

Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

Capstone Scholarship and Discovery Course Mentoring/Advising Medical Students

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Objectives

- ◆ Review of new CSD course
- ◆ Project timeline / criteria / ideas
- ◆ Advisor's role / expectations
- ◆ Examples of current CSD projects
- ◆ Online course info / FAQs
- ◆ Q & A

CSD Course - Overview

- ◆ Graduation requirement for Class of 2016
- ◆ Build on a personal passion that existed prior to entering medical school or a new interest or knowledge gap
- ◆ Provide role models, mentorship, and guidance regarding careers that integrate research, service, teaching, and clinical service
- ◆ Enhance the culture of self-directed and peer group-fostered learning
- ◆ Address one of 6 competencies (physician as: clinical problem solver, scientist, professional, person, advocate, or communicator)

CSD Course Timeline

Student Timeline

Introduced	Fall of 1 st year
Project Idea(s)	Spring of 1 st year
Work with Learning Community mentor to refine project and identify advisor	Fall of 2 nd year
Finalize project proposal and advisor	Spring of 2 nd year
Progress reports	Fall and Spring of 3 rd year
Final Capstone report	Fall of 4 th year
Final Capstone presentation	Spring of 4 th year

Protected Student Time for Project Work

- ◆ Per the CSD website and information distributed to students, this is a sample of times allowed/suggested for working on a Capstone project...
 - Protected Monday afternoons in FOM1 and FOM2 years
 - Non-scheduled time throughout all four years
 - Summer between FOM1 and FOM2 years
 - 1-week Flexible Clinical Experiences (FCE) in the Core Clinical Experiences year
 - 1-month dedicated Capstone time in the AS year

FOM=Foundations of Medicine (years 1 and 2)
AS=Advanced Studies (year 4)

Project Criteria

- ◆ Address a clinical, basic science, public health or social problem or question that develops a student's understanding of an area of their own interest related to medicine
- ◆ Map to at least one of the medical school's education competencies
- ◆ Demonstrate student's organizational, reasoning, analytical or production/creation skills
- ◆ Meet criteria re: goal clarity, adequate student preparation, appropriate methodology, collection of findings or creation of a product, effective presentation, and self-reflective critique

Project Criteria

- ◆ Students will adhere to required capstone course and project timelines and benchmarks throughout their four year academic medical education programs
- ◆ Submission of an end report and public presentation or other form of approved communication of project results
- ◆ External publication is not required!

Project Ideas

- ◆ Students are likely to develop a project stemming from:
 - An interest prior to entering medical school, or
 - An interest developed through one of many early experiences in medical school, including:
 - LPP practice experience
 - Summer student research program
 - Summer student community-based service learning program
 - Population Health Clerkship
 - UMMS-sponsored volunteer experience (e.g., free medical clinics)
 - Multi-cultural, rural health or research pathway

Advisor's Role

- ◆ Finding the right advisor is crucial to the success of the Capstone project!
- ◆ The Advisor's role includes:
 - Helping student focus the scholarly project to the time available (see timeline on earlier slide)
 - Review and advise on brief progress reports designed to support student work over time
 - Review project proposal and final project
 - Provide scholarly resources (if needed)
 - Assist with obtaining necessary approvals by regulatory bodies (e.g., IRB, if needed)

Advisor's Role

- Support additional dissemination planning such as publication or conference presentation
- Provide valuable career guidance
- Participate in project forum and assessment at conclusion of the course
- ◆ Must have a UMass faculty appointment
- ◆ Role will vary from advisor to advisor because projects will roll out differently depending on competency being addressed and scope of project
- ◆ Estimated minimum time commitment of 15-18 hours over the course of 2 years

Examples of Current CSD Projects

- ◆ Encouraging healthy eating at Worcester's food pantries
- ◆ How to address vaccine refusal in pediatric patients
- ◆ Understanding the legal and medical needs of refugees resettled in Worcester
- ◆ Improving communication modalities in the ICU
- ◆ Emotional eating and mindfulness
- ◆ Neurological health in pediatric cancer survivors
- ◆ Fall prevention outreach
- ◆ Acupuncture for addiction
- ◆ Furthering parent education in the Head Start organization
- ◆ Health education for incarcerated youth
- ◆ Entrepreneurial health care – creating leaders in health reform

Project, Student and Advisor FAQs

The CSD website has lots of very useful information about the course, student expectations, and a number of detailed FAQs for students and faculty

Course website:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/Content.aspx?id=171698>

- ◆ Left navigation of site has:
 - links to Project , Student and Advisor FAQs
 - information on how to sign up to be an Advisor
- ◆ 40-50 page CSD Course Manual with lots of detailed information. Students are aware of this though may not go hunting...

Advisor FAQs

- ◆ Who can participate as a Capstone Faculty Project Advisor?
- ◆ I'm excited to serve as a Capstone project advisor for a *group* of students, but am now confused about the amount of time it will take. *Have I really agreed to advise two individual projects?*
- ◆ I have been asked by two students in the same graduating class to serve as advisor for their individual Capstone projects. I'm happy to work with them both – but need to be sure you are aware of the multiple students.
- ◆ What does it mean if a first or second year student asks me to become their "Capstone Scholarship & Discovery Advisor"?

Advisor FAQs

- ◆ What if a student I have not worked with asks me to be their "Capstone Scholarship & Discovery Project Advisor"?
- ◆ What if a student asks me to be their "CO-Capstone Scholarship & Discovery Project Advisor"?
- ◆ What times are available for students to work on their Capstone scholarly project?
- ◆ What is expected of students for their capstone project?
- ◆ How big is the project expected to be?
- ◆ Is this project expected to be something that is presentable at a regional meeting? A national meeting?

Question and (Hopefully) Answers

- ◆ Questions?

Contact Information

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