

UIC COM Service Learning Program (SLP)

The UIC-COM's [Service Learning Program](#) (SLP) is a unique learning opportunity offered by the Department of Family Medicine. This learning experience is the **M2 component** of the longitudinal [Patient-centered Medicine \(PCM\) Scholars Program](#) and is one of the options for the M2 Patient Care Experience (PCE) program.

Goal: The primary goal of the SLP is to enable students to apply key concepts of patient-centered care to underserved vulnerable populations. These concepts include understanding the patient as a whole person, developing an effective patient-provider relationship, establishing common ground for a working partnership, and incorporating health promotion and disease prevention. Students also will learn about effective programmatic and policy approaches, particularly the role of community agencies, to address the needs of at-risk vulnerable populations.

Program Concentrations: The overall program has six concentrations; the following four concentrations will be available for SLP in 2024-2025: Geriatrics, HIV/AIDS, Homelessness, and Intimate Partner Violence. Students are matched with one concentration area based on their preference.

Specific Objectives: For at-risk underserved populations, after participating in the SLP, students will be better able to:

- Help patients access health care services;
- Provide continuity of care;
- Elicit and take into account patients' needs, preferences, values and health beliefs;
- Work with community agencies to develop and implement workable solutions to patients' health-related problems; and,
- Help patients access and utilize health resources.

Key Learning Activities & Core Program Requirements: Under the guidance of faculty concentration leader(s), M2 SLP students will work closely with a community agency that serves a particular underserved population.

Each student will adopt at least one underserved patient from the community agency within their assigned concentration area (Geriatrics, HIV/AIDS, Homelessness or Intimate Partner Violence) and assist him/her to prioritize and address his/her most important health and well-being needs as well as assist him/her to access and utilize clinical care and services.

In addition to [sessions](#) with concentration leaders, M2 SLP students also will participate in [group patient education sessions](#) at their designated community site and in [discussion seminars](#), as well as an end-of-year Service Learning Showcase to discuss key ideas and strategies regarding patient-centered continuity of care for vulnerable and underserved populations.

NOTE: Due to COM curricular transformation, the SLP does not currently have an educational credit in IPC or DoCS Programs. Students will participate in arranged program seminars including orientation and showcase as well as additional community site activities as determined by their respective faculty concentration leaders.

Who can participate in the UIC COM's Service Learning Program? All incoming M2s are eligible to apply to the Program. Due to the limited number of students that can be accepted into the Program, first preference will be given to students who have completed the M1 component of the PCM Scholars Program. Students who

participated in the M1 PCM component and choose the SLP will automatically continue in the PCM Scholars Program.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Service Learning Program, please contact *Kanwal Haque*, (PCMProgram@uic.edu).

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the 2024-2025 all program learning activities will be online via **Zoom**. The course administration reserves the right to adjust the format of learning activities as the situation evolves.

Intent to Participate in M2 Service Learning Program

Students who would like to participate in the SLP for the 2024-2025 academic year [which will commence in Fall 2024] should submit their intent with concentration choice to (PCMProgram@uic.edu) by Friday, July 5, 2024. A Program Orientation Seminar will be held in the fall, exact date will be communicated.

Name: _____

Concentration Choice: please rank the concentration areas below in order of your preference [1 = first choice and 4 = last choice]

- ___ Geriatrics
- ___ HIV/AIDS
- ___ Homelessness
- ___ Intimate Partner Violence