



ILAC Pharmacy Program

Creighton Pharmacy Students Provide Pharmaceutical Care in Rural Health Clinics in the Dominican Republic

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ILAC Summer Program

The Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) Summer Program is a 5-week, Ignatian-inspired, interdisciplinary experience providing dental, medical, nursing, pharmacy, and undergraduate students, as well as health care professional volunteers, the opportunity to serve rural villages in the Dominican Republic by providing health care services and education in disease prevention. The program offers participants opportunities for service, reflection, cultural awareness, and spiritual growth.

Pharmacy Services

- Dispense medications and supplements for chronic and acute management of medical conditions.
- Collaborate with other health care professionals and students to optimize therapeutic drug regimens.
- Identify and solve medication-related problems.
- Provide medication counseling / education to patients at the clinic.



Men and Women For And With Others

Of all the Ignatian Values reflected in the ILAC Summer Program, pharmacy students most commonly comment on their experiences in providing service to the underserved, the Dominican communities, other Creighton students, and other health care professionals. They grow very close with their peers and the people in the communities they serve, often leaving with a renewed sense of purpose and a focus on doing the best they can to improve the lives of people from all different walks of life.

Cura Personalis

In providing medication counseling, pharmacy students also take time to get to know the Dominican patients, listening to their stories, experiences, and concerns, both related and unrelated to their medical care. The students recognize the importance of emotional and spiritual health, and integrate recommendations in these areas when dispensing medications or visiting with host-families and other community members.

Challenges

- Drug availability / limited formulary
- Limited ability to offer clinical pharmacy services
- Physical space constraints
- Medication storage issues
- Lack of up-to-date pharmacy resources
- Language barrier
- Cultural differences (i.e., not trusting medications)

Rewards

“I felt like the immersion into the community was the best part of the Summer Program. I got to know community members through activities like dominos, baseball games, and the charlas. Saying goodbye was hard.”

“The relationships we made ... not only with each other, but with the entire community.”

“Playing games with the kids each day... They taught me to love, and love hard.”

