

# CTSC 5080

## What Researchers Need to Know about Eliminating Health Disparities

**Faculty:** Joyce Balls-Berry, Ph.D.

**Credits:** 1

**Quarter:** Fall

**Prerequisites:** None



*This course is required for the CTS KL2 program.*

### **Overview**

This interactive lecture and discussion-based course will ask students to critically evaluate the national policies that address the gap in medical care and health outcomes in minorities and other underrepresented groups. Specifically, students will gain a greater understanding of the framework used for shaping the policies for inclusion in research and the opportunities and challenges these present to researchers. Reflection on past events both in the context of biomedical research and health care will serve as starting points for class discussions. Course participants will be introduced to some of the thinking, paradigms, and active work of leading experts in health disparities research. Each student will be asked to present a primary research article in class and to lead the follow-up class discussion. Students will also interact with investigators who conduct research in underrepresented populations.

### **Objectives**

- To define and identify health disparities, health equity and populations/communities commonly experiencing health disparities
- To identify and discuss how racial, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic factors could influence the study design, conducting, and reporting of research
- To critique health disparities literature and lead the class in a discussion of the material
- To compose a letter to the editor for publication

### **Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on a pre-course and post-course survey to assess current level of knowledge, a journal article review presentation of a primary research, a letter to the editor based on a primary research article related to topics being covered in the course, and discussion board posts.

Students are expected to spend two to four hours of work per week on this 1-credit course.

Additional online modules related to this topic are provided through the [Continuous Professional Development website](#).

For specific dates and times this course is provided, please see the [quarterly detailed course schedule](#).