

Course Description

As an introductory course, EDLR 1162 explores the historical and social forces that shape health and education in urban communities, specifically in Connecticut. Topics of study will include poverty, culture, and identity and how these phenomena affect children's health, nutrition, schooling and opportunities for success. Through readings, films, discussion, reflection and service-learning opportunities, class members analyze policies, norms and beliefs in our society. Students will be challenged to consider how these trends may lead us to a more just society and how these may perpetuate injustice.

Service Learning Designation

As a service learning designated course, EDLR 1162 requires that all students who are enrolled in the course participate in collaborative partnerships with pre-determined service sites as a way to integrate the content of the course and provide the impetus for continued critical and reflective of course material. At the University of Connecticut, and at some existing ECE partnership sites, all students volunteer in the city of Hartford through a UConn campus/community partnership, Husky Sport. Students volunteer with Husky Sport and participate in service in schools and community organizations in the North End of Hartford.

While the faculty director of EDLR 1162 is eager to expand the course and open to expansion outside of Hartford, it is crucial that the service-learning facet of the course is properly planned for and managed.

Expansion Considerations

In addition to identifying a course instructor and Instructor Certification Approval, a service action plan must also be submitted to receive approval for this course. The UConn faculty director welcomes the opportunity to work with the school to discuss the action plan before submission. The action plan is a document that demonstrates how students will successfully complete the service learning requirement of the course.

Service Site Identification

In order to satisfy the service requirement for this course, students must engage in approximately 12-15 hours of service during their enrollment. To qualify as a service site, there must be a relationship between the service site and the school, and the agreement that students will spend 12-15 hours during the academic semester (fall or spring) at the organization to fulfill this requirement.

Students must serve in an urban area, and serve at a site whose mission is rooted in education, physical activity or nutrition. Ideally, the students would serve at a site where the school has a pre-existing relationship, and this course would offer the opportunity to strengthen that relationship. It is the responsibility of the school to address when students will serve, and if transportation will be provided by the school, or if the students are responsible for arranging their own transportation.

ECE Certification Requirements

The minimum degree requirement for teachers wishing to teach Early College Experience EDLR 1162: Health and Education in Urban Communities is typically a Master's degree in a related field. A Master's in an education or health related field of study would be ideal, but other degrees will be considered. The first year of certification is provisional, and the faculty course coordinator will mentor the ECE instructor and oversee implementation of the syllabus, instruction and service learning component of the course. Following the provisional period, certified instructors work closely with the faculty course coordinator to offer this course.

To discuss offering EDLR 1162: Health and Education in Urban Communities in your school, please contact Danielle DeRosa (danielle.derosa@uconn.edu) to discuss opportunities that may exist.