



NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

College of Osteopathic
Medicine
at Arkansas State University

First District Congressional Fellowship Program

Overview

The First District Congressional (FDC) Fellowship Program is a partnership between the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University (NYITCOM at A-State) and the Arkansas First District office of Congressman Rick Crawford.

The goal of the Congressional Fellowship is to equip and train rising osteopathic physicians to transform health, health care and health policy at the local, state and national level. Upon completion of the fellowship, the student physician will bring a depth of expertise and knowledge about population health and health care to the policymaking making process while serving the congressional office as a health policy liaison. Fellows will be able to collaborate with legislative offices in the surveillance of health, the analysis of all policy as it affects social determinants of health. The student will support legislators in setting health priorities for their districts and respective regions, analyze grant and federally funded health-oriented programs and their outcomes to guide criteria for future funding.

The Congressional Fellowship will help the osteopathic medical student learn and utilize their skills in health policy to enhance the osteopathic medical profession and become community health leaders.

Each year a NYITCOM at A-State third year medical student is selected through an application process to enter into a longitudinal program that runs concurrently with their medical school curriculum. The program starts in January of their third year and concludes in March of their 4th year.

Course Content

- Orientation to Health Policy: September to January (academic year 3)
 - o The fellow will attend the *AACOM Health Policy Fellowship Program's* introductory four-day event that kicks off the yearlong Fellowship Program in September of each year.
 - o After completion of the introductory event, follow up sessions and assigned reading will occur monthly with the fellow to prepare them for the congressional office work that

starts in January (population health 2.0 course). Faculty of the Fellowship at NYITCOM at A-State campus will stay engaged with the fellow; giving guidance for population health/health policy projects

- Students will go through Media training
- The student will research on a topic of interest related to population health, health care, and or social determinants of health specific to the first district. This may also involve visits to certain geographic areas to assess needs and/or anticipated outcomes, meeting with stakeholders, and researching similar models of legislation.
- They will create Health Policy Briefs and develop communication skills to communicate with health policy leaders and various stakeholders on the state and federal level.
- The fellow will have an opportunity to create proposals to address matters regarding population health in various communities.
- The fellow will craft and evaluate health policy briefs that contains a healthcare component and work to identify the intended and unintended consequences
- Readings and assignments will be occurring on a weekly basis and the fellow is expected to report biweekly to the Course Director.

Congressional Office:

Serving in local offices: can be completed between January – November year 3

- Local site visits with congressional stakeholders and constituents
 - The fellow will serve to strengthen and create collaboration of multi-sector stakeholders and align common interests as health is considered in all policy, at the local, state and federal level.
- Student serve as a resource to the legislator's office
 - Reviewing and creating policy briefs
 - Summary Outline Bills
 - Build repository of County/City health profile
 - Perform research that will serve to guide health Initiatives in 1st District

Serving in Federal office between the months of January to March (academic year 4, 1- 2 block elective)

At the conclusion of the fellowship program year, the student will spend elective month(s) in Washington DC

- The fellow will travel to Washington DC and work with congressional staffers
- The fellow will serve as a population health/health policy liaison for the federal office
- They will attend congressional committee meetings
- They will create and evaluate policy briefs
- The fellow will have an opportunity to create proposals to address matters regarding population health affecting constituents and stakeholders of the first district