

## OVERVIEW

The Health and Social Justice Scholars Program provides a unique opportunity of educating professional and doctoral students in an interprofessional manner to produce high quality scholarly activities related to health equity, health and healthcare disparities, social justice, and healthcare innovation with the goal of benefitting underserved and disadvantaged populations. The program is comprehensive, providing scholars conceptual learning modules, research experience, mentoring, service learning, and professional development. The program is managed by the Health Sciences Center (HSC) Office of Diversity and Inclusion with high collaboration with Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health and Information Sciences, as well as community partners.

Students who have a demonstrated interest in health disparities from a community engagement perspective, attend a school at the HSC campus and will be entering their second year of a doctoral program (Au.D., D.M.D., D.N.P., M.D., Ph.D.) in fall 2016 are eligible to apply. Students must be in academic good standing to apply. Scholarship recipients will be chosen by a committee made up of representatives from the University and the Louisville community. Four scholars will be selected for this initial cohort (1 scholar from each HSC school). Each scholar will receive a **\$10,000** scholarship/stipend for the 2016 - 2017 academic year in addition to mentoring support, research opportunities, and professional development travel support. Scholars may participate in the program for a maximum of three years.

Scholars will participate in clinical work (when appropriate), didactics, community-based experiences and scholarly activities. Scholars will be trained in the techniques of community-based participatory research and evaluation, and will be actively involved in the interactive process of translating research findings into policy development and implementation. Each scholar will have two mentors; one to help them negotiate the rigors of the program and the other from their chosen field to provide guidance in their careers.

## Objectives

The purpose of the Health and Social Justice Scholars (HSJS) Program is to provide training using an interprofessional model to perform community-based participatory research addressing disparities in health risk and health outcomes among minority and disadvantaged populations. Specifically, selected scholars will:

- Examine the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, geography, sexual orientation and other social factors that contribute to health and healthcare disparities
- Work with diverse community partners in service learning projects
- Develop and complete a community-based participatory research project designed to promote social justice and health equity
- Engage in mentoring and professional development activities to support future career goals

## **Scholar Responsibilities and Commitment**

All applicants must be in academic good standing and obtain a recommendation from a designated academic official attesting to the applicant's ability to undertake additional work and responsibilities. Selected scholars will receive a detailed orientation concerning the expectations and requirements of their scholarship. On average, scholars should anticipate a 2-3 hour commitment per week to this program. In summary, scholarship recipients will be required to meet the following criteria:

1. Remain in academic good standing.
2. Work collaboratively with other scholarship recipients and/or with HSC partner organizations to complete a major research project focusing on health equity and social determinants of health issues.
3. Scholars will be required to attend monthly lectures (either in person or online) as part of the curriculum.
4. Scholars must meet with their project mentor at least monthly.
5. Scholars must meet with ODI appointed staff at least monthly for guidance and report progress.
6. Scholars must meet with their career mentor at least every three months.
7. Scholars are expected to present their findings to their community partners and their peers in their respective HSC School.
8. Scholars are expected to present their findings at a national conference and/or publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

*Although this program is designed to be a three-year commitment and renewable scholarship, scholars may be dismissed at any time if the scholar fails to meet the required responsibilities of the program..*

## **About the Health Sciences Center Office of Diversity and Inclusion**

The HSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion is led by Assistant Vice President for Health Affairs/ Diversity Initiatives, V. Faye Jones, M.D., Ph.D., M.S.P.H. Dr. Jones is supported by a team of professionals who have a long history of supporting aspiring health professionals from rural areas, persons who are underrepresented in the health sciences, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our mission is to conceptualize, cultivate and coordinate partnerships across the schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Public Health & Information Sciences by building organizational capacity and expanding leadership competency for HSC diversity and inclusion efforts. We have a vision of being a model for innovation for health equity driven by excellence in education, community outreach and research. The Health and Social Justice program builds upon ongoing efforts currently in place through our health equity programming in Louisville and the surrounding region to identify and provide potential interventions to mitigate health disparities in our changing demographics.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Required Application Components

1. Completed Application Form\*
2. Essay\* (1000 words or less): *Considering a social justice perspective, what is a major concern you see within the Louisville community that impacts health? How can your profession work with community leaders to create change and improved health outcomes concerning this issue?*
3. Biographical Sketch\* (250 words or less): *Applicants must provide a brief biographical sketch about themselves.*
4. Research Statement\* (250 words or less) and profile: *This brief statement should summarize the applicant's research experience (if any) and interests. Applicants should also include a list of any prior research experience and academic products.*
5. Community Engagement Statement\* (250 words or less) and profile: *This brief statement should summarize the applicant's experience and interest in working with communities to address social justice issues. Applicants should also include a list of prior relevant community engagement activities.*
6. Curriculum Vitae\*
7. Academic Recommendation Form & Letter of Support\*\* *This should come from an appropriate academic official with oversight of the applicant's academic program such as the Dean of Student Affairs or Academic Department Chair*
8. Additional Recommendation Form & Letter of Support\*\*\*: *Applicants should select an individual to evaluate and comment on the applicant's displayed commitment and interest in community engagement, service, and social justice activities.*
9. Official Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions\*\*\*

\*Applicants should submit components in one email to [hscodi@louisville.edu](mailto:hscodi@louisville.edu) with the subject: "HSJS Application: Applicant Name"

\*\*Recommendations and Letters of Support should be submitted directly from the writer to [hscodi@louisville.edu](mailto:hscodi@louisville.edu) with the subject: "HSJS Letter of Support: Applicant Name"

\*\*\*Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions should be addressed to:  
HSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
Abell Administration Center, Suite 502  
University of Louisville  
Attention: Health and Social Justice Scholars  
Louisville, KY 40202

### Application Timeline

The Health Sciences Center Office of Diversity and Inclusion will accept applications for the Health and Social Justice Scholars from **April 1 – May 31, 2016**. All application components are due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Applicants will be notified of their status by July 1, 2016. The Health and Social Justice Scholars program will launch in August 2016.

### Questions

Please contact the Health Sciences Center Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 502-852-7159 or [hscodi@louisville.edu](mailto:hscodi@louisville.edu) for any questions regarding the Health and Social Justice Scholars program or application requirements.

**Scholar Application Form- *Deadline May 31, 2016***

**Applicant Information**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First M.I.*

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address Apartment/Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_

*City State ZIP Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender identity: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

HSC School:  Dentistry  Medicine  Nursing  Public Health and Information Sciences

Degree Program Currently Enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a full-time student? YES  NO  Are you in academic good standing? YES  NO

Were you a first generation college student? YES  NO  Did you grow up in an underserved or rural area until the age of 18? YES  NO

Do you consider yourself disadvantaged in any way (if yes, briefly explain below)? YES  NO

**Education**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

College 1: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you graduate? YES  NO  Degree/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

College 2: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you graduate? YES  NO  Degree/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

College 3: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you graduate? YES  NO  Degree/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

College 4: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you graduate? YES  NO  Degree/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship & Tuition Funding Information**

*Please list all scholarship, grant, fellowship, and financial aid (including loans) funds that you currently receive:*

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Award Period: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Is this renewable each year?: YES  NO

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Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Is this renewable each year?: YES  NO

**Disclaimer and Signature**

*I understand that the information submitted on this form and the submitted supporting documents are for preliminary evaluation of my eligibility for the Health and Social Justice Scholars Program. I understand that acceptance into this program requires verification of the information submitted. By my signature below, I understand that any revealed falsification will result in the withdrawal of my application or could revoke my acceptance into this program.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_