*1. interact with a variety of healthcare professionals and write a paper reflecting on the advantages and disadvantages of each career; complete Institute sponsored job shadowing and/or internships (credit and noncredit) and write a report outlining what they did, what they learned, and how the experience will impact their futrue career goals.*

*2. complete a values clarification exercise and relate it to their personal and professional career goals; meet with Albion's prehealth twice a year to discuss their progress in choosing the healthcare that best meets their abilities as well as personal and professional goals.  [Part of this discussion is a review of how successful associates have been in completing the pre-requsite courses for professional school (requirements vary for professional schools).]*

*3. maintain a journal of current events in healthcare and give a PowerPoint presentation on a current healthcare topic.*

*4. complete a survey at the end of their senior year evaluating their final career plan and the role the Institute played in supporting their efforts to become a healthcare professional.*

1. After interacting with six healthcare professionals (i.e., physical therapist, physician assistant, optometrist, podiatrist, chiropractor, nurse), students in the Introduction to Healthcare wrote a “Plan B” paper. In this paper, students identified two potential careers that they found attractive (in addition to their primary career goal) and described the advantages/disadvantages of each career.

This assessment tool provided us with valuable information concerning students’ ability to reflect upon alternate career routes in the health professions. Not only were students able to effectively compare and contrast the different health professions, but they were also able to identify at least different careers that would fit with their personal and professional career goals.

The Institute is committed to “parallel planning,” i.e., ensuring that students are cognizant of multiple career pathways for entering the health professions (including, but not limited to, their primary career choice, for example, medicine or dentistry). With the exception of three students (all of whom were international students), students completed this assignment in an exemplary fashion. In the future, we will work more closely with international students to determine whether or not they fully comprehend the concept of a “Plan B” paper.

We will address the second part of item one in the fall semester after students have completed internships and/or job shadowing experiences over the summer of 2010.

1. Students in the Issues in Healthcare course completed a values clarification exercise. This was followed up with a discussion about personal values and integrating personal and professional goals. We learned that students are entering the healthcare professions for myriad reasons, but primarily out of a desire to serve and make a difference in the lives of others. We also discovered that their greatest concerns involved making mistakes as a healthcare provider and not being able to fully participate in their family lives given the demands of their career. We will continue to address these concerns in individual advising sessions as well as small group discussions.

In terms of academic advising, Albion’s Prehealth advisor met with 83 individual students at least once during the fall semester. During these sessions, approximately 50% of these students discussed their healthcare “Plan B” as well as their primary career goal in the health professions. All of the students who met with the Prehealth advisor were still pursuing a career in healthcare.

1. Both of these goals were met by students in the Issues in Healthcare course. Students in this course maintained a journal of current events in healthcare, adding to the journal dents on a weekly basis, and completing a PowerPoint presentation at the end of the semester. All of the students demonstrated an understanding of the healthcare events they reviewed.

This assignment reinforced for us the value of asking students to reflect upon and write about current events in healthcare. This is a useful tool in preparing students to “cultivate a habit of mind” which includes maintaining a working knowledge of controversial issues and new developments in healthcare. Moreover, this assignment enables students to discuss healthcare issues with other students as well as professionals in the field and prepares them for internships and professional/graduate school interviews.

4. Senior surveys will be distributed in late April.