

2023-2024

# *Community Engagement Partnerships Student Guide*



*Community Engagement Partnerships (CEP)  
2023 – 2024 Academic Year*

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### **A. Introduction to Community Engagement Partnerships**

Students in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program at the University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine are required to engage in community service activities during the first two years of the undergraduate medical school curriculum. Engagement with the community serves as a foundation for the application of social justice and social accountability principles to serve community needs. This Student Guide describes the requirements and expectations of the Community Engagement Partnership (CEP) program and the activities that constitute it. The CEP program is managed by the CEP committee, a group of faculty, staff, and administrators at the UIWSOM.

CEP Committee 2023-2024

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Dr. Steve Mifflin	CEP Director and Co-Chair
Dr. TimMarie C. Williams	Co-Chair
Dr. John Seidenfeld	Member
Dr. Amanda Galan-Davila	Member
Dr. Karen Jaceldo-Siegl	Member
Ms. Dawn Field	Member
Mr. Adam Zuniga	CEP Coordinator

### **B. Mission and Vision of Community Engagement Partnerships**

The mission of the CEP flows from the mission of the UIWSOM to empower all members of the medical education community to develop a commitment to lifelong learning through excellence in student-centered, patient-focused education, justice-based service and research, and meaningful partnerships of osteopathic clinical service.

Our vision is to develop learning communities with the ability to impact civic engagement, education, health, and health care locally and globally.

### **C. Objectives of Community Engagement Partnerships**

UIWSOM medical students will interact with the community to increase their awareness of social determinants of health and health inequities and the risk factors of health disparity across the life span. With a focus on self-reliance, medical students will partner with different organizations and agencies within Bexar County, particularly in San Antonio city council districts 2 and 3, allowing medical students to work collaboratively with families, community organizations, and health providers to improve health outcomes, decrease health disparities, promote community responsive care, and identify reasonable approaches for these goals.

UIWSOM is developing partnerships with area schools and community organizations serving the underserved in San Antonio to provide opportunities for medical students to better understand some of the health care needs of the local community and to interact with and serve people in the community. These community engagement partnerships are established via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the organization and UIWSOM. The MOU describes the responsibilities and expectations of each member of the partnership. These MOUs are developed by the CEP committee and approved by the Dean of the UIWSOM.

#### **D. The Track System**

At the beginning of the first and second years, students will be asked to identify with a track. The tracks have been derived from the medical specialties defined by the American Board of Medical Specialties and are designed to aid students in developing engagement activities specific to their interests and to assist in their goal to match with a Graduate Medical Education program.

The track system provides a way for students to document their interest in a specialty at an early stage in their career. For any students who have not decided on a specialty, there is a selection for “Undecided”. The Office of Development will provide information to participants in a track regarding the expectations of residency directors and other factors to consider when deciding upon a residency match.

The track system provides a framework for developing engagement activities for students with specific interests. The tracks mirror many of the SOM student government organizations and the CEP committee and student organizations will work together to develop, publicize, recruit students, and document their participation in engagement activities. The CEP provides an administrative structure to assist in all these aspects of engagement activities.



Word cloud of responses of Class of 2026 to track survey

#### **E. Community Engagement Partnership Requirements**

Medical students will participate in events to fulfill their CEP requirements. **The CEP requirements are as follows:**

- Participate in 24 hours of community engagement activities, beginning with the class of 2027. These hours are a requirement for graduation and may be completed in a manner that best suits the schedule of the student. For example, a student may complete 12 hours during each year or another combination. If necessary, engagement hours can be earned during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years to give a total of 24 hours.
- The Class of 2026 will be expected to complete 12 hours of service for graduation.
- Students who perform significantly more than 24 hours service during their 4 years (>48 hours) will receive a certificate for Outstanding Community Engagement.

- The CEP committee will encourage and facilitate the development of activities by student organizations and clubs. It is hoped that student organizations will help develop community engagement activities of interest to specific tracks.

Students who perform significantly more than 24 hours service during their 4 years (48 hours) will receive a certificate for Outstanding Community Engagement which will be mentioned in the Dean's Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) letter.

### **F. Using the Engage/GivePulse App to Find and Enroll in Community Engagement Activities**

UIWSOM utilizes the GivePulse platform to list and manage service opportunities. GivePulse acts as a hub that connects students with community partners. This platform assists with discovering opportunities, tracking your service hours, and submitting post-event reflections (when applicable). In addition, your service impact is connected to Banner and DegreeWorks, giving you a more complete record of your service impact.

Sign up for activities: Students can search for opportunities and sign-up for activities using the Community Engagement Partnership GivePulse page:

<https://uiw.givepulse.com/group/866724-Community-Engagement-Partnership>

Log your service: After an event, verify your participation and log your service hours using the GivePulse platform. Your participation is termed an "impact".

1. Log in to the IMPACT page for the CEP:  
[https://uiw.givepulse.com/impact/add?group\\_id=866724](https://uiw.givepulse.com/impact/add?group_id=866724)
2. Choose the event: Go to the drop-down menu labeled: "Did you attend a listed event or volunteer opportunity?" Be sure to select the correct event and date (there may be more than one).
3. Add participation information: Provide number of hours you participated (if applicable), and provide reflection, feedback, and rating.
4. Make it public: Under "Sharing and Privacy Settings" search for "School of Osteopathic Medicine" and select. Under privacy, make your impact public (otherwise we can't share with Degreeworks and Banner). Now click "Update Impact." You are done! Repeat this for each impact.
5. Verify your impact: Check to see that your impact is visible on your profile page. Note: it takes at least 24 hours for your entry to transfer to DegreeWorks and Banner.

### **G. Developing Community Engagement Activities: A Role for Student Organizations**

The CEP committee will encourage and facilitate the development of activities by student organizations and clubs. It is hoped that student organizations will help develop community engagement activities that have interest for specific tracks. When developing a new activity, please be aware that due to liability concerns, **“clinical” activities require clinician oversight.** Such activities include, but are not limited to, vaccine drives, athletic physicals, measurements of blood pressure. Our MOU template includes a statement that “UIWSOM students are not to

examine, diagnose, treat, or provide individual clinical advice during any experiences or programs without clinician oversight.”

UIWSOM students may volunteer for activities outside of the CEP program. Prior to the event, the student should contact the CEP Coordinator to ensure that the activity is approved, and that the student receives credit for the activity.

## **H. General Professionalism Guidelines for all Community Engagement Activities**

Remember that in any activity, you are not only representing yourself as a medical professional in training but are also representing UIWSOM and UIW. For details regarding the expectations for professional conduct and attire please reference the UIWSOM Student Handbook section on “Student Professionalism and Ethical Expectations” [https://osteopathic-medicine.uiw.edu/\\_docs/student-handbook/osteopathic-student-handbook-22-23.pdf](https://osteopathic-medicine.uiw.edu/_docs/student-handbook/osteopathic-student-handbook-22-23.pdf).

## **I. Community Engagement Activities: Southside Independent School District**

UIWSOM has partnered with our close neighbor, the Southside ISD, since the founding of the SOM. Southside ISD serves 5,900 students and 900 employees and is comprised of one early childhood, four elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and one early college program.

### **I.a. Assist School Nurse: Hearing and vision testing**

UIWSOM medical students will have the opportunity to assist school nurses in elementary, middle, and high schools located in neighboring school districts. These environments could include alternative school programs that may meet the specific needs of K-12 students.

Before meeting with a school nurse, UIWSOM medical students should:

1. Visit the [National Association of School Nurses](#) (NASN) website.
2. Read the NASN strategic goals.
3. Identify the NASN educational initiative programs.
4. Describe available resources for school nurses.

### **I.b. Mentoring Activities**

For high school students, having an osteopathic medical student who serves as a mentor can be a valuable resource on their education journey. According to the American Academy of Family Practice (2019), mentoring relationships are particularly important for minority students or students who want to enter a health care profession and have no other guidance.

According to the American Academy of Family Practice (2019), mentoring happens in both a formal and informal setting. Some schools offer formal mentoring programs, special projects, or networking. More informal mechanisms may include leadership opportunities and special interest mentoring. African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans makeup nearly a quarter of the U.S population today and are expected to make up a third of the population within 30 years. According to the American Academy of Family Practice (2019), only seven percent of physicians and six percent of medical school faculty members are from one of these underrepresented groups.

During the mentoring experience, UIWSOM students will be paired with high school students to

engage in a mentoring process. Students will mentor high school students to assist in identifying, visualizing, and fulfilling their educational goals, such as becoming future physicians, nurses, medical assistants, emergency medical techs, or various other health care professionals.

#### I.c. STEAM Clubs

UIWSOM students will also have the opportunity to mentor students as part of the SISD STEAM Club Program. Examples of STEAM Clubs include: Academic competitions in UIL and Discovery/Imagination, Folklorico/Dance/Estudiantina, Garden Club, Chess/Board Games, 3D Print Club. Students may initiate a new STEAM Club that they are interested in or passionate about. The district would be very grateful to have SOM students speak of their journey to medical school to encourage and motivate the SISD students.

#### I.d. SISD Food Bank

The SISD also holds a food drive at the SISD campus on selected Saturdays. There are opportunities for UIWSOM students to participate in the preparation and distribution of groceries to area families. Please check at GivePulse to see the dates and sign up.

### **I. Community Engagement Activities: Opportunity Home San Antonio**

A partnership with Opportunity Home San Antonio is currently active. Initial involvement will include a needs assessment, coordinated in conjunction with UIWSOM MPH Program.

Partnership pending evolution and may include scholarly projects, health seminars, volunteer events, health fairs, and much more.

#### About Opportunity Home San Antonio

UIWSOM medical students are intended to have the opportunity to meet and work with families within the community, such as through interactions fostered by our Community Engagement Partnership with Opportunity Home San Antonio, which operates public housing properties for low-income individuals and families.

According to Healthy People 2020, health and quality of life rely on many community systems and factors, not simply on a well-functioning health and medical care system. Making changes within existing systems, such as improving school health programs and policies, can effectively improve the health of many in the community. For the health of a community to improve, its members must often change aspects of the physical, social, organizational, and even political environments. These changes might include: (1) Instituting new programs, policies, and practices, (2) changing aspects of the physical or organizational infrastructure, and (3) changing community attitudes, beliefs, or social norms.

Opportunity Home San Antonio provides quality affordable housing that is well integrated into the fabric of neighborhoods and serves as a foundation to improve lives and advance resident independence.

#### **Opportunity Home strategic goals are to:**

1. Empower and equip families to improve their quality of life and achieve economic stability.
2. Invest in our greatest resource – our employees – and establish a track record for integrity, accountability, collaboration, and strong customer service.

3. Preserve and improve existing affordable housing resources and opportunities.
4. Strategically expand the supply of affordable housing.
5. Transform core operations to be a high performing and financially strong organization.
6. Develop a local and national reputation for being an effective leader, partner, and advocate for affordable housing and its residents.

Opportunity Home San Antonio provides homes for approximately 27,000 families throughout the city of San Antonio. They provide housing through public housing, Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), and mixed-income housing programs. UIWSOM students will work in selected District 2 and 3 properties that house older and disabled adults. Our initial goal is to complete a needs assessment survey at the different properties to determine the issues of greatest concern to the residents.