

Health Mentors Program

Student teams learn firsthand from a community member (Health Mentor) about living with one or more chronic health condition(s), impairment(s), or disability(ies) and the value of team-based, person-centered care. Small teams meet with their Health Mentor three times during the program, complete short assignments, and have small group debriefing sessions.



Key Curricular Elements

- Health Mentors as teachers
- Each person as an expert in managing their health
- Social Ecological Model as theoretical framework
- Impact of social determinants of health
- Application of 4Ms of Healthy Aging framework (what **m**atters, **m**obility, **m**entation, **m**edications)
- Advocacy project on issue of importance to Health Mentor
- Person-centeredness, communication, and teaming

IPEC Competencies



1,527 LEARNERS

Cohort 17=798 | Cohort 18=729
Professions

Athletic Trainer
Counseling & Behavioral Health Specialist
Dietitian Nutritionist
Genetic Counselor
Medical Laboratory Scientist
Nurse
Occupational Therapist
Pharmacist
Physical Therapist
Physician
Physician Assistant
Speech-Language Pathologist

70 FACILITATORS

Professions

Athletic Trainer
Dietitian Nutritionist
Medical Laboratory Scientist
Nurse
Nurse, Advanced Practice
Occupational Therapist
Pharmacist
Physical Therapist
Physician
Physician Assistant
Speech-Language Pathologist
JCIPE Staff
Other

207 HEALTH MENTORS

“This experience has truly opened my eyes to the gaps that can sometimes exist between healthcare providers and patients. My [M]entor’s stories taught me how essential communication, teamwork, and respect are in providing great care.”

—Student Nurse

“This experience gave me insight into the different responsibilities and roles of other healthcare areas and how each component is necessary to treating the patient. It is critical to really work together as a team with different healthcare professionals to prioritize the health and goals of each patient.”

—Student Physician

Program Outcomes | Assessment & Evaluation

METRIC <i>[*pre-program assessments were retrospective]</i>	N	MEAN	SD
COHORT 17 (MODULE 3)			
Module 3 Program Evaluation (Max. = 5)	461	4.19	0.74
Whole Program Evaluation (Max. = 5)	461	4.20	0.76
COHORT 18 (MODULES 1 & 2)			
Program Evaluation of M1 (Max. = 5)	561	4.34	0.59
Program Evaluation of M2 (Max. = 5)	620	4.27	0.83

Scholarship Highlight

White, R., Brucato, M., Prasad, P., Mitchell, A. B., & Ozorowski, K. (2025, May). *Exploring topics community members with chronic illness wish to teach future healthcare professionals* [Poster]. Collaborating Across Borders IX, Omaha, NE.