

Health Literacy Preceptorship Program



The purpose of the Health Literacy Preceptorship Program is to train future health and public health professionals in health literacy best practices that can be applied at the provider, organization, and system levels.

Health literacy (HL) is “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.”(US Department of Health and Human Services, 2000). Unfortunately, over 80 million Americans have low HL. Low HL can lead to medication errors, hospital admissions, unnecessary ER visits, skipped screenings and shots, and misinterpretation of treatment plans. Health literacy is also critical to consumers faced with choosing an insurance plan, provider, or sites of care. Not understanding benefit information can result in poor health decisions and increased costs.

The UAMS Center for Health Literacy provides plain language materials development and editing services to providers, health systems and agencies, and the health insurance industry; trains and consults on HL best practices, and conducts research on HL, its impacts on health outcomes, and how to improve it.

As a CHL Preceptorship student, you will:

- ✓ Be trained in health literacy best practices, which may include readability assessment, plain language writing and editing; numeracy; and the teach-back method for patient-provider communication
- ✓ Be encouraged to align your interests and skills with CHL goals and current projects
- ✓ Apply health behavior and health communication theory in efforts to improve health literacy and patient-provider communication
- ✓ Be a member of our team and assist with CHL initiatives (may include health literacy awareness outreach, field testing of health materials, plain language editing, trainings, and events), and provide other support to CHL research and programs
- ✓ Gain skills that you will use in your career as a health and public health professional

For more information, contact the UAMS Center for Health Literacy:
healthliteracy@uams.edu