

PHARM 5801

Pharmaceutical Care to Underserved Populations

Professional Year and Terms Offered

A 3 credit elective to third professional year students

Days, Times, Location

One-hour discussion every week on Monday afternoon from 1:00pm - 1:50pm (meet at Dr. Connor's office room 915 Salk Hall)

Journal Club every week on Thursday at noon in Room 1102/3 Scaife Hall or Room S216 BST

Clinic every other week according to schedule (Birmingham)

Independent study

Pre-requisites/Corequisites

The student must be registered in the pharmacy school and in good academic standing.

The student must also receive prior approval from the instructor to take the class.

Participating faculty

Dr. Sharon Connor

Office: 915 Salk Hall

E-mail: sconnor+@pitt.edu

Phone: 648-7192

Office Hours: Arrange by appointment

Students will also work with other faculty, health care providers and students at the patient care sites.

Course description

This course will run for a semester. Students are to receive an emphasis in service learning upon completing the service learning curriculum. The course is designed to emphasize service learning and human dignity. This course supports the school's mission by:

- Providing the administrative and clinical foundation necessary to identify, resolve, or manage problems related to drugs or drug therapy in order to improve the health related quality of life for patients.
- Developing a foundation in the social, ethical, legal, and economic issues in pharmacy and health care.
- Offering opportunities to develop communication, interpersonal, leadership, and problem-solving skills.
- Challenging students to become self-directed learners, recognizing personal education needs, selecting appropriate learning resources, and evaluating progress.

The core concepts to be developed in this course are as follows:

The Human Dimensions of Pharmacy Practice

Managing as a Professional Pharmacist

Clinical Skills

Professional Inquiry

Ability outcomes of the course

By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Incorporate knowledge of psychosocial forces into decisions made about the health care of homeless and low-income patients.

Objectives:

- a. Understand how social, psychological, political, and economic forces influence thought and behavior of homeless and low-income patients.
- b. Develop a cultural sensitivity to the health and human needs of patients and society.
- c. Identify major advocate groups and their strategies for securing funding to address the special needs of this population.

2. Utilize community resources to provide essential services to the homeless/low-income population.
Objectives:
 - a. Apply knowledge about insurance systems to assure that patients have access to necessary medications.
 - b. Direct patients to appropriate agencies for food, clothing, shelter, and medical services.
 - c. Explain the legal and professional requirements associated with providing free pharmacy services to underserved populations.
3. Employ clinical skills to develop and implement pharmaceutical care plans taking into consideration the special needs of the underserved population.
Objectives:
 - a. Gather and organize data and information pertinent to patients under their care.
 - b. Analyze physical examination results, laboratory data, and other patient information to identify drug therapy problems.
 - c. For each problem identified, establish therapeutic goals, evaluate feasible therapeutic alternatives, create an optimal plan for problem resolution, establish monitoring parameters to ensure that the desired outcomes are achieved, and document the intervention made.
 - d. Communicate recommendations to colleagues, other health care professionals, and patients.
4. Begin to develop mastery of patient education concepts, principles, and techniques.
Objectives:
 - a. Apply principles of effective communication to patient education.
 - b. Address the ethical dimensions of patient education.
 - c. Accept professional responsibility for patient education efforts.
 - d. Know and apply the counseling requirement described in the OBRA '90 provisions.
 - e. Document educational interventions.
 - f. Retrieve and utilize sources of prepared information about medications.
5. Educate colleagues (other students) about the special needs of the underserved population.
Objectives:
 - a. List the most common disease states encountered among low-income and homeless populations.
 - b. Describe the most common causes for mortality among the homeless population.
 - c. Describe the influence that social living conditions have on the patients' health.
 - d. Describe the challenge in working with this population and for follow-up care.
 - e. Understand the specific stresses experienced by caregivers of this population.

Methods of learning

This course uses multiple modes of instruction with emphasis on student-centered learning that gives students opportunities to practice methods of disciplined inquiry, problem-solving, decision making, and making professional judgments.

The course uses a combination of interdisciplinary group discussions, small-group pharmacy student discussions, participation in patient care, independent learning through directed readings and interactions with other community providers, culminating in the completion of a final project which will be presented. Students will be supervised by a pharmacist preceptor and will attend regularly scheduled meetings with the designated preceptor.

Course Requirements and Grading

All assignments and activities will be assigned a grade A-F. An assignment that receives a failing grade must be repeated and resubmitted. A repeated assignment that receives a failing grade will result in a failing grade for the course.

1. Paper on drug formulary development for 1 disease state
2. Presentation at end of semester (Final Project)
3. Journal/Assignments

Discussion	10%
Assignments	20%
Formulary Paper	20%
Final Project	50%
Total	100%

Final letter grades will be calculated from the total percentage points using the ranges 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, <60% = F.

Textbooks and Other Learning Resources

There are no specific required textbooks for the class. The student is expected to use library resources, including electronic resources, in addition to community resources to gather information relevant to discussion topics. There are books and articles on file to which the students will have access.

Student Time Budget

1. Scheduled time in meetings = 1 hour week
2. Scheduled time in discussion or at patient care sites = 3 hours/week
3. Individual readings and assignments = 3 hours/week

Schedule

1. Pharmacy student meetings will be held every week.
2. Journal Club every Thursday at 12:00 noon.
3. Patient care times will be scheduled on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons, and will include patient care visits every other week throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy:

The students are expected to participate in the discussion sessions. Attendance is mandatory for the every week discussion sessions and for weekly Journal Club. Attendance is mandatory when the students are scheduled for clinic. Two percentage (2%) points will be deducted from the final grade for each absence.

In the event of illness contact the course coordinator as soon as the situation is known. If unable to reach the course coordinator please contact Diane Kenna at 383-7542. If a clinic session is missed this must be made-up at another time. If a Journal Club or discussion session is missed, a paper must be submitted to the course coordinator about the topic presented that day.

Written assignments submitted after the due date will have the grade deducted 5% for each day late.

Academic Integrity Statement

Students enrolled in the pharmacy program are also considered to be members of the pharmacy profession and must adhere to the same professional, ethical, and legal standards. It is a violation of the School's code of conduct policy for a student to engage in any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, plagiarism, deceitful practice, unauthorized collaboration, harassment, or breach of confidentiality. It is also considered to be a violation of the code of conduct policy for a student to tolerate any of the aforementioned acts by other students.

DATES	DISCUSSION TOPIC	CLINIC (STUDENT)	DISCUSSION LEADER/ CLINIC PRECEPTOR
Week 1			
Friday	Introduction		Connor
Week 2			
Monday 9/4	Labor Day		
Wednesday 9/6		Birmingham (Stuart)	Schwinghammer
Thursday 9/7	Operation Safety Net		Mark Myers (1103 Scaife)
Week 3			
Monday 9/11	Healthy People 2010		Connor
		Birmingham (Johnson)	Lithgow
Wednesday 9/13		Birmingham (Davis)	Connor
Thursday 9/14	Journal Club		Shadyside Resident (BST S216)
Week 4			
Monday 9/18	Homelessness		Gordon
	Journal assignment due		
Wednesday 9/20		Birmingham (Stuart)	Schwinghammer
Thursday 9/21	Journal Club		Adenoye, Anderson (1102 Scaife)
Week 5			
Monday 9/25	Health Care Access		Connor
		Birmingham (Johnson)	Lithgow
Wednesday 9/27		Birmingham (Davis)	Connor
Thursday 9/28	Journal Club		
Week 6			
Monday 10/2	Pharmaceutical Access		Connor
Wednesday 10/4		Birmingham (Stuart)	Schwinghammer
Thursday 10/5	Journal Club		
Week 7			
Monday 10/9	Drug Donations		Lithgow
		Birmingham (Johnson)	
Wednesday 10/11		Birmingham (Davis)	Connor
Thursday 10/12	Journal Club		
Week 8			
Monday 10/16	Essential Drugs		
	Journal assignment due		
Wednesday 10/18		Birmingham (Stuart)	Schwinghammer
Thursday 10/19	Journal Club		
	Formulary Evaluation Paper due		

Week 9

Monday 10/23 Community Outreach

Birmingham
(Johnson) McBride
Lithgow

Wednesday 10/25

Birmingham
(Davis) Connor

Thursday 10/26 Journal Club

Week 10

Monday 10/30 Discussion

Birmingham
(Stuart) Schwinghammer

Wednesday 11/1

Thursday 11/2 Journal Club

Week 11

Monday 11/6 No Class

Birmingham
(Johnson) Lithgow

Wednesday 11/8

Birmingham
(Davis) Schwinghammer

Thursday 11/9 Journal Club

Week 12

Monday 11/13 Discussion

Birmingham
(Stuart) Connor

Wednesday 11/15

Thursday 11/17 Journal Club

Journal assignment due**Week 13**

Monday 11/20 Discussion

Birmingham
(Johnson) Lithgow

Wednesday 11/22

Birmingham Connor

Thursday Thanksgiving

Week 14

Monday 11/27 Discussion

Birmingham
(Davis) Schwinghammer

Wednesday 11/29

Thursday 11/30 Journal Club

Week 15

Monday 12/4 Discussion

Birmingham
(Johnson) Lithgow

Wednesday 12/6

Birmingham
(Stuart) Connor

Thursday 12/7 Journal Club

Journal assignment due**Final Project due**