

PUB304

Public Health and Compulsory Residency

Brief description

The purpose of this module is to expose students to public health as well as private sector practice and to conduct projects in the community. Student learners will be guided in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for a career in the field of optometry and obtain a sound knowledge and understanding of public health, as well as the South African health policy, epidemiology and health promotion.

Community and service sector partners

Members from the community attending programmes at:

- Blessed Africa
- Bokang Edu-Care
- Chris Hani Bus Crèche
- Ebenaezer Community Based and Support Services
- Eden Ministries
- Free State Care-in-Action
- J.S. Mokoka Pre-school
- Lebone Village
- MIZPA Silwerjare Luncheon Club
- Phuthanang Sechaba Luncheon Club, Mangaung Resource Centre Trust
- Omega Old-Age Home
- REACH
- Tshepo Foundation

Outcomes for students

- Primary Goal - To address eye health and visual needs.
- Secondary Goal - To address the peripheral needs by providing general health support and education as well as finding ways to improve the living and social climate in ways that are sustainable.

- Compulsory residency gives students exposure to working in a private practice setting.

Service learning component

The module is divided into three sections:

- The theoretical component runs for the first six months of the year and is presented by lecturers of the Department of Community Health.
- 40 hours residency for each student with an optometrist in a private practice is compulsory.
- Community Service Learning projects run for eight months of the year, starting in February and ending in September. Students are put into groups as the projects are group-based activities.

The students are assessed through summative and formative evaluations for the theoretical component. On completion of their CSL project, students compile a report, and hold a podium and a poster presentation. Optometrists who supervised students at their practice during the compulsory residency submit an appraisal of the students' tasks and professionalism.

Impact on community

Members of the community, including children and older persons benefit by receiving eye care from the optometry students. The theme for 2011 was "Eye Care for Young Eyes" and the eye care needs and social needs of children where addressed by the optometry students to empower and improve the quality of life and care of those who cannot care for themselves. The theme for 2012 is "Eye Care for the Elderly".



HEALTH SCIENCES
GESONDHEIDSWETENSAPPE

UFS·UV

School of Allied
Health Professions

Department
Optometry

Study year of students
Third year

Credits: 16

Module offered during
First and second semester

Facilitator

Theoretical Component
Prof Willem Kruger

Facilitator

Community Service Learning
Mr Nashua Naicker

Facilitator

Compulsory Residency
Prof. Tuwani Rasengane

