, widen their perspective on and explore the nuances of community health in order to help them build upon and integrate these interests in their future careers.
2. Cultivate trust and camaraderie among students to foster an environment that encourages an open process of learning, allowing for mistakes and promoting reasoned discussion.
3. Support student engagement with community health both directly through volunteer experiences and more broadly through education about and access to advocacy.
4. Learn about local community resources and encourage students to share these resources with peers and future patients.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: Full semester; Wednesday, 12:00 – 12:50 pm

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: None

Registration contact: Cody Pritchard, cody-pritchard@uiowa.edu

MED:8023 Community Health Outreach 3

Faculty: David Asprey, Ph.D., PA-C
david-asprey@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall and/or Spring

Administrative Contact: Cody Pritchard, M.S.Ed.
319-384-1725
cody-pritchard@uiowa.edu

Max Enrollment: 16

Special Conditions: Grading is PASS/FAIL only
MED:8021 CHO I and MED:8022
CHO II

Building upon CHO I and II, CHO III students will identify a project that would benefit a community organization, partnering with the chosen organization. Students may work individually or with a partner for this project. Each student will receive 2 hours of credit for a completed project, presentation, and reflection paper. Students are encouraged to reflect on concepts, topics, and speakers highlighted in CHO I and II for inspiration but are not bound to course topics.

Course Objectives

1. Identify a community need in collaboration with partner organization(s) that addresses community healthcare issues, which can include social determinants of health
2. Design and implement a project addressing identified community healthcare need
3. Support student engagement with community health both directly through volunteer experiences and more broadly through education about and access to advocacy.
4. Learn about local community resources and encourage students to share these resources with peers and future patients.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: No class meeting; individually arranged project coaching

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: None

Registration contact: Cody Pritchard, cody-pritchard@uiowa.edu

MED:8031 Reproductive and Gynecological Health Seminar

Faculty: Sarah Shaffer, DO, MME
Sarah-shaffer@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall

Corbin Weaver, MD
Corbin-weaver@uiowa.edu

Administrative Contact: Sally Fisher
319-384-8654
sally-fisher@uiowa.edu

Max Enrollment: 15

Special Conditions: Grading is PASS/FAIL only
M1/M2 Priority given to M1 students

This is a 1-semester elective for preclinical students that will help students garner interest in reproductive and gynecological health by providing education on health topics in OB/GYN as well as service opportunities and mentorship. The education portion of this course will aim to allow students to explore aspects of reproductive health from both clinical and social perspectives. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of reproductive and gynecological health in general clinical practice and obtain skills specific to the evaluation of a patient with these concerns. This course will complement topics covered in Medicine and Society (MAS), Clinical and Professional Skills (CAPS), and Mechanisms of Health and Disease (MOHD) courses by offering parallel, but focused, reproductive health topics on social determinants of health, physical exam skills, and clinical knowledge. Additionally, students will have opportunities for community service that will give them valuable experience with groups that provide services to this population of patients. Students will also be encouraged to build on the knowledge gained in this course by pursuing a research or service project in reproductive and gynecological health at the conclusion of the course. Mentorship will be available throughout the course as students interact with faculty and residents who will help them pursue their research or service interests.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify the ways in which healthcare is uniquely different for women compared to the general population. (MK03 – PR01)
2. Discuss the impact of social determinants of health on women's health outcomes. (SBP01 – PR01)
3. Participate in interdisciplinary medicine to deliver high quality healthcare to women. (ICS02 – PR01)
4. Understand presentation, work-up, and treatment of common conditions seen in Obstetrics, Gynecology, related sub-specialties, and primary care fields that provide healthcare to women. (MK03)
5. Practice communication and examination skills pertinent to providing health care to women. (ICS02 – PC04)

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: This 1-semester elective will meet over the noon hour (12-12:50) weekly on Mondays.

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track:
N/A

Registration contact: Sally Fisher, Administrative Services Coordinator, 319-384-8654

MED:8033 Clinical Skills for Responding to Sexual Violence

Faculty: Jill Endres, MD MS
Jill-endres@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall

Max Enrollment: 15

Special Conditions: Grading is PASS/FAIL only

This course focuses on preparing students to engage with patients with a known or suspected history of sexual trauma. In the first half of the course, students will learn about the prevalence of sexual violence, consensual versus assaultive sex, risk factors for victimization/perpetration, signs and symptoms suggesting a trauma history, barriers to disclosure, biological processes underlying trauma responses, and trauma-informed care. In the second half, students will learn about clinical presentations of patients with acute or remote histories of sexual trauma, associated health concerns, and the multidisciplinary approaches to treatment and management. Classroom activities will take the form of traditional lectures, reading/writing/discussion sessions, a simulated patient (SP) session, and a special 2 documentary screening followed by a discussion with a guest speaker. In particular, the SP session will give students the opportunity to apply their developing knowledge and skills to clinically relevant case scenarios involving health concerns due to sexual violence. In addition, students will gain unique insights into, and develop key contacts with, community partners and support resources serving victims and survivors of sexual violence in the Iowa City/Johnson County areas. By the end of the course, students will have the advanced ability to interact sensitively and appropriately with patients with a history of sexual trauma, communicate with them in a trauma-informed manner, connect them to the resources that exist to support them, and advocate for them as members of the healthcare team.

Note: Given the sensitive nature of the course subject, students are encouraged to seek support as they engage with some of the more psychologically and emotionally challenging content of the course. Students will be reminded at regular intervals of the counseling resources available and to reach out to the course directors and/or teaching assistant with questions, feedback, or concerns. Please see Appendix B for counseling resources for UI students.

Course Objectives

The following objectives were adapted from the core competencies identified by the Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) and American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).^{10,11} At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

Demonstrate an understanding of sexual violence (SBP01) (MK01-03)

- o Understand the definitions of key terms related to sexual violence (e.g., consent)
- o Understand the dynamics of sexual violence and healthy/unhealthy sexual behavior
- o Describe the epidemiology of sexual violence in general and sub-populations
- o Acknowledge pre-existing values, attitudes, beliefs, assumptions, biases, and emotional responses related to sexual violence

Demonstrate understanding of features suggestive of sexual trauma (PC01) (PC05) (SBP01)

- o Recognize signs, symptoms, and behaviors associated with a history of sexual trauma
- o Understand individual, social, institutional, and cultural barriers to help-seeking
- o Demonstrate the ability to sensitively screen for a history of sexual trauma and respect patients' self-determination and preference not to disclose
- o Understand that patient support and empowerment are the main goals of intervention

Demonstrate an understanding of the health concerns and management of patients with a history of sexual trauma (PC01) (SBP01) (SBP02)

- o Respond appropriately to a disclosures of sexual violence
- o Understand the role and functions of a sexual assault response team (SART)
- o Become familiar with the initial physical examination of a victim of sexual assault to identify and address acute or life-threatening injuries and collect forensic evidence
- o Understand the chronic physical and behavioral health effects of sexual violence
- o Understand the anatomy and physiology impacted due to sexual violence
- o Recognize how patient's care may be impacted by their experiences of sexual violence
- o Become familiar with community resources for support, safety, and education
- o Understand Iowa-specific reporting requirements and provided services

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: Fall semester, Monday 5:30-6:30 pm, over 16 weeks beginning mid-August, excluding Labor Day and Thanksgiving Break (in-person and/or remote pending public health recommendations)

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: None

Registration contact: Administrative Contact

MED:8070 Writing and Medicine

Faculty: Camille Socarras
camille-socarras@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall and Spring, repeatable

Administrative Contact: Camille Socarras, 1191 MERF
319-335-5324
camille-socarras@uiowa.edu

In an article in *Academic Medicine*, Drs. Charon and Das Gupta wrote, “As early in medical training as anatomy class, students learn that patients are predominantly defined by their bodies whereas physicians are defined by their scientific minds. It is also in the training process that such attitudes as professional detachment are learned. It can be argued, therefore, that traditional medical training teaches students that what lies below their white coats is irrelevant to their physicianhood. Further, a doctor whose body becomes relevant may risk losing his or her identity as a physician.”

This kind of dehumanization—often experienced as loss of identity and personal agency—is deeply engrained in medical education and healthcare generally, often replicated and passed down with each new generation of physicians. In this course, we will employ pedagogies of decolonization that work to invert traditional educational power dynamics, considering students the experts, toward the goal of restoring identity, voice and power—we will engage with literature, visual art, creative writing, and other humanities content, exercises, and outings (you need not be a writer or artist to take this course!!). We hope to support physicians-in-training who value individuals as human beings (including yourselves, your patients, and your colleagues).

Course Objectives

Explore the relationship between identity, power and the arts in medical education through writing, reading and discussion.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: Typically offered both fall and spring semester, meets Wednesdays 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: Credit toward Humanities Distinction Track

Registration contact: Email instructor

MED:8071 Career Life Planning

Faculty: Doreen Thomas, MA, LMHC, NCC
Doreen-thomas@uiowa.edu

Offered: Spring

Administrative TBD-position vacant currently
Contact: 319-335-8056
osac-mscc@uiowa.edu

Max 20
Enrollment:

Special Open to M1, M2 and M3 students
Conditions:

This course is designed to develop students' confidence and skill in career planning. Through classroom discussions and activities students will learn how to engage in a process that leads to selecting a specialty that suits them. They will identify steps they can take to prepare for a successful match. They will learn to balance current academic demands with the need to be proactive about future career goals. Students will understand career development as it extends across the lifespan. Students will practice reflection and action as they become more aware of themselves (i.e., experiences, interests, and values), their decision making, and the culture and climate in which medical students and physicians work and learn.

Course Objectives

Students successfully completing this course will:

1. Understand career development to be a life-long process.
2. Demonstrate self-awareness in terms of experience, needs, values and skills.
3. Describe one's own decision-making process and how it applies to career choices.
4. Engage in exploratory activities that promote career development.
5. Articulate key components of a successful match.
6. Identify strategies effective in coping with the pressures of work life demands.
7. Identify social and environmental supports and resources.
8. Synthesize classroom experiences and generate a plan of action for the next semester.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: Spring semester, eight consecutive Tuesdays, typically beginning after Spring Break week, 5:30PM-6:45PM

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: N/A

Registration contact: Email the Medical Student Counseling Center osac-mscc@uiowa.edu to register.

MED:8074 Research Skills Seminar

Faculty: Robert Roghair, MD
robert-roghair@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall

Administrative Contact: Erin Mullins, MA
319-335-8573
erin-mullins@uiowa.edu

Special Conditions: CCOM students

Research Skills Seminar is a one-credit elective course geared toward medical students interested in learning more about the potential to effectively and efficiently engage in research throughout medical school and/or residency and in a medical career. This course will present a series of topics designed to help you deepen your understanding of medical research, develop collaborative relationships, explore different career pathways, and expose you to some of the basic skills needed to become a sought-after clinician-scientist.

Evaluations:

This course is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. In order to pass, students are expected to:

- Attend a minimum of 85% of class sessions. You are allowed up to two absences. Requests to be excused due to conflicts relating to curricular obligations should be submitted to Erin Mullins for approval. See the Student Handbook for policies regarding attendance. Arrangements for make-up of absences due to curricular conflicts will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet at class
- Complete course evaluations by due date.

Course Objectives

- Gain understanding of the communication, organization, administrative, analytic and interpersonal skills that play a key role in research productivity and academic advancement.
- Explore different career pathways in research including community-based, clinical-translational and basic science, as well as peer review and leadership.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: Meets Tuesday evenings from 5:00 - 5:50 PM in MERF during Fall Semester

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: This course is aligned with the Research Distinction Track but is not required

Registration contact: Erin Mullins erin-mullins@uiowa.edu

MED:8076 Bioethics and Humanities Seminar

Faculty: Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD
lauris-kaldjian@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall Semester Only
15 wks/full semester course

Administrative Contact: Suzanne Streit, BA
319-678-7719
suzanne-streit@uiowa.edu

Max Enrollment: 12

Special Conditions: For medical students (permission required for occasional other students); no prerequisites.

This 1-credit course provides an introduction to topics and themes that are central to bioethics and the humanities in the context of medicine. It prioritizes dialogue through weekly small-group discussion of an assigned reading and covers a range of topics, including ethical theory, different approaches to ethical reasoning (principles, virtues, consequences), clinical ethics, professionalism and humanism, moral agency, ethical pluralism, ethics in relation to cultural diversity and global health, historical examples of research abuses, technology and the future, narrative ethics, and the use of stories in medicine. Students are encouraged to discuss the real-world relevance of ideas by applying ethical insights to challenges in clinical care.

Course Objectives

1. Identify key contrasts between ethical approaches based on principles, virtues, and consequences.
2. Recognize the potential of narrative ethics to complement other ethical approaches.
3. Recognize the similarities and differences between ethics, professionalism, and humanism.
4. Identify ways in which ethical pluralism and cultural diversity influence medical practice.
5. Recognize key historical examples of unethical conduct in clinical research.
6. Recognize how stories can enhance ethical and humanistic understanding of illness.
7. Recognize ways in which bioethics and humanities are inter-related and inter-dependent.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: Fall Semester: full semester course (15 weeks). Meets one hour per week (Mondays from 12:00-1:00 PM)

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: Counts as an activity for the Humanities Distinction Track

Registration contact: Contact course director (lauris-kaldjian@uiowa.edu) or coordinator (suzanne-streit@uiowa.edu).

MED:8077 Personal Professional Compass

Faculty: Brittany Bettendorf, MD, MFA
brittany-bettendorf@uiowa.edu
Katherine Harris, MD
katherine-i-harris@uiowa.edu
Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD
lauris-kaldjian@uiowa.edu

Offered: Longitudinal over 3-4 years

Administrative Contact: Suzanne Streit, BA
319-678-7719
suzanne-streit@uiowa.edu

Special Conditions: For medical students;
No prerequisites

The purpose of the Carver College of Medicine Personal-Professional Compass program is to help medical students understand, articulate, and integrate their personal and professional values and goals as they navigate their way through the four years of medical school. This program will promote students' growth as humanistic professionals through written reflections on personal experience, readings from the literature of medicine and the humanities, and ongoing dialogues within a community of peers and mentors. Written reflections will culminate in the capstone project of writing a fourth-year personal statement for residency applications.

Course Objectives

1. To encourage students to integrate their personal and professional values and goals.
2. To encourage students to reflect on and learn from their personal experiences in training.
3. To encourage students toward virtues needed for the humanistic practice of medicine.
4. To facilitate peer and mentor relationships that can enhance personal-professional integration.
5. To prepare students to write an authentic and compelling personal statement for residency applications.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: For details, see: <https://medicine.uiowa.edu/bioethics/personal-professional-compass-ppc-elective-program-ccom>

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: Counts as an activity for the Humanities Distinction Track

Registration contact: Contact program directors (brittany-bettendorf@uiowa.edu; katherine-i-harris@uiowa.edu; lauris-kaldjian@uiowa.edu) or coordinator (suzanne-streit@uiowa.edu).

MED:8081 Global Health Issues I

Faculty: Robin Paetzold
robin-paetzold@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall

Administrative Contact: Robin Stoker
robin-stoker@uiowa.edu
319-335-9449

Max Enrollment: 45

Special Conditions: Medical students

Global Health Issues is a one credit elective course geared towards medical students interested in global health inequity issues. This course will present a series of global health topics to demonstrate a theoretical structure for consideration in interpreting global health care. This course meets weekly on Monday evenings 5:30 - 6:50 and attendance is required. This course is the first half of a two-semester course.

Course Objectives

Participants in this course will:

Review basic epidemiological issues affecting global health

Understand the basic challenges faced in the areas of global health including medical, cultural, historical, economic, environmental, and political influences.

Understand the relationship between population health and medical care.

Explore options and issues relating to future global health opportunities.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: This course meets weekly during the Fall semester on Monday evenings 5:30- 6:50 and attendance is required.

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: This course is required for the Global Health Distinction Track

Registration contact: Robin-Stoker, robin-stoker@uiowa.edu

MED:8082 Global Health Issues II

Faculty: Robin Paetzold
robin-paetzold@uiowa.edu

Offered: Spring

Administrative Contact: Robin Stoker
robin-stoker@uiowa.edu
319-335-9449

Max Enrollment: 45

Special Conditions: Medical students

Global Health Issues II is a one credit elective course geared towards medical students interested in global health inequity issues. This course will present a series of global health topics to demonstrate a theoretical structure for consideration in interpreting global health care. This course meets weekly on Monday evenings 5:30 - 6:50 and attendance is required. This course is the second half of a two-semester course. Global Health Issues I is a prerequisite to this course.

Course Objectives

Participants in this course will:

Review basic epidemiological issues affecting global health

Understand the basic challenges faced in the areas of global health including medical, cultural, historical, economic, environmental, and political influences.

Understand the relationship between population health and medical care.

Explore options and issues relating to future global health opportunities.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: This course meets weekly during the Spring semester on Monday evenings 5:30- 6:50 and attendance is required.

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: This course is required for the Global Health Distinction Track

Registration contact: Robin-Stoker, robin-stoker@uiowa.edu

MED:8084 Global Health Seminar

Faculty: Robin Paetzold
robin-paetzold@uiowa.edu

Offered: Fall and Spring

Administrative Contact: Robin Stoker
robin-stoker@uiowa.edu
319-335-9449

Max Enrollment: 45

Special Conditions: Medical students

Global Health is a field of study which addresses the health of people and populations in a global context. It involves mutual education, research and healthcare provision and places a priority on improving health and achieving equity worldwide. It explores the social determinants of health, addressing disparities including infectious and non-communicable disease issues, human rights as well as economic development, and policy and system issues. This seminar course presents examples of work in this field with unique speakers each week. This course meets weekly on Thursday afternoons 12:00-12:50 and attendance is required.

Course Objectives

Participants in this course will:

- Examine approaches to global health through discussion of UI research initiatives, clinical care, nongovernmental organization administration, and educational efforts both in the US and internationally.
- Understand the basic challenges faced in the areas of global health including medical, cultural, historical, economic and political influences.
- Understand the relationship between research, education, population health and medical care.
- Explore options and issues relating to future global health opportunities as an individual participant.

Additional Course Information

Offering Details: This course meets weekly on Thursday afternoons 12:00-12:50 and attendance is required. Students must submit questions for the speaker each week.

Grading is Pass/Fail only

Distinction Track: None

Registration contact: Robin-Stoker, robin-stoker@uiowa.edu