

Fundamentals of Community Medicine Course
Topics in Health Sciences
Spring 2003

One can define community as a ***collective***, generally demarcated by geographic boundaries and/or identified using socio-economic or ethnic backgrounds. This course will use the framework of “collectivity” to study community medicine. Starting from recent social changes in medicine and health care reform efforts, students will begin to appreciate the fundamental concepts that are essential to the practice of community medicine. Students will be allowed to choose a community medical experience, with faculty guidance. This out of class experience would require approximately 5-10 hours over the course of the semester. During this time students will have the opportunity to work with medical staff and experience the various rewards and challenges present in the delivery of medical care in an urban, “safety net” environment.

This course is essentially a social science view of medicine, drawing heavily from the sociological and anthropological literature. Students should consult with their academic advisor if they plan to use this to satisfy any of the University’s general education requirements. Further questions may be directed to the faculty or staff located in School of Medicine and Health Sciences AHEC office.

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