

Stanford University Practice of Medicine Class Student Projects

Course and Student Projects Description

Practice of Medicine (POM) is a required class for first and second year medical students at Stanford. It teaches the fundamentals of the doctor-patient relationship, medical ethics, health policy, and epidemiology. The first year of POM also includes an opportunity for students to engage in a community advocacy or service project with a partner organization. This project runs for approximately six months beginning in November. Student teams identify areas of interest to them, and engage community partners early in the process to learn their needs and appropriately direct their projects. Support and mentoring for student projects is available from POM faculty and staff, as well as Stanford's new Office of Community Health.

Student Projects Criteria

- Projects must address a health-related issue for the identified community, either through advocacy or community level intervention
- Groups must work closely with a partner organization in defining their project, as well as implementing their advocacy or interventional plan
- Projects must be suitable for a group of 4-6 students to complete in a 6 month timeframe

Example Student Projects from 2004-05

Creation of an Online Organ Donor Registry – Students worked with the California Transplant Donor Network to launch and promote the California Organ Donor Registry

Redistribution of Unused Prescription Medications – Students successfully advocated for the passage of legislation in Sacramento to facilitate the redistribution of unused prescription medications to low-income individuals

2005-06 Timeline

November 14 th	Groups of 4-6 students submit a synopsis describing problem areas they are interested in addressing
Late November	The Stanford Office of Community Health and POM Faculty and Staff make a preliminary match of student groups to community partners
Early December	Student groups make initial contact with community partners to discuss the most appropriate ways for them to address needs identified by community partners
January 2006	Students return to campus from winter break and continue working with community partners to design and implement advocacy and interventional plans
January 30 th	Student groups submit a Foundation Paper, including a discussion of the ethics, health policy, background and advocacy relevant to their chosen topic
Early February	Students meet with POM Faculty and Staff to discuss progress
May 18 th	Student groups present their achievements to the medical school community, community partners, and other guests at the POM Projects Symposium