

PCM 2 Service Reflection Project

The Central Curriculum Authority (CCA) at Stritch implemented a service learning requirement beginning in this academic year, based on specific educational goals and objectives at Stritch. SSOM expects that each and every student acquire the skills needed to reflect upon and assess his or her own development as persons who are becoming part of a profession that has these responsibilities to those in need. To understand why this reflection project was implemented, it is helpful to first review the mission statement of the Loyola health system as well as the preamble to Stritch's educational goals and objectives for context and background.

Mission statement of LUHS

Loyola University Health System is committed to excellence in patient care and the education of health professionals. We believe that our Catholic heritage and Jesuit traditions of ethical behavior, academic distinction, and scientific research lead to new knowledge and advance our healing mission in the communities we serve. We believe that thoughtful stewardship, learning *and constant reflection on experience improve all we do* as we strive to provide the highest quality of health care.

We believe in God's presence in all our work. Through our care, concern, respect and cooperation, we demonstrate this belief to our patients and families, our students and each other. To fulfill our mission we foster an environment that encourages innovation, embraces diversity, respects life, and values human dignity. We are committed to going beyond the treatment of disease. We also treat the human spirit.

Preamble to Educational goals and objectives of Stritch School of Medicine

The Stritch School of Medicine is part of Loyola University of Chicago, an urban Catholic university that is composed of a culturally and religiously diverse faculty, student body, and administration. We believe that our graduates benefit and grow from that diversity within a community united by a shared passion for learning and healing.

The Stritch School of Medicine specifically calls upon the Jesuit tradition of education, which emphasizes the full development of its students, rigorous concern for the quality of its academic programs, and promotion of a broad educational *curriculum that encourages leadership in the service of others and advances social justice. Our graduates are encouraged to be leaders in bringing improved healthcare to all members of society; especially it's most disadvantaged.*

Stritch School of Medicine graduates are expected to conduct their professional lives acknowledging the intrinsic dignity and worth of all human beings. This attitude is developed within a university medical center community that views patients as people to be healed and not diseases to be cured. To do so, graduates are expected to be knowledgeable, skillful, dutiful, and altruistic.

Requirement:

Second year students must submit a Service Reflection between 2/2/09 and 3/24/09 via the on-line student portfolio. A typed brief (2-3 pages, double spaced paper) about

“service” that was performed since year one of medical school (i.e., summer immersion trip, community health clinic, volunteering at a soup kitchen, taking care of a sick relative, etc.) or to write the same paper about why they chose to not participate in a service project.

Some of the questions you may consider reflecting on in the paper include but are not limited to:

Personal Development Questions:

1. Whom did you encounter in this activity? What did you learn from this person or about this person?
2. What surprised you?
3. What touched you?
4. What inspired you?
5. What part of this encounter came easily to you? What not so easily?
6. What connection do you discover between this encounter between your head and your heart – that is between what took place and your developing sense of personal commitment and belief, however you name the reality of belief and faith in your life?

Professional Development Questions:

7. What skills did you display in this encounter or similar activities?
8. What did you like about how you performed, behaved, or reacted in this situation?
9. Are the professional behaviors and clinical skills you displayed congruent with the type of physician you hope to become?
10. What professional skills do you think need further development?
11. Are you pleased with your professional development at this point? What additional experiences do you think would be helpful in developing the professional skills you wish to have?
12. Do you feel you are becoming the physician you wish to be? The one you set out to become when you first wanted to be a doctor?

This is not a research paper. You are not expected to find sources or references. You are expected to reflect on your thoughts around actual patient encounters or any other service experience and to write those down. Service activities are defined as volunteering your time to provide services to underserved people. Examples could be volunteering at the Community Health Clinic, soup kitchens, caring for your ill grandmother, etc. To be very clear, a service activity is not what is required. It is required that you provide a reflection on a service that you performed or why you chose not to participate. Your privacy will be maintained. Only Dr. Boyle or Koller will read these reflections.

The specific Stritch School of medicine goals and objectives that are covered by this exercise include:

GOAL #3 Professionalism

- (7) Actively work to begin to bring about just healthcare reform by taking leadership and educational roles to advocate for the common good
- (9) Demonstrate commitment to and examples of service to patients in need
- (11) Examine the role of spirituality and personal values in their practice of medicine.

GOAL#6 Social and Community Context of Healthcare

- (3) Implement strategies to access healthcare services for patients who need advocacy and assistance.

Start thinking about this requirement ***NOW*** – at the beginning of the second academic year. As you plan your second year, plant this service reflection requirement in your mind now so as not to be surprised or burdened by this deadline of March 24, 2009.