

**University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing**  
**Description of Academic-Practice Partnership**

**Underserved Mississippi Communities: School of Nursing Coordinated Healthcare**  
**through an Authentic Model of Partnership**  
**(UMC SON CHAMP)**

This academic-practice partnership is a unique affiliation between UMMCSON, Jackson Public Schools (JPS) and South Delta School (SDS) districts. For the past 21 years, the University of Mississippi School of Nursing (UMMCSON) has successfully operated nurse-managed school based health clinics in urban and rural areas of our state where health inequity and health disparity is prevalent and children are socially and economically disadvantaged. The overarching purpose of this academic-practice partnership, **UMC SON CHAMP**, is to increase access to care, improve health, provide education and reduce health inequity for Mississippi children in urban Jackson and the Mississippi Delta, while providing a unique site for educating the next generation of health care providers through interprofessional, interdisciplinary clinical experiences in our 6 clinics.

With approximately 6.1 % of the children in Mississippi, age 6-18 uninsured, UMC SON CHAMP has addressed this concern through this innovative partnership by using best practices, innovation, and collaboration as students and health care providers from different professions work together in a team-based approach to deliver quality health care.

The goals of this project are: 1) Improve health equity, access to primary health care and health education, and reduce health disparity in medically underserved communities in our state, 2) provide interprofessional education and clinical experience to students in different health care professions using a collaborative, team-centered approach, 3) develop an exemplary model of interprofessional education that can be replicated throughout the nation.

Over the past 21 years, this collaborative experience has allowed children to receive the following health care services in the convenience of the school clinic: 1. Evaluation and treatment of acutely ill/injured students, 2. Evaluation and treatment of children with mental health issues, 3. Yearly well-child screens (EPSDT), 4. Distribution of food, hygiene products, and clothes to those children in need. 5. Prescriptions of appropriate medicines for children after being seen when deemed necessary, 6. Administration of over the counter medications or prescription medication when necessary, 7. Provision of laboratory testing and screenings when necessary, 8. Vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings according to state regulations and requirements by MS public schools, 9. School-wide screening every year to all students, 10. Provision of health education programs to students and staff, 11. Evaluation, treatment and referral to physicians (general and specialty physicians), 12. Telehealth services for children who were unable to be seen in clinic, 13. Follow-up care as needed.

To date, over 500 medical students, over 700 nursing students, 10 medical residents, 6 social work students, over 40 nurse practitioner students, and over 3000 children have been impacted by this partnership with the help of UMMC SON faculty who run these clinics and serve as preceptors. Furthermore, as our partnership has continued to expand over the years, 4 physicians (specialists), registered nurses, dieticians, clinical psychologists, licensed social workers, and a health education specialist have delivered services to these children who lack access to care due to issues with transportation or inability to follow through with appointments in a facility other than the school clinic. Each UMMC student involved has acknowledged the importance of caring for those who lack access to care or experience health inequity as well as the significance of an interprofessional, collaborative practice that provides quality, cost-effective patient-centered care. This academic-practice partnership will continue to impact patients as well as future health care providers for years to come.