

Adtalem's Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

Adtalem Global Education and its medical and healthcare institutions are committed to educating healthcare providers about their role in combatting opioid abuse. Each institution aims to develop and deliver curriculum that is unique to each institution's culture, but with a collective goal of recognizing threats to a patient's health and halting potential abuse before it begins.

American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC) requires coursework and hands-on learning to help students better understand, assess and learn how to treat opioid use, abuse, dependence and addiction. AUC graduates serve on the front lines of the opioid epidemic, with nearly 60 percent practicing as primary care physicians, and many choosing to do so in medically underserved areas.

Opioid addiction and related issues are introduced early in the required Clinical Sciences curricula, as students conduct practice interviews with standardized patients challenged with substance abuse and dependence, including opioid abuse. Symptoms, causes, assessment and diagnosis of opioid abuse and addiction are central in Behavioral Science studies, where students learn prescribing practices and current standards for prevention and treatment of opioid abuse and addiction. AUC puts into clear focus, through several lectures, the ethics of prescribing opioids and other habit-forming prescription medications as well as the social cost.

Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM) is ensuring today's medical students are ready to address substance abuse issues, including the opioid epidemic, with patients, ensuring the issues are included in a mix of required coursework, electives and hands-on experience.

Addiction issues are a crucial and required component in the curricula at RUSM. Neurophysiology and clinical elements of substance abuse, including opioid addiction, are taught through a series of lectures. In later years of study, students are taught to diagnose and manage substance abuse issues through hands-on training in core rotations. RUSM also offers an elective in addiction medicine.

RUSM graduates a large number of diverse physicians, helping to lead to more positive healthcare outcomes in diverse populations where fatal opioid overdoses have more than doubled.

Chamberlain University combats the epidemic by requiring student learning outcomes on substance abuse and addiction in all programs.

- The College of Nursing focuses on the epidemic in health assessment courses across the curricula including substance abuse needs assessments; Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) education offered in select Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing degree program courses and special learning activities at clinical immersion experiences. In the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner specialty track, emphasis is placed on the decision making process to safely and effectively prescribe and monitor pharmacotherapeutics.
- The College of Health Professions addresses the opioid crisis through public health and population health courses in the Master of Public Health degree program. For all new programs, Chamberlain plans to integrate opioid epidemic-relevant teachings.

If each Adtalem healthcare graduate screens individuals in their care for substance use disorder, intervenes to heal and refers them to available resources, our collective activities will be impactful.