

Health Equities Fellows Program

What if we were raised with parents who did not have access to healthcare, our environment was making us sick, or we could not afford healthy food?

Every fall, a group of University of San Diego students are selected to participate in a program to learn about health inequities in the San Diego region. Many people often take “health” and “access to health” for granted with our worst fears being something that cannot be avoided such as cancer or an unfortunate accident. This program is not designed to be a clinical experience but more importantly, one that introduces students to the harsh realities of health inequities and the social determinants of health in our community providing a lens to better understand the state of health in our state, our country, and the factors at play.

These issues are explored through a series of seminar presentations and dialogue led by community leaders and health providers, a site visit day to local non-profit and social services organizations, and a 10-hour community engagement experience.

The program is suitable for any student pursuing a career in medicine, health policy, or public health administration. Upon completion of the program seminars and project, students receive a certificate of completion. Space is limited to 15 slots and students are chosen based on an application review and program commitment.

Sample Seminar Topics

- “Health Inequities and the Social Determinants of Health”
- “Barriers to Health Care in San Diego as an Example of Nationwide Failure”
- “Community Organizing and its Impact on Health”
- “Education and the Impact on Health”
- “Meeting the Health Needs of the Underserved in San Diego”
- “Environmental Health”
- “Border Health: Providing Care to Vulnerable Populations”

Eligibility

- Sophomore standing or higher
- Min. 3.0 GPA
- Pre-health interest
- Commitment to the program dates

Email Cassandra Gomez at cagomez@sandiego.edu for more information.