OST 590: Health Disparities and Health Equity

Summer 2025, 5/12/25 – 08/03/25

Updated: 3/30/2025

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Faculty & Staff Information

Course Director Bio-sketch

Contact Information	Bio-sketch
Debalina Bandyopadhyay Ph.D. (CD) bandyop4@msu.edu 517-578-9610 Primary Site: DMC Office Hours: TBD. Other days/times available by request.	Dr. Debalina Bandyopadhyay is an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Director of Operations at MSUCOM's Detroit Medical Center (DMC) since 2015. Dr. Bandyopadhyay's primary responsibilities at MSUCOM include providing strategic, financial and functional administrative leadership of faculty and staff at the DMC site, providing organizational development and planning for the DMC site, and contributing towards development of the MSUCOM pre-clerkship curriculum. Dr. Bandyopadhyay's passion is in undergraduate medical education and student success. Dr. Bandyopadhyay is also a relentless advocate for diversity, equity, inclusivity, access and belonging.

Contributing Faculty

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Debalina Bandyopadhyay	bandyop4@msu.edu	517-884-9610	DMC
Anissa Mattison, D.O.	webste25@msu.edu	517-884-9600	DMC
Marita Gilbert	gilbe160@msu.edu	517-432-4979	EL
Amara Ezeamama	ezeamama@msu.edu	517-353-1244	EL
Chinyere Tobias	tobiasog@msu.edu	517-884-9670	DMC
Michael Burry	burrymic@msu.edu	517-884-9600	DMC
Lauren Azevedo	azevedol@msu.edu	517-884-3744	EL
Laryssa Kaufman	lkaufman@msu.edu	517-884-3856	EL

Curriculum Assistants (CAs)

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Papiya Saha (Lead)	sahapapi@msu.edu	313-884-9629	DMC

Who to Contact with Questions

Question, Need, or Topic	Contact Person
Course - Logistics & Details	Contact CAs for rooms, groups, materials, links, schedule, etc.
Course - Overall	Contact Course Director (in bold above).
Course - Specific Content	Contact Contributing Faculty for the content (see schedule).
Absences	Contact Course Director (in bold above).
Behavior	Submit exemplary or concerning behavior to the CGPI.
Enrollment	Inquire with MSUCOM Registrar.
Personal/Wellness Needs	Inquire with Wellness & Counseling.
Report kudos or suggestions related to inclusion in the curriculum	Submit a DO Better form. https://tinyurl.com/DO-Better-Form
Study Skills or Progression	Inquire with Academic & Career Advising.
Technical Support	Inquire with MSU IT Service Desk. Indicate COM affiliation.

Course Information

Course Description & Overview

OST 590 is an elective course in the D.O. program. It is a 1-credit elective that will supplement instruction around health equity and health disparities utilizing the Academic Recognition Program (ARP) provided by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). This course is intended to train osteopathic students to recognize disparities in healthcare that exist across race, ethnicity, geographic residence, gender, sexual orientation, recognition, age, poverty, and disability status. Over the course, osteopathic medical students will gain a deeper understanding of health disparities and learn how to identify and develop the skills to provide interventions and solutions toward achieving health equity.

Course Objectives

In 2022, American Association of Medical colleges (AAMC) published a report outlining the competencies in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) that can be used as a framework for introducing and integrating DEI content in medical education. In the same year, AACOM established the Academic Recognition Program (ARP) intended to train osteopathic medical students to recognize health disparities and develop skills to provide interventions and solutions towards achieving health equity. Recent calls for social justice have added the urgency to the need for increased DEI content in medical education and to prepare physicians to care for the evolving patient population while addressing the systemic health disparities and healthcare inequities in the United States. This course will utilize the modules outlined in the AACOM Academic Recognition Program supplemented by reflection sessions and exercises. By the end of the course, the MSUCOM medical students will have a deeper understanding of health disparities that exist in the US and develop skills to provide interventions towards addressing health inequities as they move on to clerkship and beyond.

The American Osteopathic Association has identified core competencies essential for future practice as an osteopathic physician. These are embedded throughout our programmatic and course objectives. By the end of this course, learners should be able to:

Competency	Related Course Objective(s)
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	1. Improve communication skills for patients from different demographics and backgrounds. Understand the biases and disparities that exist in health care and develop empathy for patients from diverse backgrounds
Professionalism & Leadership	2. Develop professional identity by gaining knowledge of existing health disparities and health inequities
Societal & Cultural Awareness & Advocacy	3. Develop a deeper understanding of health disparities that exist in the US 4. Develop skills to provide interventions towards addressing health inequities in patient-centered care

Textbooks and Resources

Most MSUCOM courses make use of D2L as a course website to share materials, Google Calendar to share course schedules, Zoom to host online meetings, and iClicker to facilitate audience polling. Visit https://bit.ly/msucomtech for reminders on how to access and use these resources. Other course-specific resources include:

Status	Resource
Required	Upon enrollment, the students will be given access to the AACOM Academic Recognition Program. As a requirement of this course, the students will have to

Status	Resource

	complete the "Community and Population Health" module and <u>nine out of the following ten</u> modules:
	     o Social Determinants of Health
	     o Under-represented Minority Health and Disparities in Health Outcomes
	     o Rural Health Disparities
	     o Maternal Justice
	     o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Disparities
	     o Behavioral and Mental Health Equity
	     o Health Outcomes and Health Disparities in the Elderly
	     o Health Inequities Related to Poverty and Education
	     o Disparities in Research and Clinical Trials
	     o The Ethics of Health Equity

Optional	Students are strongly recommended to complete the entire program to receive a certificate of recognition and a lapel pin. To complete the program, the students need to review all course materials presented (video lectures and additional readings); earn a score of 80% or higher on the module assessments (three attempts allowed) and complete the course evaluation.

Grading Schema

Course scores will be determined using the following formula:

(Combined Individual Activity or Assessment Points) / (Total Points Possible) * 100%
= Final Percent Score

Course grades will then be assigned based on those course scores as follows:
- **P or Pass** - means that you have achieved a satisfactory level of performance and will receive credit for this course. To obtain a "P" grade for this course, a student must obtain 70% or higher of the total available points (105 of 150).
- **N or No Grade** - means that you have not achieved a satisfactory level of performance, and no credit will be granted for this course.

Remediation is not offered for this course.

Grading Requirements

The MSUCOM D.O. degree program incorporates both horizontal and vertical curriculum integration, meaning course activities and assessments require ongoing development and integration of knowledge and skills acquired in previous courses. Required components include:

Required Component	Projected Points	Material to be Covered
Course Introduction	10	Live online, Mandatory
ARP Introduction	10	Complete all the contents under the Introduction section and mark as done
ARP Online Modules	100	Complete the Community and Population Health module and nine out of the remaining 10 ARP modules. Complete the lectures, required readings and the assigned quiz. Required to get either 80% or take all three attempts in the quizzes.
Reflection Sessions	30	Live online discussions

Policies & Resources

Academic Support Resources at MSUCOM

Students are encouraged to connect with [Academic and Career Advising](#) (ACA) to access academic, board, and career advising across the 4-year D.O. curriculum. As a way to acclimate to the MSUCOM curriculum, you may access ACA's [On Target](#) website for semester roadmaps, tools needed to be successful in the curriculum, and targeted resources for different learning situations. Each semester's roadmap contains course expectations, tips, potential challenges, notes on longitudinal content and skills integration, and study guides.

College or University Policies with Which Enrolled Students Must Be Familiar

Policy	Location
Common Ground Professionalism Initiative	[MSUCOM CGPI Site](#)
Computer-Based Testing	[Student Handbook - CBT Policy](#)
Disability & Reasonable Accommodation	[Student Handbook - Diversity and Inclusion](#)
iClicker	[Student Handbook - Information Technology Resources](#)
Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities	[Office of Spartan Experiences Site](#)
MSUCOM Academic Code of Professional Ethics	[Student Handbook - Academic Code of Professional Ethics](#)
Osteopathic Clinical Training & Student Safety	[Student Handbook - Osteopathic Clinical Training & Student Safety](#)

Policy	Location
Preclerkship Attendance & Absences	[Student Handbook - Attendance & Absences](#)
Pregnancy and Pregnancy-Related Conditions	[Pregnancy and Parenting Information	Office for Civil Rights and Title IX](#)
Relationship Violence & Sexual Misconduct & Title IX	[Office for Civil Rights & Title IX Education & Compliance Site](#)
Religious Observance Policy	[Office of the Registrar Site](#)
Remediation	[Student Handbook - Remediation](#)
Student Handbook	[Student Handbook](#)

Student Feedback

MSUCOM values student feedback, using this to model practice-based learning and improvement and to promote continuous quality improvement of learning experiences.

Route	Description
Informal	We invite you to respectfully provide constructive suggestions to Course Directors, Contributing Faculty, or Curriculum Assistants at any time.
Formal	MSUCOM will deploy brief surveys through Medtrics to gain feedback on the Course, Course Directors and Contributing Faculty. Additionally, MSU sends an optional Student Perceptions of Learning Survey (SPLS) to enrolled students at the conclusion of each course to gain feedback on the course and Course Directors.

Course Schedule and Changes to Schedule or Requirements

Due to external circumstances (e.g., weather/maintenance closures, clinical obligations, student cohort needs, etc.), course requirements published in the course syllabus and/or course schedule may be subject to change. Timely communication regarding changes will be provided to enrolled students via the course [D2L](#) site, [Google Calendar](#), and/or [MSU email](#). Contact curriculum assistants with questions. Any changes made will be considerate of the [MSU Code of Teaching Responsibility](#) and the [Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Addendum: Course Schedule

Date	Time	Topic/Title	Theme	Faculty	Event Type	Venue (Origin*)	Notes
05/12/2025	3:30 PM - 4:10 PM	Course Introduction		Debalina Bandyopadhyay	Live online session		Mandatory
05/12/2025		Review the ARP Introduction			online		Complete all the contents under the Introduction section and mark as done
06/16/2025		Community and Population Health Module			online		Complete the lecture, required readings and the assigned quiz. Required to get either 80% or take all three attempts in the quizzes.
07/11/2025		Nine out of the ten remaining modules in the ARP			online		Complete the lecture, required readings and the assigned quiz. Required to get either 80% or take all three attempts in the quizzes
07/14/2025 – 08/03/2025	TBD	Reflection Sessions			Live online sessions		Live online Discussions