

Distinction Program Information

Distinction Program Name: Distinction in Service- Limited English Proficiency (DS-LEP) Track

Faculty Lead: Dr. Ana Natale-Pereira and Dr. Vivian Cueto

Email Addresses: natalean@njms.rutgers.edu vgc21@njms.rutgers.edu

Application Deadline and Requirements

Year 1: December 15th

Please note: Only first year students may enter the program. Applications submitted after the deadline may not be considered. The program will accept no more than 20 students per year.

Program Description

The DS-LEP track will prepare students with enhanced training and skills in providing quality primary care for individuals with LEP. Students will attend didactic sessions on working with LEP patients and complete a 2-week clinical experience with LEP patients. Additionally, students will be expected to participate in a language immersion program and gain a certificate in medical interpretation. Through these efforts students will learn best practices for working with LEP patients, develop advocacy skills, and learn to assess health literacy. Students will apply those lessons through both a longitude research project and the creation and execution of a peer-to-peer workshop on improving care for LEP patients.

Goals and Objectives

Goal:

The goal of DS-LEP is increase access to quality primary care for individuals with LEP, and ultimately improve outcomes.

Objectives:

1. Understand the systems that support care for historically marginalized and underserved LEP communities.
2. Mastery of the content that represents best practices in medical care and service for LEP patients.
3. Develop a longitudinal project aimed at improving health access and care for LEP patients.
4. Create instructional content aimed at enhancing medical student knowledge pertaining to culturally and linguistically appropriate care for patients with LEP.

Program Requirements

Medical School: Year 1
Participate in a Didactic Seminar Series
Complete a Medical Translation and Interpreting Seminar
Complete a 2 Week Mentored Clinical experience with LEP patients during Summer before 2 nd year.
Develop a mentored longitudinal project focused on LEP patients
Submit a mentor-approved timeline for the successful completion of the longitudinal project
Provide a presentation on Summer Experience

Medical School: Year 2
Participate in a Didactic Seminar Series
Make adequate progress on the approved longitudinal project focused on LEP patients
Share best practices for working with the LEP community with student organizations and CESL projects
Submit a mentor-approved project update
Medical School: Year 3
Participate in a Didactic Seminar Series
Make adequate progress on the approved longitudinal project focused on LEP patients
Develop a peer-to-peer workshop intended to train medical students in serving LEP populations.
Submit a mentor-approved project update
Medical School: Year 4
Participate in a Didactic Seminar Series
Provide a peer-to-peer workshop intended to train medical students in serving LEP populations
Complete longitudinal project
Disseminate project findings through scholarly publications and presentations at national conferences
Present project at the NJMS Annual Distinction Program Meeting

Longitudinal Project Overview

Distinction in Service students must contribute to and advance an understanding of service through scholarship through the dissemination of best practices and data-driven evidence derived from their projects.

Specifically, students **must**:

1. Develop a Longitudinal Project related to improving access, outcomes, and/or advocacy of LEP patients.
2. Use data to evaluate the specific aims of the project and provide evidence for results. Please note, assessments may employ quantitative or qualitative methods.
3. Disseminate findings by submitting both:
 - a. An abstract for a poster or presentation at a national conference
 - b. An academic article to a peer-reviewed journal
4. Present project at the NJMS Annual Distinction Program Meeting

Please note: Students are expected to work independently, with their mentor, on the longitudinal project. Projects involving two or more students will not be accepted for this program.

Peer-to-Peer Workshop

DS-LEP students will develop and implement a peer-to-peer educational workshop with the goal of educating their fellow medical students on culturally and linguistically appropriate care for patients with LEP.

1. DS-LEP students may work in pairs to complete the workshop.
2. Groups may not exceed two members.
3. Workshops must be completed by March of a student's fourth year.