We are proud of the dedication our students demonstrate in supporting their communities and our state during the pandemic of COVID-19. During the COVID-19 pandemic, all service and volunteer activities require approval, monitoring, and faculty oversight. This follows the guidance of the CDC, WHO, and AAMC and is designed to ensure the health of both our students and the public while meeting the health needs of Georgia.

I. Approval and Monitoring of Service/Volunteer Activities

The Office of Student and Multicultural Affairs will approve and monitor all service/volunteer activities. Assigned faculty will oversee the efforts to ensure we are protecting student and public health. At this time, all service/volunteer activities should be conducted following the updated CDC Guidelines, including the use of handwashing and social distancing. These guidelines will be re-evaluated on a regular basis as the pandemic response evolves.

The following types of service activities are pre-approved by OSMA:

- **Information Services** produces high-quality, summarized and digestible resources on the COVID-19 pandemic and management for patients, families, faculty, and students, and supports the technological and publishing needs of other service projects.
  - Patient Education and Design, Language Translation,
  - Literature Assessment and Summary,
  - Web Design, and Outreach
- **Mental Health and Well-Being** supports the well-being of students, faculty, staff, and community members through projects such as:
  - Fundraising to provide food to front line hospital staff, working the front lines by fundraising to employ a lean staff to provide nutritious, comforting fare to hospital staff, working the front lines.
  - Virtual Community-Building projects, such as resilience, trauma-informed care, mental health first-aid, yoga and meditation.
- **PPE Task Force** organizes procurement, donation, and manufacturing of personal protective equipment from interested parties in the community.
- **Supporting Medical Education**
  - Organizing lectures, preparing objectives and guidelines for lectures;
  - Supporting contact tracing with positive test patients via phone/email
- **Telemedicine projects** providing telemedicine training for Faculty/Physicians and patients;
  - Creating materials to assist physicians in setting up telemedicine appointments with their patients;
  - Assisting outpatient clinics to onboard patients onto institutional telehealth platforms to reduce in-person clinical encounters.

II. Sign-up and Tracking of Service/Volunteer Activities:
To sign up for pre-approved service opportunities, students will complete the Service Interest Form. Students will then be contacted by the Project Director to begin their work. Students will follow the lead of the Project Director and Faculty Lead on the projects.

All students participating in approved service opportunities, will track their hours using the Service Learning Reporting Form.

**Other Service Activities:**

Students who wish to engage in any service activities outside of those outlined above, need to seek pre-approval 3 business days in advance. This approval process is outlined below:

1. Three business days prior to the service activity, students will send an email to MCGSTUDENT@AUGUSTA.EDU describing the service opportunity, the faculty supervising and the location and duration of the experience.
2. OSMA will review the request and send an approval/denial within 1 business day.
3. When student has received an approval, they may begin serving in that capacity.
4. If the request is denied, the student is advised to seek an approved activity.

**III. Parameters of Service Volunteer Activities:**

1. Students are enrolled full-time in an online medical school curriculum. As such, students may dedicate a maximum of 15 hours per week on approved service activities as they are enrolled full-time students. Students who have completed all of their graduation requirements, do not have a service provision.
2. Students should avoid any direct or indirect contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or with a healthcare worker or other person who may have been exposed and are currently under quarantine.
3. Students engage only in service that follows Shelter in Place guidelines of staying home with exceptions to grocery stores, hospitals, and pharmacies. These parameters will be re-evaluated on a regular basis as the pandemic evolves.