



WWAMI AHEC SCHOLARS

Social Determinants of Health Project Instructions

The goal of this project is allow you to explore how your community is addressing a community health concern. Completing this project and presenting at poster session satisfies the Community/Experiential/Clinical component for one year. Through a stepwise process you will learn about a health challenge in your community and find out what is being done to address that issue by a local community group or organization. Next you research the topic to think about how this group or organization could take further steps to improve community health.

Step One: Identify your team

This is designed to be a group project. Your AHEC representative will help you form your team of two to five students.

Step two: Identify a community group or organization

Identify a community group or organization that is interested in improving health for underserved populations. Here are some examples:

Food banks	Grassroots community groups
Homeless shelters	Local fire departments
County Public Health Offices	YMCA or similar organizations
Community Health Centers	Senior centers
Hospitals	Churches or religious organizations
Public schools	Area Health Education Centers

Step three: Arrange a Meeting

Arrange a meeting with someone from that group or organization to explore what health issue they are working to address. In most cases you can find their email or phone number from their public website. Explain in your email or phone call that you are a health professional student at X university and that you would like to arrange a 30 minute interview to learn more about their group or organization and how they address health concerns in the community. Here is a sample note:

Example email:

Dr. Ms. Smith,

I'm a Masters in public health student from the University of Washington. I'm writing to see if you would be interested in an in-person interview. The purpose of the interview would to learn more about your organization and the health issues you are trying to address through your activities. Further, with your permission, I plan to integrate the information I receive during the interview into an academic poster that highlights a local health topic.

If you have the time to speak with me, please send me a convenient time and where you would

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B. Use Google Scholar and other academic search engines to look for examples of programs that could potentially be modeled in the community you live to address the health concern you discussed in your interview. Find at least two papers.

Paper one:

What was the intervention/program?

What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact in the community?

Could it work in your community?

Paper two:

What was the intervention/program?

What were the results of the intervention/program? From your perspective, did it have a positive impact in the community?

Could it work in your community?

Step 6: Conclusions

Please answer the following questions on your interview and the research you have done on this topic.

What is one intervention that could be done to further address the health issue you identified?

Please overview the components of the intervention.

What would be one goal of the program?

What organization(s) might carry this out?



What resources might be needed?

What would be some challenges to the intervention?

Step 7: The Poster

If you plan to present your work at a poster session you will need to develop an academic poster. Watch this tutorial to create a poster based on your research. Poster session counts as 10 CEC hours.

Poster Title:

Name, School, Program, and WWAMI AHEC Scholars

Background: In 3-5 bullets, describe your community and the health issue you are exploring and the community organization you spoke with

Literature Review: in 3-5 bullets list key points of the papers you read on the subject

Community Health Intervention Design: In 3-4 bullet points give an overview of the intervention you considered

Conclusions: In 3-4 bullets discuss possible outcomes, challenges and resources needed.