



- I. MEID- 801-00R Health Care Advocacy and Public Policy
- II. Type of course (lecture/lab, etc./credit hours)
- III. All Year
- IV. Course Directors and Coordinators

### *Elective Information*

	<b>Course Director</b>	<b>Course Coordinator</b>
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Office hours	By appointment	By appointment

- a. Other participating faculty (include in Appendices) if applicable

### **V. Elective Description and Overview**

<http://www.tamhsc.edu/education/catalog/>

The student is expected to work with designated faculty staff at the medical school, in advocacy and legal affairs offices such as those of the Texas Medical Association and/or physician specialty organizations surrounding advocacy issues that are topical and/or relevant to their interests. Specific duties may include conducting background research, meeting with legislators, constituencies and key community stakeholders, developing and/or implementing a communications strategy (including fact sheets and “elevator speeches), and drafting a report, analysis, or model legislation. Non legislative community advocacy activities may include visiting with non-profit community based programs dependent on public or private funding and identifying an opportunity for a longitudinal advocacy project or contribution to an existing project on a short term basis. Each student is expected to be able to identify their state and national legislators, to demonstrate the ability to communicate with those representatives, to be aware of the principles of participation in legislative or political activity while affiliated with a state institution, and to understand the role of technology and media as both helpful and detrimental to advocacy issues related to graduate medical education and health related policy issues. There is no night call, no clinical patient contact on this rotation. Evening and weekend activities related to legislative or community based advocacy activities may be expected.

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### VI. Course Objectives and Evaluation Method

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

(COM Competency Based Learning Objectives: <http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/academic-affairs/curriculum/objectives/>)

Course Objective:  (Example shown)	COM Competency Based Learning Objectives	Taught (T) and/or Evaluated (E):	Evaluation:
Identify Texas and United States legislative representatives for own home area and the issues related to medical education and health policy that they support	Prof7	T&E	Observation
Identify proposed and passed legislative initiatives including funding related issues related to health and medical education	PBL 1-4, Prof 7	T&E	Observation
Review the role of physicians and other health care professionals both as individuals, as trainees/employees of public and private health care institutions and as members of local, state and national medical and medical specialty societies in advocacy for the profession of medicine, medical education, health care financing, public policy and funding for vulnerable population health care needs	PROF3 , 6, 7; SBP 1-5	T&E	Observation
Learn to develop tools specific to both broad and focused initiatives in advocating for health care related legislation, including but not limited to fact sheets, testimony, “elevator speech”, emails to legislators etc.	ICS1	T&E	Observation

### VII. Attendance Policy

TAMHSC – COM student handbook states: Students who miss more than 20% of a 4th year elective for any reason (2 weekdays during a two-week rotation or 4 weekdays for 4 week rotation) will require a remediation plan. However because elective schedules often vary considerably from a standard academic schedule, and students are often requesting extended time off during the interview season, each elective director is encouraged to consider your own attendance and remediation policy.

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## VIII. Policies and Procedures (generic information for all campuses)

### Responsibilities and Expectation of Students

Students are expected to be present for the various activities that will be noted by your faculty.

Students are expected to be **punctual** for all of the various activities noted on the weekly schedule.

**Dress Code** - It is expected that students carry themselves in professional manner; this includes professional dress, with white coat, when representing the College of Medicine.

### IX. Learning Materials and Activities

Use of the Texas Legislature or United States legislative websites to identify legislators and legislation introduced in the current or immediate past sessions. During the Texas Legislative Session, students will meet with the legislature at their Capitol and/or district offices. Develop fact sheets, draft testimony, brief (elevator) informational speeches related to a timely topic(s) of choice. Students will be expected to participate in “first Tuesdays” or “white coat Tuesdays” coalition visits to the state Capital.

During the interim, when the Texas legislature is not in session, students will visit the offices to meet staff and/or US Senators from Texas, local members of the US House of Representatives, campaign offices for legislators running for re-election and those seeking election in the next election. Students should consider visiting with physicians and other health care professionals or health care educators who are past legislators of the state. Students will contact and meet with legislative affairs/advocacy offices of Texas Medical Association, Texas Pediatric Society, and Texas Academy of Family Physicians all located in Austin, as well as, community organizations and stakeholders that are dependent on public or charitable funding to understand the role of advocacy on behalf of their stakeholders. Arrange meetings with civic groups and local elected representatives such as mayors, city councils, school boards to elicit local concerns especially those requiring a vote related to local health care financing, public health concerns and preventative health concerns and education at the K-12 level and community college level. Visits and communicating with representatives of television, radio or print media organizations to understand their practices, policies, values as well as the rules for working with media outlets.

At the end of the rotation, all students will prepare a report outlining the role of the physician and legislative advocacy, citing the resources and activities. Resources for this paper may include but not limited to advocacy websites for AMA, TMA, AAP, TPS, AAFP, TAFP.

### Textbooks (Required and Recommended Resources)

The following books and case study materials will be used in this course. Websites and links are listed on the Blackboard course website

Texas Pediatrics Society Advocacy, <http://txpeds.org/advocacy>

American Academy of Pediatrics Advocacy, <http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy>

Texas Academy of Family Physicians Advocacy, <http://www.tafp.org/advocacy>

American Academy of Family Physicians Advocacy, <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy.html>

Texas Capitol Webpage <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

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The Health Advocacy Toolbox, <http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/toolbox/>

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Advocacy, <http://www.acog.org/advocacy/>

American College of Surgeons Advocacy, <http://www.facs.org/ahp/>

American Academy of Pediatrics Community Based Resident Projects Toolkit, 2005, Chapters 6 and 7 (Media Awareness and Legislative and Social Advocacy)

## **X. Grading and Remediation Policies**

The final course grade will be based on the following: documented attendance based on weekly log of activities and random feedback sought from legislative affairs offices, advocates/lobbyists, etc.

The students' grade will be determined by the quantity, quality and promptness of the weekly log and emails/phone calls/texts/visits to course director to delineate past and planned activities on at least a weekly basis. Additionally, it is expected that any new contacts that the student has made will be added to the Blackboard Course under "contacts" for future students as a resource. Remediation will be determined on a case by case basis.

## **XI. Course Schedule**

The Student determines the course schedule based on contacts made by the student to those entities/persons listed on the blackboard webpage and/or those contacts found by the student themselves or the other TAMHSC faculty based on student interest. The student should anticipate spending at least 40 hours per week on this elective. It should be noted that when the legislature is in session, relevant testimony may occur before or after regular business hours and that the student should count on spending at least one evening per week at the Texas Capitol and/or with a lobbyist visiting with legislators. Additionally, on occasion, advocacy workshops are held on Saturdays. On days when no legislative activities occur, careful records of visits to community partners and independent study of legislation should be well documented on a calendar or "blog"

## **XII. Patient Encounter Logs: N/A**

## **XIII. Important Legal Information and Policies**

### **a. TAMHSC E-mail Access and FERPA**

TAMHSC is communicating all official information to students through the students' TAMHSC e-mail accounts. Please check the account frequently during the semester for updates.

This course is supported with web-based and/or e-mail activities. In order to take advantage of these additional resources and participate fully in the course, you have been assigned an e-mail address by the Texas A&M Health Science Center. This e-mail address is for internal use only, so that faculty may communicate with you and the entire class. By registering for this course, you are agreeing to allow your classmates to have access to this e-mail address. Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Registrar at 888-523-2905.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which the HSC complies fully, is intended to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students also have the right to file complaints with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office of the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., concerning alleged failures by the HSC to comply with the act.

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## **b. Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 979-845-1637 or visit the website <http://disability.tamu.edu/>. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course.

## **c. Professionalism and integrity Statement (Academic Honesty and Plagiarism)**

All TAMHSC students are required to comply with the student code of conduct and the academic integrity and honesty standards published in each component's Student Handbook. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the policies of each component. Students found guilty of Academic Dishonesty will receive an "F"/Unsatisfactory in the course.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of presenting as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own work, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic violations, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which academic communication cannot be safely conducted.

## **d. Mistreatment of Students**

The College of Medicine is committed to providing a positive learning environment in which students can meet their academic goals based on mutual respect in the teacher/learner relationship. Both parties must be sensitive to the needs of others and differences in gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, age or disability. As outlined in the Standards of Conduct in the Teacher-Learner Relationship, belittlement, intimidation and humiliation are unacceptable for effective learning and undermine self-esteem. Breaches involving student mistreatment may result in a faculty or staff member being sanctioned or the loss of faculty and/or staff appointment. The College of Medicine internal policy for dealing with claims of student mistreatment or unprofessional behavior is described here. This policy addresses student mistreatment involving College of Medicine employees. However, we realize that a student may experience mistreatment from residents, affiliate staff, or patients. These instances will be discussed in Section V of the document. Please access the policy at <http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/dean/policies/student-policies/mistreatment-of-students.html> for more information regarding reporting, resolution of claims, appeals, and responsibilities. To report mistreatment via College of Medicine telephone hotline, dial 1(855)-397-9835. To report via web page, click <http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/dean/policies/student-policies/form.html>

## **e. Exposure and Occupational Hazard**

The Needle Stick Policy for Medical Students may be accessed at:  
<http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/dean/policies/student-policies/needle-stick-policy.html>

Note: More information is available on the aforementioned topics to all students in the online course catalog and or on the College of Medicine website.

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### **XIV. College of Medicine Competency Based Learning Objectives**

College of Medicine Competency Based Learning Objectives can be found under the Office of Academic Affairs website:

<http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/academic-affairs/curriculum/objectives/>

### **XV. Principles and Guidelines for Curriculum Development**

Principles and Guidelines for Curriculum Development can be found under the Office of The Dean website:

<http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/dean/policies/pdf/curriculum-principles-guidelines.pdf>