College of Community Health Sciences

The College of Community Health Sciences is a community-based campus of The University of Alabama School of Medicine, providing an additional site for the training of medical students during the clinical years. All medical students complete phase I of the medical training program on the Birmingham campus. Upon completion of phases II and III (the third and fourth years of clinical training) through any of the three campus systems, a student is awarded the doctor of medicine (MD) degree from The University of Alabama School of Medicine.

A major education program of the college entails providing the last two years of clinical training for a portion of the medical students enrolled at The University of Alabama School of Medicine. The college’s resources are used to contribute to the education of the “undifferentiated physician,” one who is competent at the basic level in all the traditional clinical disciplines and whose education is enriched by an orientation toward and skill in primary care and community medicine.

Each medical student who receives part or all of the required clinical training in Tuscaloosa is enrolled in and receives the MD degree from The University of Alabama School of Medicine. Thus, clinical clerkships and electives must meet or exceed the minimum standards set by the appropriate faculty committees of The University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Objectives

The primary responsibility of the educational programs of the College of Community Health Sciences is to contribute to the improvement of health care in Alabama, emphasizing small towns and rural areas. The programs of the College are designed to increase the accessibility and availability of health care and to improve its quality.

The College of Community Health Sciences is charged with the responsibility of:

• Providing the last two years of clinical training for a portion of the medical students enrolled in the University of Alabama School of Medicine.
• Operating a family practice residency program based in Tuscaloosa.
• Making expertise in the medical and health sciences available to existing educational programs on campus, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
• Working with The University of Alabama School of Medicine to integrate the programs and operations of the medical program with the non-medical aspects of health care delivery.
• Providing training sites and internships for students in social work, nursing, health care management, pharmacy, clinical dietetics and health education.

In addition to its medical education programs, the College of Community Health Sciences offers courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels for students pursuing degrees at The University of Alabama. Coursework at the graduate level represents opportunities for graduate students to undertake study in some area of medicine or the health sciences that relates to their formal course of study, thereby providing a means for broadening and enriching their graduate work by relating it to health, health care and the health care delivery system.

Family Practice Residency Program

The College’s Family Practice Residency Program was approved in September 1973, and the first resident was accepted in January 1974. The college is committed to producing family physicians capable of providing continuing, comprehensive, family-centered care for their patients. Through the educational programs of its family practice residency, the college fosters the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create outstanding physicians who will deliver high-quality patient care. This key mission has the resources and support of the entire college dedicated to its accomplishment.

Initiatives have been developed to further enhance opportunities for the college to fulfill its mission of increasing accessibility, availability and quality of health care to Alabama’s citizens.

Rural Health Scholars Program

The Rural Health Scholars Program was created to give high-school students from rural backgrounds and who are interested in becoming health professionals a head start in the college preparation they will need for admission to all health professional schools.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program was created to prepare 10 outstanding rural scholars each year for family medicine or primary care practice in Alabama. Scholars enroll in preparatory courses at UA and, upon completion of their studies, must meet requirements for admission to medical school. Students matriculate two years at UAB for the basic medical sciences component of their curricula and return to Tuscaloosa to CCHS for the clinical clerkship years, where they will be involved in special medical experiences that include rural preceptorships. The following certificate program is offered for Rural Medical Scholars only. For more information regarding this program, please contact Dr. James Leeper, Professor and Director of Educational Programs; Department of Community and Rural Medicine; (205) 348-1355; jleeper@cchs.ua.edu .

Faculty

Administrative Officers
Ulzen, Thaddeus, Interim Dean, Associate Dean UASOM-Tuscaloosa Campus, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs-CCHS
Higginbotham, John C., Associate Dean for Research & Health Policy
Cockrum, Elizabeth L., Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Alexander, Chelley K., Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Evans, Ashely, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education
Taylor, Michael A., Assistant Dean for Information Technology
Maxwell, John B., Jr., Chief Administrative Officer & Director of UA Student Health
Arendale, Allison H., Director of Financial Affairs
Murphy, Pat A., Registrar, TERM Director

Department Chairs
Alexander, Chelley - Family Medicine
Avery, Daniel M. - Obstetrics and Gynecology
Higginbotham, John C. - Community & Rural Medicine
Sundar, Vijaya - Internal Medicine
Taylor, Micheal - Pediatrics
Ulzen, Thaddeus - Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine
Wallace, Joseph C., Surgery

Professors
Avery, Daniel
Blum, Alan, Wallace Endowed Chair
Cockrum, Elizabeth
Leeper, James D.
Ireland, Robert B.
McKnight, Jerry T.
Ulzen, Thaddeus
Wheat, John R.

Associate Professor
Arnold, Scott
Evans, Ashley
Garner, Margaret P.
Rubin, Nancy J.
Sheppard, Robert A.
Slaughter, Robert
Sundar, Vijaya
Taylor, Michael A.
Waits, John
Wallace, Joseph C.

Assistant Professor
Alexander, Chelley K.
Arnold, Susan
Taylor, Heather
Burgess, Karen B.
Daly, Sandra
Foster, Pamela
Fulgham, Scott

The University of Alabama
Courses

CHS 101. Emergency Medical Services I. 3 sem. hrs.

CHS 155. Freshman Seminar. 3.00 sem. hrs.

Courses

CHS 101. Emergency Medical Services I. 3 sem. hrs.

Freshman Seminars provide an opportunity for faculty members in the College of Community Health Sciences to engage with a small group of students (limited to no more than 20 students) in the context of a subject related to medicine or health related topics that is personally and professionally meaningful. The structure of the freshman seminar allows for flexibility in instructional methods.

CHS 200. Health & Wellness Advocacy. 3 sem. hrs.

Education and training in core peer education skills preparing for certification as Peer Educator (CPE). Health and wellness education targeted to college age in: alcohol/substance use, tobacco, stress, nutrition/fitness, eating disorders, financial management, sexual health/healthy relationships.


This course will explore multiple aspects of weight management through a holistic health approach. Components of nutrition, stress management, physical activity principles and techniques within an ecological framework will be emphasized.

CHS 222. Community Clinical Proc. 3 sem. hrs.

A combination of scheduled sessions and fieldwork. Field work includes visiting with assigned rural advisor, completing a rural community assessment, and assisting with community health screenings and education programs.

CHS 223. Indep Stdy Community Med. 1-6 sem. hr.

An individual learning experience that involves the student in documentation of, evaluation of, and/or strategic planning for solving a community health problem.

CHS 225. Biostatistics. 3 sem. hrs.

Statistical methods and concepts particularly appropriate for biomedical research and health-related subjects.

CHS 227. Health Policy & Planning. 3 sem. hrs.

A problem-based learning seminar that introduces the student to the field of health policy and planning.


Continuation of studies from CHS 222, including introduction to basic physical assessment techniques and continuation of a community project.

CHS 242. Practical Issues Behav Medicin. 3 sem. hrs.

Lectures and readings will examine behaviors that compromise overall health status (eg, tobacco use, noncompliance) and behavioral aspects of specific medical conditions (eg, heart disease, cancer, pain). Topics will include bioethics, racial/ethnic disparities and rural mental health issues. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

CHS 490. Clincal Correlations in Biochem. 3 sem. hrs.

The purpose of this course is to study biochemical principles in a clinical context and to observe the process of medical information assembly and reasoning in clinical care.