

## Purpose

The purpose of the Community Outreach Program is to provide students with a service-learning opportunity in the community. In the context of volunteerism, COP hopes to promote awareness of multicultural diversity that will foster social, economic and environmental understanding. We hope that interns will acquire an appreciation for the complex and varied needs of all individuals served by the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center. We believe that a richer understanding of individual differences will aid healthcare delivery and promote lifelong volunteerism.

To get an application, or if you have any questions, please contact:

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Be sure to visit our website:  
<http://www.kumc.edu/cop>



**Exposing future  
healthcare workers,  
policy analysts and  
researchers to social,  
economic and  
cultural factors that  
affect the lives of  
those in their  
community**

**University of Kansas  
Medical Center  
Kansas City, KS**

## How the Program Works

The Community Outreach Program (COP) was created to expose students, the volunteer interns, to the benefits of voluntarily helping others and, from this experience, to promote lifelong volunteerism. To attain this goal, the program seeks to develop leadership skills and teamwork through exposure to the unique challenges and experiences of volunteerism. Students will be selected, via a competitive application process, in early September to be interns. Eligible students come from the schools of Allied Health, Nursing or Graduate Studies. Interns who are accepted into the program and commit to it are in turn committing themselves each to 135 hours of volunteer work through a combination of individual and group community service in Wyandotte and/or Douglas counties. Student interns will receive \$1,000 for these service hours that must be completed by May 31, 2006.

## Agency Commitment

Each intern selects an agency where the individual component of the volunteer commitment is completed. Agencies are non-profit organizations serving Wyandotte or Douglas counties. In order to achieve the benefits offered by the **Community Outreach Program**, interns and agencies enter into an agreement with the following reciprocity:

The Agency will provide:

1. Orientation and in-service or other specialized training necessary to be a successful volunteer.
2. A safe environment.
3. Meaningful assignments expanding knowledge and skills of interns.

The Intern will:

1. Complete orientation and in-service or other specialized training required by the agency.
2. Approach all tasks without prejudice and with the requisite level of effort to optimize the outcomes.
3. Agree to the assignments from the agency and fulfill them.

The **Community Outreach Program** brings together students from the Schools of Allied Health, Nursing and Graduate Studies. The program works to develop teamwork and communication among different disciplines of healthcare via the vehicle of collaborative volunteer service. To gain the benefits of learning effective interdisciplinary communication, interns share their experiences of volunteer service through newsletter writing and project presentations.