



Development of an Academic Service-Learning HIV Professional Elective Course for Pharmacy Students

John M. Conry, Pharm.D., BCPS, AAHIVP, Tina J. Kanmaz, Pharm.D., Tomasz Z. Jodlowski, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), AAHIVP

Associate Clinical Professors of Clinical Pharmacy Practice
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Queens, NY

●●●| Objective

Develop a capstone elective course within the Pharm.D. program that facilitates the development of skills/competencies necessary for the provision of pharmaceutical care to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and incorporates academic service-learning (AS-L).

●●●| Methods

Faculty developed a 3-credit didactic capstone course for 6th year Pharm.D. students entitled, "Comprehensive Management of HIV/AIDS." To enhance the learning experience and create an AS-L opportunity, faculty developed partnerships with two NYC-based institutions that provide services to PLWHA. One AS-L partnership ("AID for AIDS") engaged students in an antiretroviral recycling program that transports these medications overseas to underserved areas. The other AS-L partnership ("Mapplethorpe") is a residential treatment facility that paired students with a PLWHA. The student visited the patient during this longitudinal care experience throughout the semester to review and optimize medication management. Students voluntarily completed an anonymous survey at the end of course. A compilation of 2012 and 2013 survey data are presented here.

●●●| Acknowledgement

Special thanks to our wonderful community partners, the Robert Mapplethorpe Residential Treatment Facility and AID for AIDS, as well as the Office of Academic Service-Learning at St. John's University.

●●●| Course Description and Assessment

This course is intended for pharmacy students to facilitate the development of the skills and competencies necessary for the provision of pharmaceutical care to patients infected with HIV. The course is intended to review the pharmacologic management of HIV infection and associated AIDS indicator conditions. Emphasis is placed on patient assessment and the development of pharmaceutical care plans for patients living with HIV. The course employs interactive lecture discussions and individual and group presentations. Student assessment includes midterm examination (35%), final examination (35%), 2 case studies (20%), and 1 project (10%). The project consisted of in-class topic presentations, debates, and AS-L case presentations.

●●●| AS-L Overview

AS-L at St. John's University is a classroom/experiential site-based program that involves students in some form of required community service to benefit the common (public) good and uses service as a means of understanding course concepts. The service activity meets course objectives and through reflection, students examine issues pertaining to social justice and responsibility.

Students voluntarily participated in one or two AS-L projects for this course (AID for AIDS and Mapplethorpe). These experiences occurred outside scheduled class time. The students individually submitted reflection papers regarding their experiences which were assessed by the faculty and discussed in class. Students participating in the Mapplethorpe AS-L experience presented a pharmaceutical care plan to the class for their assigned patient at the end of the course.

●●●| Student Testimonials

AID for AIDS Experience: "HIV/AIDS is not only a problem in the US, it is actually worse in underdeveloped countries. AID for AIDS showed just how scarce and necessary such assistance is."

Mapplethorpe Experience: "My favorite activity was undoubtedly the AS-L at Mapplethorpe. It was truly inspirational and mind-set changing. I'm grateful for this opportunity."

●●●| Results

Survey Question	2012 (n=16/20)	2013 (n=16/16)	Total (n=32/36;88.9%)
Course Satisfaction	14/16 (87.5%) Very satisfied	15/16 (93.8%) Very satisfied	29/32 (90.6%) Very satisfied
Course Assessment Appropriate	15/16 (93.8%) Yes	16/16 (100%) Yes	31/32 (96.9%) Yes
AID for AIDS Participation	16/16 (100%)	16/16 (100%)	32/32 (100%)
AID for AIDS Enhanced Understanding of Course Objectives	13/16 (81.3%) Yes	5/16 (31.3%) Yes	18/32 (56.3%) Yes
AID for AIDS Impacted Global View of HIV/AIDS	15/16 (93.8%) Yes	14/16 (87.5%) Yes	29/32 (90.6%) Yes
Mapplethorpe Participation	5/16 (31.3%)	5/16 (31.3%)	10/32 (31.3%)
Mapplethorpe Service Enhanced Understanding of Course Objectives	5/5 (100%) Yes	5/5 (100%) Yes	10/10 (100%) Yes
Mapplethorpe Service Impacted Your View of HIV/AIDS	5/5 (100%)	5/5 (100%)	10/10 (100%)

●●●| Implications

This HIV elective course provided pharmacy students with an innovative opportunity to enhance their awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS. The faculty are committed to continued evaluations and strengthening of our course and community partnerships to enhance student learning and public health.