



In the Name of God

Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Health and Medical Education
Deputy Ministry for Education

Community Medicine

Degree: Specialty

Program Description

Over 30 years since the establishment of community medicine educational program in Iran and its first revision in the nineties and due to changes of the community health needs up to the present, the curriculum should be revised. Since 2004-2005, a group of the program experts proceeded to develop a relatively comprehensive program supervised by Medical Education Council Secretariat using different curricula in the world, benefiting from expert opinion and considering the circumstances of the country. This curriculum was reviewed frequently in expert meetings, the discipline steering committee, development and educational planning committee and commission of Medical Education Council Secretariat. Finally, it was approved by permanent commission of and announced to educational departments and universities of medical sciences that run residency programs in this field.

Definition and Duration of the Training Program:

Community medicine is a clinical specialty in which the graduated students through acquiring up to date knowledge and technology, will be able to improve Health system leadership by improving personal, Family and community health and health Indices evaluation and analysis.

Duration of the Training Program is 3 years.

Admission Requirements

- B.D.S./D.M.D./D.D.S or equivalent certificates for the applicants of Specialty
- Certificate of Internship or Certificate of Practice

Language Requirements:

- Language requirements: Evidence of English Proficiency on the TOEFL or IELTS tests. The minimum score for TOEFL PBT, TOEFL iBT and IELTS is 533, 72 and 5.5 respectively.
- Applicants from Persian (Farsi) Speaking countries (They shall both speak and write in Persian) who have applied for graduate Degree-based programs may be exempted, based on the decision of the department, from submitting any certificates regarding their English Language Proficiency. Nevertheless, they are required to hand in their English language certificate which meets SUMS' minimal language proficiency requirements, within one year from commencing their studies at SUMS.

Expected Competencies at the End of the Program

General Competencies*

Specific Competencies and Procedural Skills

A list of the most important competencies

Health status assessment

- Criticizing and analyzing health policies, programs and projects
- Being able to conduct applied research and applying the research results
- Analyzing data
- Assessing population health
- Assessing community
- Identifying risk factors and developing plans to mitigate risks
- Providing advice for health and lifestyle changes
- Investigating and controlling epidemics
- Analyzing the future health status of the community

- Developing and analyzing health system indicators
- Developing diseases geography and map spotting

Determining and implementing interventions to improve health status

- Performing health system management
- Developing strategic plans
- Performing economic analysis of interventions and programs especially for cost-effectiveness of
- Seeking support for health promotion (advocacy)
- Social marketing in healthy management of the disease in the community
- Providing health and lifestyle advice

Evaluating interventions

- Being able to conduct applied research and applying the research results
- Health surveillance

Other areas:

- Providing advice to health system agents
- Self-promotion
- Team working
- Communicating
- Managing projects
- Theorizing in the field of public health

Educational Strategies, Methods and Techniques*

Student Assessment (Methods and Types)

Methods for assessing learning activities of residents to receive permission for participating in the annual promotion examinations are as follows:

- Evaluation of project reports and assignments (defending their report in person and teacher assessment using a checklist)
- Essay and multiple-choice tests
- OSCE
- Simultaneous evaluation of skills

Periods of Assessment

- Continuous evaluation after each project and online assessment of periodical activities or assessment at the end of the course
- Annual promotion test
- Introducing board examination
- Board exam at the end of the program

Ethical Considerations*

*Note: The related document(s) can be found at <http://hcmep.behdasht.gov.ir/>.

The Overall Structure of the Course:

Years of residency	Department / unit (education field)	Content	Duration
First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom and group work rooms Self-study room Center for medical social skills training (lab) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic theoretical and general courses Basic and specialized practical courses (workshops) 	36 theoretical and workshop units (8 months)
	City Health and Treatment Network	Familiarity with the system of service delivery, community assessment, participation in programs and work with health-related NGOs	2 months
	Prevention and health promotion center (clinic)	Identifying risk health factors in individuals and populations and providing solutions	2 months
Second	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom and group work rooms Self-study room Center for medical social skills training (lab) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic theoretical and general courses Basic and specialized practical courses (workshops) 	22 theoretical units (4 months)
	Province Health and Treatment Network	Familiarity with network, community assessment, project implementation	2 months
	University research centers	Research consultancy, evaluation of research management system, criticism of papers	2 months
	Management units of the Ministry of Health and the relevant organizations	Visit and familiarity, project implementation	2 months
	Prevention and health promotion center (clinic)	Identifying risk factors, determining health indicators in covered population, consultation	3 months
Third	Department of community medicine	Reporting on projects, journal club	One or two days a week (a total of 3 months)
	Prevention and health promotion center (clinic)	Identifying risk factors, consultation, determining health indicators in the community, working on specific issues	3 months
	International arenas		2 months
	Elective field	project implementation	4 months

Important Notice:

The above features the curriculum of the Community Medicine Program designed and approved by the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education. Given the fact that Shiraz University of Medical Sciences is constantly improving and updating itself to meet the international academic standards and the state of the art, and based on the availability of facilities, devices, ward, laboratories, etc. at SUMS, all the SUMS curricula are approximately 20% subject to change.