

Distinction Program Information

Distinction Program Name:		Distinction in Service	
Faculty Lead:	Dr. Maria Soto-Greene and Dr. Ana Natale-Pereira	Email Address:	padillmn@njms.rutgers.edu

Application Deadline and Requirements:
<p>Year 1: March 1</p> <p>Year 2: October 24 (note student must already be involved in a project related to this distinction)</p>

Program Description: ~ 250 words max
<p>In the Distinction in Service Program, students will further their understanding and experience of community-engaged service learning by working with community-based organizations, and social service agencies to name a few, in efforts to promote health equity and better health outcomes. Service learning experiences offer an invaluable opportunity for students to develop core skills in cultural tailored care, health education, patient advocacy, and community engaged research and evaluation that will help them develop as future leaders in the communities they serve.</p>

Goals & Objectives:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mastery of the content that represents current practices in service. 2. Development of a longitudinal portfolio which tracks activities and progress and includes a research project on a particular public health or service affecting the targeted community. 3. Understanding the systems that support care for historically marginalized and underserved communities. 4. Development of instructional content and/or assessment tools that address the needs of the community.

Program Requirements:
<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a summer experience and commence work on approved project • Written Progress Report for summer experience <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didactic sessions/Journal Club (once a month) • Leadership role in Distinction related student organizations or activities • Volunteer work <p>Year 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection of Distinction concentration within the context of clinical experiences in 3rd year (minimum of 3 clerkships) <p>Year 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentorship of junior medical students • Final portfolio and capstone presentation



Capstone Project Overview:

The research and scholarship requirement of the Distinction in Service program is to allow the students to contribute to and advance an understanding of service through scholarship.

To satisfy the requirement, the participant's project should fulfill the following criteria:

- 1) The project must include quantification of its impact on urban health and/or service. Assessing the impact can be achieved by survey data, evaluation/test(s) of participants' knowledge, or other measurement. These results should be interpreted statistically.
- 2) Students must submit their work to one of the following platforms:
 - Peer-reviewed journal publication
 - Poster at a national conference
 - Submission to a public-access course-resource like MedEDPortal.
- 3) The topic for scholarship must be related to the field of service.