University of New Mexico School of Medicine

The Public Health Certificate Curriculum at the University of New Mexico School Of Medicine (UNSOM)

Objective ECBP-12: Increase the inclusion of core clinical prevention and population health content in M.D.-granting medical schools. The curriculum was framed under the Healthy People 2020 missions and goals, specifically Healthy People Objective ECBP-12: Increase the inclusion of core clinical prevention and population health content in M.D.-granting medical schools. The Health Equity course, “Community as Classroom” activities, capstone posters and oral presentations, as well as the required rural-based community projects provide future health professionals the opportunity to apply Healthy People 2020 implementation strategies (MAP-IT: Mobilize, Assess, Plan, Implement, Track.)

The University of New Mexico School of Medicine (UNMSOM) integrated a 4-year public health curriculum into medical school education beginning with the matriculating class of 2010. All graduating students will receive a medical degree and a Public Health Certificate (PHC). The 1st medical school course is "Health Equity: Introduction to Public Health," which creates a conceptual framework for understanding health and illness from a socioecological perspective and lays the groundwork for public health concepts and skills that will be reinforced throughout medical school.