DISTINCTION IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY PROJECT
PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Application Deadline: Rolling

Purpose and Overview:

Service learning is a well-established educational approach that can very profoundly influence the educational and professional development of students. It combines service activities with academic activities and often consists of planning activities, service, and reflection on what was learned through service and how service contributed to that learning.

Service to the community is a core value of Mercer University and Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM). Many MUSM students participate in service activities. The Distinction in Service to the Community (DISC) program will enrich the benefits of these service activities by adding an academic component. It will also allow MUSM students to be recognized for their commitment to community service. Finally, it will strengthen connections between MUSM, its students, and the community.

The DISC program is a partnership between MUSM students, faculty, and administration. Students who are committed to improving health care and health outcomes, eliminating health disparities, and serving their communities are ideal candidates for the DISC program. Students who fulfill the requirements of the DISC program will be acknowledged at graduation with “Distinction in Service to the Community.”

Projects will be based on student-identified community and population health needs. MUSM faculty and students will team with community partners and share responsibility and ownership of these projects. Students will assume a significant level of responsibility in the collaborative planning, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of a focused community service project.

This application is intended to serve as a DISC project proposal for students who are interested in the DISC program. The purpose of this application is to:

1. Ensure alignment of the project with those of Mercer School of Medicine.
2. Ensure supervision of activities to maximize benefits to those served by the project, our community partners and our students.
3. Provide a mechanism for Mercer University School of Medicine to recognize student(s) for community involvement.

Steps for applying:

1. Complete the application form and submit the application to Jennifer Boryk (boryk_jm@mercer.edu)
2. You will be advised when your project will be reviewed by the DISC Committee
   a. You must be present at the review
   b. You will receive feedback from the committee
   c. You may be asked to revise your original proposal and resubmit it
   d. After the project is approved, you may begin the service learning project at your organization
To be completed by applicant(s):

Application Date: __3/7/14________

1. Student name/names that are submitting the proposal

   Primary Contact: _____Ms. Immaculate Fernandes______________

   Campus: _____Macon Campus______________

   Email: ___Immaculate.Fernandes@yahoo.com__ Phone: ____229-343-0284___

   Additional Contacts: __________________________________________

   Campus: _____________________________________________________

   Email: ___________________________________ Phone: _____________________

   Additional Contacts: _____________________________________________

   Campus: ________________________________________________

   Email: ___________________________________ Phone: _____________________

2. What is the name of your proposed project?

   The name of the proposed project is “Developing a Screening Program” for Daybreak Participants.

3. What is the proposed start date of your project?

   This is a new service project with Daybreak started in Oct. 2013. Currently, I have what I feel is sufficient time to meet the goals of the project. My hope is to keep this service project alive after I graduate. A thought that has crossed my mind is how to get more students involved. I have discussed the project with other students who have expressed interest. I am in the process of bringing another student onboard for this service project.

   _____  Single event
   __X__  Reoccurring event (How often will your event take place?)

   I volunteer at Daybreak every other week since Oct. 2013.

Please answer the questions below on a separate sheet and attach:

4. What organization are you partnering with for your service project? Who is the primary contact at the organization?
For my service project I am partnering with a homeless day shelter, Daybreak, in Macon, GA. The primary contact is Sr. Elizabeth Greim the Program Director.

5. Please give a description of your project, highlighting your objectives and include the overarching mission of the involved students, as well as your methods of implementation and the expected outcomes.

I planned to volunteer at Daybreak and arranged a meeting with Sr. Elizabeth Greim, the Program Director at Daybreak in September 2013. Volunteers are valued members of Daybreak and provide services depending on each volunteer’s availability and abilities. Since I am a medical student, Sr. Elizabeth asked if I could provide the homeless with basic medical services such as blood pressure measurements and blood sugar measurements. We also discussed developing protocols for these measurements and creating a database to provide guidance using patient history. I plan to develop the majority of the protocol myself. However, I will interact with my faculty advisor for her guidance and input as well as other medical professionals who have developed similar protocol. Often while serving the patients, I supplement education on the significance of the numbers and how to achieve and sustain a healthier lifestyle. Sometimes, I provide information to their questions and concerns for their prescribed medications. Due to the limited clinic hours (6 hours per week), many participants experience constraints to schedule appointments. I also refer them to the clinic if I find something more serious. Many of the participants at Daybreak do not utilize the clinic for a variety of reasons. Hence, my project goal is developing a screening program.

6. Describe the target population.

Following a March 2011 meeting, Macon, GA citizens announced their goal to develop a center for the homeless and corroborate with Depaul USA. In April 2011, Depaul USA received a grant from the Daughters of Charity. This resulted in laying the bricks for Daybreak on Walnut Street in Macon, GA. Daybreak has been operational since January 2013 and as the name suggests provides services during the day only and is not an overnight shelter. It provides Macon’s homeless population with vital resources such as a place to shower or do laundry. In its first year of operation Daybreak served over one thousand people.

7. How was the need for this project determined? Was a needs assessment completed?

Since I am a medical student, Sr. Elizabeth stated her mission to have better health care for Daybreak participants. She asked if I could provide the homeless by developing a screening program which includes blood pressure measurements and blood sugar measurements via random blood sugar measurements. The supplies for these measurements were donations received by Daybreak. I can also ask the medical clinic staff if I need additional help. We also discussed developing protocols for these measurements and creating a database to provide
guidance using patient history. The project needs were assessed and established by Sr. Elizabeth Greim.

Additionally, right now I am primarily focused on screening for blood pressure and blood glucose as a volunteer per the request of the Daybreak Program Director. The blood pressure screening was a primary need and concern for Daybreak participants. I always identify myself to Daybreak participants as a medical student and not a doctor. At the direction of Daybreak Program Director, if I find something that the patient needs medically addressed then I should refer them to the Daybreak clinic. Daybreak has a doctor as needed for some services, whom I can report to or ask questions if needed. I have filled the necessary paperwork as required by Daybreak.

8. Who is your faculty advisor?

My faculty advisor for the DISC project is Dr. Sandra Leeper-Woodford.