

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**  
**MPH RESEARCH PROPOSAL**  
**Carlo Fusco**

**Barriers to Accessing Mental Health Services:  
Latino Students at a Northeast Private University**

Latinos experience disproportionate rates of mental health disorders and are less likely to utilize mental health services compared to Whites. Although numerous studies highlight the importance of addressing the barriers that exist in accessing mental health services for Latinos, few studies specify what types of programs or remedies should be implemented to solve this problem with access. On a university campus where barriers such as lack of health insurance and financial disparities do not exist as they do in neighborhoods and larger community settings, an opportunity presents itself to better understand other barriers that young Latino adults face in accessing mental health services in this specific setting. Using a qualitative research approach, this study investigates barriers and potential solutions to better bridge any gaps by identifying perceived individual, cultural, and organizational obstacles Latino students face in accessing on-campus mental health services.

**Committee Chair:**  
**Scott McIntosh, Ph.D**

**Committee Members:**  
**Nancy P. Chin, PhD, MPH**  
**Lisa K. Willis, Ph.D, CGP**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2009**  
**12:00PM – 12:30 PM**  
**Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**