

# Elective: Special Topics in Population and Public Health

## **OVERVIEW:**

This elective will provide an opportunity for students to choose a population health issue and explore the issue in depth to gain a better understanding of how the determinants of health play a role in its propagation. Under the supervision of Dr. Casaclang, this elective will be largely student-directed and will involve a combination of independent study and consultation with experts (as possible). The specific schedule for the elective will be developed in consultation with Dr. Casaclang. At the conclusion of the elective, the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge by identifying and advocating for interventions to address this health issue through oral or written media.

## **AVAILABILITY:**

This elective is available during elective periods for Canadian Medical schools. Elective duration is a minimum of 2 weeks.

## **Call responsibility**

No call is required.

## **Contacts**

Dr. Natalie Casaclang,  
Director of Population Health Curriculum,  
Undergraduate Medical Education  
Email: [Natalie.Casaclang@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Natalie.Casaclang@umanitoba.ca)

Administrative support:  
Ms. Ceilidh Miller,  
CHS UGME Office Assistant,  
Email: [CHSUGME@umanitoba.ca](mailto:CHSUGME@umanitoba.ca)

## **Objectives**

- Scholar/health advocate
  - Develop a deep understanding of a population health issue through reading situational/epidemiology reports and/or conducting key informant interview(s)
  - Conduct a literature review to identify individual/community/population level interventions to address the population health issue of focus
- Communicator
  - Present a summary of review findings through a variety of written or oral media

## **Elective Prerequisites**

- Successful completion of PH1 and PH2 including successful completion of Service Learning
- Successful completion of the Public Health rotation in year 3
- Successful completion of the Physician Development Curriculum: Advocacy Series in year 3
- As part of the elective application process, submission of a brief statement (max ~500 words) of why the student is interested in taking the elective, their priority choices for topic(s) they would wish to explore, and their preliminary ideas of how they would approach learning more about their topic.

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This statement should be submitted to [CHSUGME@umanitoba.ca](mailto:CHSUGME@umanitoba.ca) in addition to the student submitting an elective application on Entrada.

## Study Elective Experience Outline

- After the elective has been approved on Entrada, and before the elective begins, meet with Dr. Casaclang to discuss choice of population health topic for study elective.
- The student can choose one out of the menu of topics.
  - a. E-cigarette/vaping use
  - b. Alcohol/substance use
  - c. Climate change
  - d. Priority populations (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQ+, people experiencing homelessness, immigrants/refugees etc.)
  - e. Sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs)
  - f. Emerging public health issues (e.g., COVID)
- Read required resources on population health topic of choice.
- Conduct a literature review/key informant interview(s) to gain understanding of the topic and to identify interventions.
- The literature review could include a combination of academic/peer-reviewed sources and grey literature (e.g., policy briefs, position statements, blogs etc.)
- Meet with Dr. Casaclang for a mid-elective review and report on progress.
- Submit assignment at the end of the elective
- For their final assignment, the student can choose one out of the menu of assignment formats.
  - a. Written essay summarizing review findings (approximately 1000 words, minimum 3 references)
  - b. Op-ed for a newspaper on the topic and recommended interventions (approximately 1000 words, minimum 3 references)
  - c. Briefing note to the Minister of Health
  - d. 5-10 minute podcast
  - e. 5-10 minute voiceover slides lecture

## Referencing guidelines

APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition