

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Collaborative Community Based Project

Global Health, Culture, and Service Learning

Dates: May 13-June 2, 2020

Credits: Choice of 0 or 3

Leaders: Mike Deibel, Pavel Polanco-Safadit and Patty Lamson

Application Deadline: November 1, 2019

Apply in Handshake



Description of Experience:

The Dominican Republic has a wide range of complex health care issues including inequalities of healthcare resources, intersections of healthcare and immigration, and a high teen pregnancy rate. Students in this Epic Advantage Experience will engage in several different types of service-oriented global health themes in an immersive and culturally enriching experience to better understand the different health challenges that people face outside of the United States. For most of the experience, students will provide non-medical support for clinics, health centers, and educational programs. They will have the opportunity to shadow medical personnel in the field and observe available surgical procedures. They will also collaborate with international multidisciplinary healthcare teams and engage in health education activities relevant to the local community. At the end of the program students will be asked to write a comprehensive reflection of the intersection of this experience and their future career goals. As a group, they will offer an in-country presentation of learning and, upon return, a comprehensive presentation of learning to the Earlham community and participation in the fall Epic Expo 2020.

Career Focus:

This program is best for students who are seeking a career in the Health Professions

Location and Living Arrangements:

This Epic Advantage Program will take place in two locations in the Dominican Republic: San Francisco de Macoris and Restauración. In San Francisco the program will partner with the Universidad Catolica Nordestana, specifically their School of Medicine. Together with public and private hospitals and clinics, the Medical School will provide opportunities for direct health care shadowing and community health work. Students will be housed together in a local hotel. In Restauración, located 12 km from the Haitian border, the program partners with FIMRC (The Foundation for International Relief of Children). At this site, there are significant health and education needs. With FIMRC, participants will be housed through their Homestay Program with local host families.

Expectations for Students:

Participants in this program are required to participate in a one credit preparation course in spring 2020 prior to the program. This course will provide basic information about healthcare skills and background about healthcare situations in the Dominican Republic. The learning goals for this program are:

- *To experience global health in context through active participation and place-based volunteering.
- *To gain interpersonal competencies including social skills, cultural competence, teamwork, oral communication.
- *To gain intrapersonal competences including ethical responsibility to self and others, reliability and dependability, resilience, adaptability, and capacity for improvement.
- *Develop an understanding of healthcare challenges in a resource poor setting.
- *To gain direct exposure to public health issues that are relevant and transferable to other parts of the world.
- *To gain direct exposure to a variety of healthcare professionals.

Faculty:

Mike Deibel has been a pre-health advisor at Earlham for many years, most recently working as the Co-Director of the Center for Global Health. In these roles, he has helped build programming for students to develop the interpersonal and intrapersonal skills necessary to be holistic and exceptional health care professionals. He has co-led three Earlham semester programs including France and New Zealand (twice).

Pavel Polanco-Safadit is an internationally known professional musician and is the Director of the Latin Jazz program at Earlham. Pavel is originally from the Dominican Republic and he and his family members in San Francisco de Macoris are instrumental in arranging this program.

Patty Lamson has co-led many Earlham semester and short term programs to Mexico as well as semester programs to Spain and the Border Studies Program. She is the former Director of Global Education.

Preparation:

Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Prerequisites:

Preference given to rising juniors and seniors. Rising sophomores and May graduates are eligible to apply. A knowledge of Spanish or Haitian Creole will enhance interaction with medical staff, patients, and community members.

Cost to Student:

This experience is funded as an Epic Advantage opportunity. Funding includes, travel, room and board and additional expenses as required by the program. This funding does not include the cost of passports and immunizations or other personal expenses. The CDC recommends Hepatitis A, B and Typhoid.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: <https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/>