

Community Health at UR Medical Center

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 will be for the next few years, and learn about community engagement and population health in the process. Opportunities at URMIC:

Distinction in Community Health

Students who want to integrate 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 option for students who make significant longitudinal contributions to community service, excel in CHIC, and engage in learning about current issues and topics 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 INT500 network
- Work independently on your health improvement project during CHIC in 4th year
- Qualify for the Costanza Community Impact Award, the 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 total of 140 hours of community service across the four years of medical school is required: Forty hours of service in each of the 1st and 2nd phases of medical school with an additional 60 hours combined across the 3rd and 4th phases, to be completed by December 31st of year 4.
2. Excellence in Community Health Improvement Course (CHIC). Candidates must successfully complete both CHIC 1 and CHIC 2 before December 31st of Phase 4.
3. Complete a community health improvement project to be presented to the Distinction Committee. Community service hours (SRO 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 4th year students who are Candidates for Distinction in Community Health by end of third year (Distinction Forum).
 - b. Attend at least four (4) Public Health Grand Rounds presentations.
 - c. Complete the Community Engagement in Population Health Course (MOOC) on-line (Class of 2024 and later) or join a community-based organization for a year.

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 hours. SRO is Students of Rochester Outreach and is organized by the OMSIEP office. You should sign up to work with an agency that matches your interests, or if your interests are not represented in the SRO offerings, you can find a community partner that *does* match your interests by talking with Theresa Green, PhD, Coordinator for Distinction.

Requirements for Distinction in Community Health:

What to do in Phase 1:

- Complete 40 hours of SRO (Students of Rochester Outreach) and submit to the OMSIEP office.
- 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 4th year is required. A link to PHGR information is in the INT500 Distinction Blackboard course.
- Attend the Distinction Forum, usually in February each year (to see 4th year Candidates' projects).
- 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 40 SRO hours and submit to the OMSIEP office, 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.
- Submit a broad concept proposal. The concept 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 proposal form is in Blackboard (INT500).

What to do in Phase 3:

- Complete SRO hours as time allows. Sixty SRO hours for Phase 3 + Phase 4 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 proposal. Attend PHGRs and the annual Community Engagement Symposium, and Distinction Forum.

What to do in Phase 4:

- Complete SRO hours which can/should contribute to your project. Sixty SRO hours for Phase 3 + Phase 4 are required. You will have time during CHIC to spend on your project and accumulate SRO hours.
- Complete both CHIC 1 and CHIC 2 BEFORE DECEMBER 31st of Phase 4.
- If you haven't already, register for INT500. Attend PHGRs.
- 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 SROs
 - Public Health Grand Rounds and Distinction Forum attendance record and reflections
 - 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
 - Reflections and Impact of your community health work
 - Letters of Support and any other supporting documentation including publications, etc. (optional)
- Present your community health project at the Distinction Forum 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. For more information contact:

Distinction Coordinator:

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