

The Urban Medicine Program

UIC College of Medicine – Chicago Campus

“To prepare physician-leaders to serve underserved urban communities”



What is the Urban Medicine Program?

The Urban Medicine Program – UMed – is a scholarly concentration program within the UIC College of Medicine that provides a 4-year curriculum and longitudinal community project for 18 medical students per year.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Urban Medicine Program is to train a workforce of life long physician-leaders who are committed to partnering with local organizations to address health disparities by promoting justice in systematically oppressed communities through collaboration and advocacy.

Program Themes

The UMed program focuses on four main themes:

- **Disparities in Healthcare Access and Outcomes**
- **Community-Based Participatory Research**
- **Diversity and Intercultural Communication**
- **Policy and Advocacy**

Program Goals

To graduate physicians, *regardless of specialty*, who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to fulfill the following roles:

- Culturally sensitive practitioner
- Community advocate
- Community-based researcher
- Policy & advocacy change maker

Vision

To create a workforce of physicians that...

- **Reflects the socio-economic diversity and racial makeup of the United States**
Responds to calls for action and advocacy on behalf of, and in partnership with, patients and communities.
- **Promotes health equity through a transformational practice of medicine and public health founded in social justice.**
- **Confronts the interlocking systems of oppression, including white supremacy, structural racism, sexism, homophobia, and profiteering in healthcare.**
- **Builds partnerships of mutual trust, understanding, and support in our communities.**
- **Upholds a culture of accountability toward patient advocacy and health justice.**

Program Elements

The UMed program covers all four years of medical school and includes:

- **Seminars covering social determinants of health, working with communities, social justice, health advocacy and other timely topics;**
- **A four year collaborative experience with a community-based organization;**
- **A health policy and advocacy course and forum;**
- **Mentorship opportunities**
- **Internship opportunities**

Curricular Timeline

M1 & M2 Years: Principles of Community-Based Work

- Structural violence and systemic oppression
- Asset mapping and needs assessments
- Program planning and evaluation
- Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Health literacy and visual literacy
- Trauma-informed care

M3 & M4 Years: Refining clinical skills and addressing systemic issues through policy and advocacy

- M3: Policy and Advocacy Online Course
- M4: 5-day UMed Policy and Advocacy Forum

Longitudinal Community Rotation (LCR)

- Public health-focused practice/research project or intervention
- Focus of LCR is community-informed
- Passed down each year to ensure sustainability and consistent improvements



UMed Partner Sites

LCR Site	LCR Project	Neighborhood Served	Systemic Focus
Lawndale Community Church – Young Doctor’s Club	Pipeline program for young people interested in health careers	North Lawndale	Supporting Minority Pipeline
Mile Square Health Center – South Shore Food Pantry	Food insecurity	South Shore	UIC affiliated Community-based research
Deborah’s Place – Healthy Beats	Health education and empowerment for women living in permanent supportive housing	Garfield Park	Community-based health education
CommunityHealth – Promotores de Salud	Health education for Community Health Workers (CHWs)	West Town	Community-based health education
Hispanic Center of Excellence – Medicina Academy	Pipeline program for Latinx high schoolers interested in careers in medicine	Greater UIC area (students travel from all over the city to participate)	Supporting Minority Pipeline
UIC Office of Community Engagement & Neighborhood Partnerships (OCEAN)	Aligning with Healthy Start for children and families to address AA male depression and fatherhood	Englewood/Auburn-Gresham	UIC affiliated Community-based research

Time Commitment

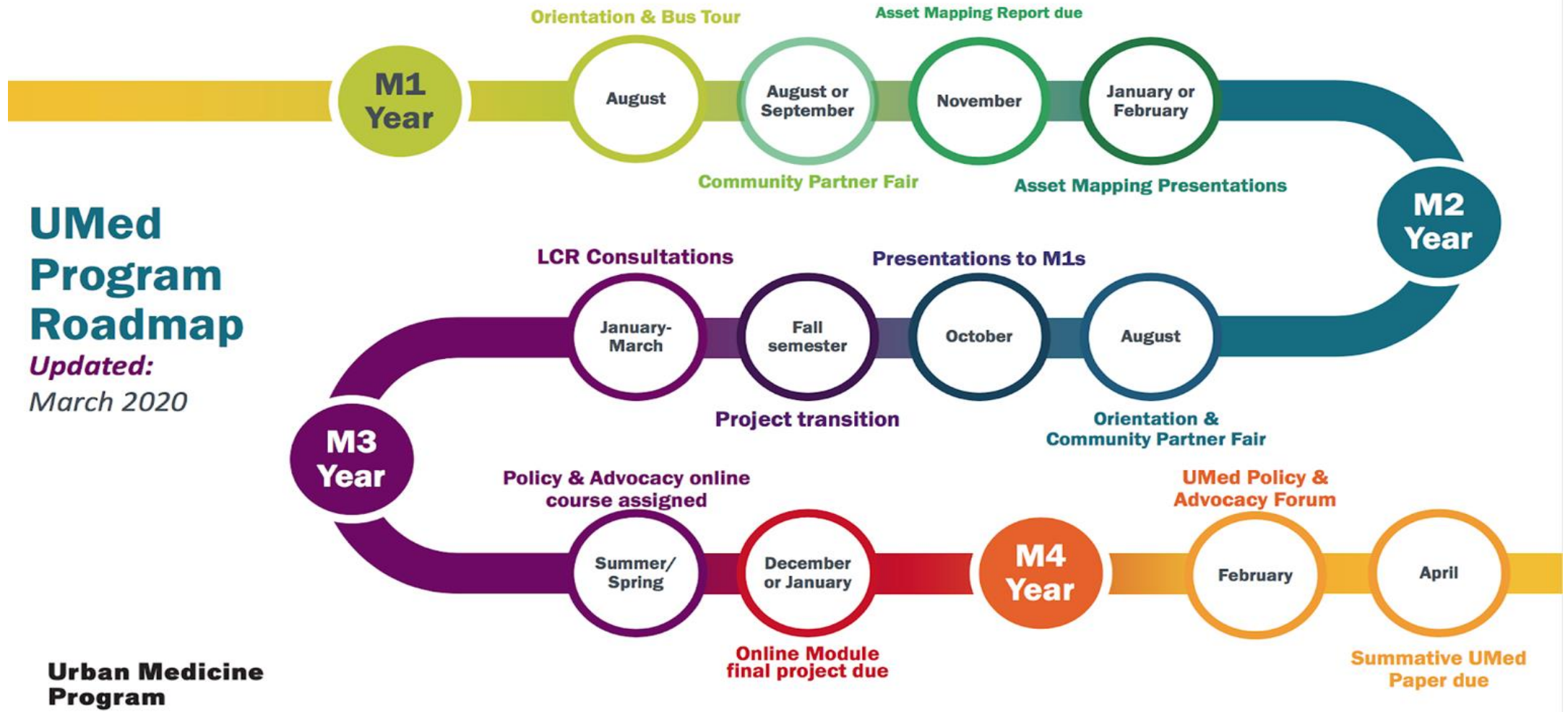
SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Scheduled around UICOM activities & exams (e.g., lunchtime, evening)

- M1/M2 8-10 two-hour sessions/semester
- M3 Online course approximately 20-30 hours May-December
- M4: Forum 1 week 40-hour course (March)

LCR COMMITMENT - 250 hours total M1-M4

- M1/M2: ~4 hours/week (direct and indirect engagement with community)
- M3/M4: As available (1x/semester LCR meetings); Final Capstone Paper
- No required engagement Summer post-M1



Why Join UMed?

UMed is a specialized training program designed to meet the needs of students interested in working in underserved areas.

- **Stands out in residency applications**
- **Prepares you to approach clinical practice from a public health and community-based mindset**

It supports professional development & clinical skills with opportunities to:

- **Build patient trust**
- **Identify community health needs**
- **Conduct community-based research**
- **Provide scholarship and internship opportunities (Schweitzer Fellowship)**
- **Build alliances and advocate for vulnerable and oppressed populations**

The program design fosters a community of like-minded individuals (18 students/year) and allows you to make a positive impact on Chicago communities!

The Ideal UMed Applicant

- **Commitment to (long term) service**
- **Passion for addressing health disparities**
- **Classwork in related topics (e.g. public health, social work, anthropology)**
- **Lived experiences with vulnerable populations**
- **Knowledge of another language**
- **Willingness to reflect on own privilege and positionality**
- **Willingness and desire to engage in difficult conversations around controversial topics**

UMed Admissions

- Admission is contingent upon acceptance in the UIC College of Medicine.
- Each year UMed admits 18 students for the M1-M4 curriculum
- Admissions to UMed is highly competitive; hundreds of applications are received each year.
- Applications are due in March of every year
- Interviews and admissions occur on rolling basis.

UMed Staff and Leadership

Joanna Michel, PhD

**UMed Director; Deputy Director, Illinois AHEC;
Faculty in Medical Education and the UIC
School of Public Health**



Nikki Waltrich, MPH

UMed Project Manager



A Few of our UIC Collaborators

Angela Ellison, MEd

**Senior Director, Office of Community Engagement and
Neighborhood Health Partnerships (OCEAN);
Director, School-based Practice**



Audrey Stillerman, MD

**Associate Director of Medical Affairs for OCEAN, Consulting
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Karen Peters, DrPH

**Director, Illinois AHEC; Assistant Clinical Professor,
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For More Information

Visit our website:

<https://chicago.medicine.uic.edu/urban-medicine-umed/>

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