

The Educated Citizen and Public Health Connecting the Pieces

Association of American Colleges & Universities

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Educated Citizen and Public Health

- Initiative designed for all students as part of LEAP
- Core curricula designed as part of general education to satisfy distribution requirements
- Minors in Public Health complement range of science, social science and humanities majors

Connections

- Medical Education
- Public Health Education
- National Health Agenda – Healthy People 2020
- Institute of Medicine of National Academies-
“Education for Health” agenda

Contributions of Undergraduate Public Health to Medical Education

- Better fit between interest & abilities and career choices
- Better preparation for learning evidence-based medicine
- Better appreciate of the larger context of clinical experience

Better Fit Between Interest & Abilities and Career Choices

- Undergraduate public health can introduce students to a range of health related career options
- May result in more informed choices by students and greater understanding of the implications of their choices

Better preparation for learning evidence-based medicine

- Evidence-based public health is based upon similar principles to evidence-based medicine both require understanding of study design and skills in literature reading
- Move to 4-year view of medical school education coupled with undergraduate preparation may enable medical schools to achieve a coherent curriculum in evidence-based medicine

Better appreciation of the larger context of Clinical Experiences

- Students should come to medical education with basic understanding of U.S. health care system, roles of health professions, and relationships to public health.
- Specific clinical experiences may the be viewed in larger context with greater appreciation of the strengths and limitations of the U.S. system

What will Students bring to Medical School?

- Critical thinking skills including:
 - Broadly framing options for intervention
 - Critically analyzing data
 - Appreciating uncertainties that remain
- Ready for self-directed learning in general and PBL in particular

Connecting Undergraduate Public Health with Medical Education

- **Develop competencies for medical school preparation that include population health/ population sciences and behavioral sciences**
- **Encourage undergraduate evidence-based public health to provide the foundation for a four-year medical curriculum in evidence-based medicine**

Public Health Schools and Programs

- Majority of 40 accredited Schools and 60 accredited Programs now offer public health minors and/or majors
- Schools of Public Health have encouraged core courses and carefully designed minors in colleges and Universities without Schools or Programs in public health

Public Health Schools and Programs

Emerging Issues

- Bachelors-Masters 5-year Programs are developing within institutions and between institutions
- Articulation of undergraduate and graduate course work is under active review by Schools and Programs

American Public Health Association

- APHA Education Committee is encouraging development of undergraduate public health curriculum
- State affiliates are participating with AAC&U in connecting public health practitioners with local colleges and universities

Healthy People 2020

- Healthy People sets national health goals
- Currently considering “Education for Health” framework as educational framework for Healthy People 2020
- Objective for undergraduate public health education will be considered in 2009

IOM Roundtable- Next Step

- IOM/NAS has recently approved an Undergraduate Public Health Roundtable to bring together arts and sciences, public health, and health professions educational organizations
- May serve as a forum for discussing strategies and best practices for connecting undergraduate public health with health professions education