

Community Based Research Institutes

There are two Community Based Research Institutes from which to choose. Both of the Institutes include a service learning course, with pre-planned, structured assignments off-campus with community organizations.

Spring Quarter:

Community Based Research: Program Evaluation with Public Health Non-Profits

Honors 105: Client Based Program Evaluation

www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/healthdata/honors105.html

Undergraduates and staff members from community based nonprofits enroll together in a spring quarter course. All students learn theory and technique of program evaluation. They also complete a program evaluation project for one of the home agencies represented by the staff members in the class.

Months before the Institute begins, the community partners (who will enroll in the course) are meeting with the Director of the Center for Community Learning. We identify a specific public health program to evaluate; we determine what we want to know about it. These become the program evaluation projects for the course, and undergraduates form teams with staff members in week 2 of the course. Undergraduates get to choose the project that is most appealing!

The culminating event for the course is the presentation of research findings to an audience of campus and community members. All agency representatives are invited to attend and receive the final product for their organization.

Undergraduates who enroll have the opportunity to secure summer internships in program evaluation with other public health non-profits.

- Community Partners in spring 2004:
 1. Beach Cities Health District
 2. Crystal Stairs
 3. Children's Dental Health Clinic
 4. Long Beach Memorial Medical Center :Perinatal Outreach Education Program
 5. Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation

Summer Session A

Community Based Research: Immigration Issues in Los Angeles

Honors 133: Community Based Research

Sociology 180A: Immigration and Ethnicity

Two courses are taken concurrently for a total of 9 units. The Institute lasts 8 weeks.

The service learning course in Honors offers training in research methods and placement with one of five community based non-profit organizations serving immigrant communities in Los Angeles. These agencies offer UCLA undergraduates a “real-world” question that they need answered to build their capacity, assist with advocacy or policy work, or to develop programs and services. These become the students’ research questions.

Community partners come to the first class for students to select their service learning sites. They provide a brief overview of their agency, their question, and the work students will do (if they choose that site). Students get to choose the project that seems most interesting!

Our community partners return for the last class to hear the answer to their questions, as students present their research findings in a formal presentation. This culminating event is a celebration of the students’ accomplishments as researchers and an opportunity for the community partners to hear about the work of their fellow partners.

- Community Partners in summer 2004:
 1. Alta Med
 2. Cesar Chavez Foundation
 3. Proyecto Pastoral
 4. SALEF
 5. YPI