

# Distinction in Community Health for Medical Students

Improving the health of the community in which we live, work, and play is both rewarding and inspirational! Get involved in the community where you live and learn about community engagement and population health in the process. If you are looking to move beyond volunteering and service learning, consider pursuing graduating with Distinction in Community Health.

## Distinction in Community Health

Students interested in integrating community health learning into their medical school education can register to be a Candidate for Distinction in Community Health. If successful, the student will be recognized at graduation as an MD with Distinction in Community Health. This is an honor for students who make significant longitudinal contributions to community service, excel in Community Health Improvement Course (CHIC) curriculum, and engage in learning about current issues in community health throughout medical school.

### **Additional benefits** of Distinction in Community Health:

- Opportunity to complete substantial and sustainable community health improvement with community partners, and experience community health first-hand
- Opportunities to present your work at the Distinction in Community Health Forum, and other learning, presentation, and funding opportunities through the Distinction network
- Work independently on your health improvement project during CHIC in Phase 3 or Phase 4
- Qualify for the Costanza Community Impact Award, the Fiscella Excellence in Community Health Award, or the Creative Initiative in Community Health Award, available only to Distinction Candidates

### **REQUIREMENTS** for Distinction:

1. Significant longitudinal contributions to community service. A minimum of 140 hours of SRO (Students of Rochester Outreach) and/or other community-engaged learning (CEL) over the course of medical education (40 hours in Phase 1, 40 hours in Phase 2, and 60 hours in Phase 3 + Phase 4 combined), to be completed by December 31 of Phase 4.
2. Excellence in the Community Health Improvement Courses (CHIC). Candidates must successfully complete both CHIC 1 (PRM600): Public Health and Policy and CHIC 2 (PRM601): Population Health and Finance before December 31 of Phase 4.
3. Complete a community health improvement project to be presented to the Distinction Committee. Community service hours (SRO or CEL hours) and time during CHIC can be dedicated to this community health improvement project.
4. Engagement in learning about current issues and topics in community health. This should be done by completing the following:
  - a. View at least three (3) presentations of Phase 4 students who are Candidates for Distinction in Community Health by end of Phase 3 (Distinction Forum) and submit reflections in INT500
  - b. Attend at least four (4) Public Health Grand Rounds presentations and submit reflections

### **Interested in learning more about community health?**

1. **Register for INT500** to be a Candidate for Distinction in Community Health. You only need to register once for continued access throughout medical school.
2. Think about your interests in community health; what populations or health concerns interest you most? Talk to others working in those areas to build a network.
3. Complete SRO and/or CEL hours. SRO is Students of Rochester Outreach and is organized by the Office of Medical Student Enrichment Programs (OMSEP). You should sign up to work with an agency that matches your interests. If your interests are not represented in the SRO offerings, you can find a community partner that *does* match your interests and complete community-engaged learning hours (CEL). Talk with Theresa Green, PhD, MBA, Distinction Director to learn more about CEL partners.

### What to do in Phase 1:

- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of SRO/CEL and submit to OMSEP.
- Register for INT500 which will give you access to the Blackboard course on Distinction. Registering does NOT obligate you to complete Distinction but does give you access to all the information.
- Attend Public Health Grand Rounds (PHGR) – attending 4 BEFORE DECEMBER 31 of Phase 4 is required. A link to PHGR information is in the INT500 Distinction Blackboard course. Log reflections in INT500.
- Attend the Distinction Forum, usually in February each year (to see Phase 4 Candidates' projects). Log reflections in INT500.
- Attend the Community Engagement Symposium, usually in December each year (not required).
- Think about what specific area or population you would like to consider for an improvement project.

### What to do in Phase 2:

- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of SRO/CEL and submit to OMSEP, work can be done on your project.
- If you haven't already, register for INT500.
- Attend PHGRs and the annual Community Engagement Symposium and Distinction Forum. Log reflections in INT500.
- Submit a broad concept project proposal. The project proposal is a flexible, non-binding description of what area of work you are interested in for your project. This will allow the Distinction Committee to review your idea and provide feedback and mentoring connections. The project proposal form is in Blackboard (INT500).

### What to do in Phase 3:

- Complete SRO/CEL hours as time allows. A minimum of sixty SRO/CEL hours for Phase 3 + Phase 4 combined are required.
- Discuss your project with a mentor, community partner, or colleagues as time allows.
- If you haven't already, register for INT500, and submit a broad concept project proposal. Attend PHGRs and the annual Community Engagement Symposium, and Distinction Forum.

### What to do in Phase 4:

- Complete SRO/CEL hours which can/should contribute to your project. A minimum of sixty SRO/CEL hours for Phase 3 + Phase 4 combined are required. You will have time during CHIC to spend on your project and accumulate hours.
- Complete both CHIC 1 and CHIC 2 BEFORE DECEMBER 31 of Phase 4.
- If you haven't already, register for INT500. Attend PHGRs and log reflections in INT500.
- Complete your Distinction PORTFOLIO, summarizing your body of work in community health. The Portfolio is in the INT500 Distinction Blackboard course, and you will enter the following:
  - A summary of your contributions to community health during medical school, including SRO/CEL
  - Project abstract submission, summarizing a particular community health improvement project
    - Background, methods, results, conclusion, deliverables, sustainability plan
  - Recorded presentation of the project (10 minutes) with accompanying slides
  - Poster
  - Reflections and impact of your community health work
  - Letters of support and any other supporting documentation including publications, etc. (optional)
  - Ensure all required PHGR and Distinction reflections are recorded in INT500
- Present your community health project at the Distinction Forum (in February) for review by the Distinction Committee. You will submit a poster (PDF) for sharing prior to the Distinction Forum and then will discuss your work with the Distinction Committee at the Forum. The Committee will review the Portfolio, your recorded presentation, and your poster, and will confer to make recommendations for Distinction. There is no limit to the number of students who can earn Distinction, however not all Candidates for Distinction are guaranteed to earn the Distinction.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Theresa Green, PhD, MBA, Distinction Director ([Theresa.Green@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Theresa.Green@URMC.Rochester.edu)) or Carolyn Settle, MPH, Distinction Coordinator ([Carolyn.Settle@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Settle@URMC.Rochester.edu))