

## WIKIPEDIA EDITING AS ACADEMIC WORK AT UCSF

Wikipedia has become one of the most frequently consulted sources for many health topics. Despite its popularity, published reports have confirmed that medical entries on Wikipedia can lack reliable sources and have gaps in content. Since 2013, the UCSF School of Medicine has offered an elective course on improving health-related Wikipedia pages. Since 2014, the UCSF School of Pharmacy has included improving medicines-related Wikipedia pages as an assignment in its required core curriculum.

### COURSE STRUCTURE: UCSF SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

This is an “immersive” course model consistent with the common pattern of fourth (final) year medical school courses at most US medical schools.

- The course duration is 4 weeks and elective (non-required)
- Students are enrolled in ONLY this course (e.g. not taking concurrent courses)
- The ONLY assignment in this course is the Wikipedia-editing work

**Lead Faculty Member:**

Amin Azzam, MD, MA  
*Amin.Azzam@ucsf.edu*

**117** Students

**101** Edited Pages

**216** Days of Student Effort

**4,381** Total Edits

**2,825,057** Page Views

### COURSE STRUCTURE: UCSF SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

This is a “course-assignment” course model consistent with many undergraduate Wikipedia- editing assignments.

- The course duration is 10 weeks and required
- Wikipedia editing effort occurs across 7 weeks of the course
- The Wikipedia-editing assignment is one of many course elements, and accounts for approximately 20% of students’ final grades
- Students are concurrently enrolled in other courses

**Lead Faculty Member:**

Dorie Apollonio, PhD  
*Dorie.Apollonio@ucsf.edu*

**476** Students

**208** Edited Pages

**144** Days of Student Effort

**5,577** Total Edits

**2,827,704** Page Views

## WIKI-EDITING AS OPEN EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE (OEP)



Since 2013, health professional schools in 5 countries have implemented Wikipedia-editing coursework



Instruction has taken place through various methods, such as one-day classes, single assignments, immersive elective courses, and Wiki "edit-a-thons"



Health professional schools include students in physical therapy, pharmacy, medicine, public health, and dentistry



Translators Without Borders is translating these pages to other language Wikipedias



Wikipedia Zero provides access without data charges in developing countries

Internet-in-a-box provides these pages offline to reach the digital last mile

### Participating Universities

University of California, San Francisco  
Tel Aviv University  
University of Notre Dame Australia  
Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
Medical University of South Carolina  
University of Dundee  
Rush Medical College  
University of Saskatchewan  
Touro University  
University of Central Florida  
Columbia University

Join the movement!

To start visit [wikiedu.org](http://wikiedu.org)

## STUDENT & FACULTY VOICES ON THE BENEFITS OF USING WIKIPEDIA IN THE CLASSROOM

"As someone who is in love with Global Health, I personally take freedom of information very seriously and I think it would be a shame not to contribute to the platform that touches millions of people's lives on a daily basis."

"Beyond the confidence to make these changes, I feel the necessity to do so as well."

"Editing Wikipedia pushed me to think of the vast amount of lay persons that could benefit from expert medical information that may otherwise be unobtainable for them. It gave me a sobering appreciation for the knowledge I am able to share with others through this universally accessible portal."

"Our responsibility is to share the knowledge that we're lucky to have with the rest of society."

"Improving Wikipedia gives health professional students the opportunity to provide high quality information to the world's population, in their preferred languages, on the platform people already use, and for free."

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