Course Information for AY16-17

FCM-414: Family and Community Medicine: Primary Care Research

Course Type: Research (RSE)
Elective Type: SLUSOM Elective

Special Course Instructions:
- Course can be spread out over six weeks to accommodate schedules of M3 and M4 enrollees (e.g., interviews).
- Meet with Director of Research, Department of Family and Community Medicine at least two weeks before first day of course to: (a) develop individual learning plan, (b) identify which primary care research projects would interest student, and (c) address spreading out course over six weeks, if needed.

Course Coordinator:
Laura Grentz-Dolan, MS, Program Coordinator
Family and Community Medicine
O'Donnell Hall, 2nd Floor
1320 South Grand Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 977-8492
lgrentzd@slu.edu

Course Director:
Jeffrey Scherrer, PhD, Director of Research
Department of Family and Community Medicine
O'Donnell Hall, 2nd Floor
1320 South Grand Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104
314-977-8486
scherrjf@slu.edu

Course Description:
This elective course offers medical students: (a) direct hands-on experience in primary care research, and (b) didactic training in clinical research methods. Each student will be matched with a faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and will participate in the conduct of clinical research. Structured didactic training will be offered that focuses on clinical research methods (study designs, sample selection, measures, and statistical analyses) and research proposal development. The course provides an opportunity for medical students to learn how primary care research is conducted in practice and how to use research methods to answer important questions in clinical practice.

Objectives:
The learning objectives for students in this course include:

- To gain direct hands-on experience in conducting primary care research.
- To demonstrate an understanding of the most common research methods used in primary care.
- To write a measurable clinical research question and describe the research methods that will best answer this question.
- To identify own area of research interest in primary care.

Student Responsibilities:
Actively participate in primary care research activities, contribute to small group discussions and attend didactic training sessions

Educational Methods:
Hands-on research experience, didactic training, small group discussions, independent readings

Evaluation Methods:
Written paper proposing a study using research methods that will answer a clinical research question in primary care.

Student Experiences:
The student's areas of interest in primary care will help individualize their hands-on participation in primary care research. Examples of current research projects in the department include
patient-centered medical care, health behavior change, alcohol use, probiotic use, poverty, PTSD, patient preferences in primary care and violence in the workplace. Involvement in research project could extend beyond this course, if agreeable to principal investigator of study. Research: 100%.

**Night call:** No

**Report to on first day**
Report to Dr. Scherrer O'Donnell Hall (2nd Floor)

**Course Sites**
Family and Community Medicine Department
1320 South Grand Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104
O'Donnell Hall, 2nd floor

**Course Duration**
3 Weeks

**Credits (count toward graduation requirements)**
3

**Availability for SLU students**
Number accepted: minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3

Available to M3 in periods 306, 307 and 309, 310

Available to M4 in periods 306, 307 and 309, 310

**Availability for Visiting students**
This elective is not available for visiting students.

**To Add/Drop after restriction days**
The Phase 3 Schedule Change form can be obtained in the Academic Records Office (LRC 101). You must complete the form, obtain the necessary departmental signatures, and return the form to the Academic Records Office at least 30 days before the course you are dropping or adding begins. This may seem like a long time, but it is very important for departments to have accurate knowledge of the students in their courses so that faculty and resources are ready.

Contact Therese Heidemann (slumeded@slu.edu) or Jennifer Greathouse (slumeded@slu.edu) in the Office of Curricular Affairs for more information.