

Reflection #5

There were many things that I was able to take away from this semester and from CODES as a whole. Some of the most important things would include teamwork skills, building connections with local non-profits, and learning how to produce effective research. This program has given me the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself. It's equipped me with skills that I will be able to use for a lifelong career. As a future social worker, I have gained experience in dealing with situations arising from systemic challenges. Ultimately, this opportunity has allowed me to continue serving underrepresented communities. Now more than ever, I feel even more inspired to involve myself with future initiatives that involve advocating for better resources.

CODES has been a significant part of my education. With this exposure I was able to effectively learn how to conduct a thematic analysis, define wicked problems, utilize different research methods, and publish research. I remember the first CODES class where, initially, I felt nervous about research and our cohort issue. Later on, I became more confident in my understanding of our research issue and purpose. I believe this experience demonstrates the growth I needed to undergo to make a significant contribution to my group. Furthermore, I think that learning about the wicked problems was one of the most influential things that I've embarked on. Wicked problems are issues that stem from systemic challenges and systems. After grasping this concept, I was able to understand the long-lasting effects communities suffer from when it comes to policy and government. Other concepts, such as thematic analysis and the different research methods, allowed me to apply my learning to the real world. I was able to conduct interviews and code based off of what respondents were saying. Ultimately, I've learned a multitude of concepts and lifelong skills that have already contributed benefits to my future.

