

MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH 2024-25

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

I. General Description of the Program and Information for Students

The Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP) in Child and Adolescent Health (Pediatrics) recognizes medical students who excel in scholastic exploration of the field of pediatrics. In conjunction with the UCCOM Pediatric Interest Club, students recognized by the program are expected to have expanded their knowledge in pediatrics, gained experiences in a variety of clinical shadowing opportunities, participated in advocacy and leadership roles, and dedicated time to a scholarly product from pediatric-focused scientific research.

II. Criteria to be designated a Pediatric Scholars Student:

1. Scholarly Project

Students will identify a research mentor and research project during their first year of medical school. Research must be focused on either general or subspecialty medical disciplines (such as Hospital Medicine, Emergency Room, Cardiology, Pulmonary, etc.) but not in general or pediatric surgical subspecialties (Pediatric Surgery, orthopedics, urology, etc.). The research should be focused on a specific pediatric-related topic and may include any type of research activity including laboratory, clinical studies, comparative effectiveness, quality improvements, and clinical outcomes. Students are not expected to develop their own project but work on a project which is already developed or in progress. As CCHMC is a very large research institution with many research opportunities, students may be frustrated or intimidated by the process of identifying a project and mentor. The Pediatric MSSP Director will work directly with students throughout the year to assist in connecting with a mentor and research project.

Students will submit their research application (with guidance from their mentor) in the early winter for review by The Pediatric MSSP Director.

Specific Requirements for the Scholarly Project:

- 1) Mentors and the research performed must be at CCHMC (not at UC or other institutions).
- 2) Research must be pediatric-focused and only in a general or subspecialty medical discipline.
- 3) Students must submit a research application in the early winter for review. The project must be reviewed and accepted by The Pediatric MSSP Director.
- 4) Students must be able to commit full-time effort for eight weeks during the summer during regular work hours (not evenings, holidays, or weekends).
- 5) Students should refrain from taking other jobs or classes during the summer to concentrate on their research experience.
- 6) Students may work at home only if approved by their mentor AND The Pediatric MSSP Director. If working at home must be in Cincinnati. CCHMC does not allow remote work outside of the state for non-essential employees.
- 7) By the fall of M2 students are expected to produce an abstract for The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Annual Research and Service Symposium. Research and abstract presentation must be entirely performed during medical school, not prior to matriculating to UCCOM.

- 8) Students are expected to complete the UCCOM Research 101 series during the summer.

2. Clinical Experience

All students are required to shadow in pediatric clinical activities during their pre-clinical years. A shadow experience generally constitutes a three to four-hour session with a clinical preceptor. A sequence of shadowing experiences recommended is noted below, but there is no a requirement on the exact sessions done. Students should diversify their shadowing experiences as much as they are able.

The first-year emphasis of the clinical shadowing experience should be on “normal children and adolescents.” Emphasis on the normal physical findings and the normal clinical history of children and adolescents should be stressed. Suggested areas for shadowing in year 1 include the following:

- General Pediatrics (both CCHMC clinics and private offices)
- Adolescent Medicine
- Genetics
- Developmental Pediatrics
- Emergency Medicine
- Neonatology/Normal Newborn Nursery

As medical students will have completed more of their coursework, students will have a better understanding of disease processes. Specialty areas include but are not limited to:

- Neonatology Intensive Care (NICU)
- Gastroenterology
- Pulmonary Medicine
- Cardiology
- Nephrology
- Endocrinology
- Allergy/Immunology
- Rheumatology
- Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant

A list of faculty/sites at Cincinnati Children’s that are available for shadowing is maintained by The Pediatric Interest Club. Students will be responsible for contacting each preceptor to set up a mutually suitable time. Students may shadow during the summer between M1-M2 year. Shadowing counting towards MSSP requirements outside of CCHMC must be approved in advance through The Pediatric MSSP Director.

Students will take an elective or Acting Internship in pediatrics at CCHMC during the fourth year. The elective can be a two- or 4-week elective. The elective does not have to count as Intensive Clinical Experience (ICE) credit for fulfilling this criterion. Away pediatric electives that qualify as Intensive Clinical Experience (ICE) credit at UCCOM can also be submitted for this requirement.

Specific Requirements for the Clinical Experience:

- 1) 20 hours total combined of shadowing during M1 and M2 years including summer.
- 2) M4 Elective or AI in pediatrics.

3. Didactics

Students are expected to attend specific pediatric-focused meetings or lectures. This requirement can only be fulfilled by attending Pediatrics Club lectures and meetings (approximately 8 scheduled per year), designated Pediatric MSSP summer lecture series (approximately 6 scheduled per summer), and Pediatric MSSP Group Meetings (approximately 2 scheduled per year). Grand Rounds attendance, other pediatric lectures or journal clubs will not count toward requirement.

Specific Requirements for Didactics:

- 1) 15 hours attendance total combined during M1 and M2 years including summer of Pediatrics Club lectures and meetings, summer lecture series and MSSP group meetings.

4. Leadership and Service

Pediatric MSSP students are expected to take an active role within the College of Medicine and the Cincinnati community. All students must participate in a service project in the community for a minimum of 8 hours. Service projects do not need to be pediatric focused, and a list of opportunities is maintained by The Pediatric Interest Club. Students are also expected to serve a minimum of one year on either a College of Medicine committee (admissions, curriculum review, etc.) and/or leadership in a recognized UCCOM organization (Pediatric Interest Club, etc.).

Specific Requirements for Leadership and Service:

- 1) 8 hours total service in community.
- 2) Service to College of Medicine on UCCOM committee for one year *OR* leadership for one year for UCCOM organization.

III. Designation as a Pediatric Scholar

Students will be noted as a Scholar in the graduation program after the candidate student's MSSP portfolio is evaluated by a faculty committee from the Department of Pediatrics. In addition to the criteria listed above, students must remain in good academic standing with the College of Medicine for all 4 years of medical school. Students may be removed from Scholar standing should they fall into Academic Warning or similar categories with the College of Medicine. Students will be removed from Scholar standing if they do not accurately self-report their MSSP activities.

IV. Application Information

Acceptance into The Pediatrics MSSP may be competitive based on the number of applicants. Following the submission deadline, applications will be scored based on their interest in pediatrics and research. However, students who have not had prior research experience are strongly encouraged to apply as it is recognized that most students have not had prior opportunities to perform pediatric research prior to matriculating into medical school.

V. Contact Information

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