



UCSF Peds-START (Pediatric Specialized Training and Admission to Residency Track)

Description: This program provides mentorship and facilitates longitudinal relationships with pediatric faculty, targeting UCSF medical students who want to stay at UCSF as part of the UCSF Pediatrics Residency Program based in San Francisco.

- Open to students who will begin F2 in January 2026 in the San Francisco Bay Area
- A limited number of students will be admitted annually to each UCSF Peds-START cohort
- Students accepted to UCSF Peds-START are aligned with the UCSF Pediatric Residency Program based in San Francisco at BCH-SF, ZSFGH and Mount Zion (upon successful completion of UCSF SOM)

• APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2025

Key Components:

- Pediatric-Focused Experiences, Didactics, and Advising
 - Quarterly cohort meetings with pediatric sessions including clinical didactics, simulation activities, tailored elective selection sessions, and career advising
 - Quarterly meetings with an individual pediatric faculty mentor
 - Individual sessions to help students design and pursue enhanced pediatric longitudinal experiences, with guidance from faculty mentors

UCSF Pediatric Residency Plan: Students who are accepted into and participate in Peds-START will engage in pediatric specific experiences in medical school and continue the Peds-START program into and including UCSF Pediatrics Residency, with flexibility to opt out if they choose another path. Acceptance into UCSF Pediatrics Residency Program will be contingent on successful completion of UCSF medical school.

Contact: For more information, **see FAQ** and please reach out to **michele.long@ucsf.edu**

Apply Now!



<http://tiny.ucsf.edu/PedsSTARTApplication2025>

UCSF Peds-START FAQ ???

Q: What is UCSF Peds-START?

Peds-START (Pediatric Specialized Training and Admission to Residency Track) is a program for students invested in a pediatric career and who are strongly considering doing their 3-year pediatric residency training at UCSF Pediatric Residency (falls under the Department of Pediatrics, based in San Francisco).

Q: Why Peds-START? Why now?

There's a real need for pediatric providers, and the UCSF Department of Pediatrics is passionate about supporting students who come to medical school with an interest in pursuing pediatrics. Many UCSF students choose to stay at UCSF San Francisco for pediatric residency training, and they thrive. This track strengthens the already strong connection between UCSF medical school and UCSF Pediatric Residency training.

Q: Who should consider Peds-START?

If you're committed to pediatrics and want to stay at UCSF San Francisco for residency, Peds-START is for you! It offers a pediatric-focused experience starting in medical school and aligns you with subsequent residency in the UCSF's Pediatrics Residency Program based in San Francisco.

Q: Has this been done before?

Yes, in a way! UCSF was part of the national AAMC pilot, Education in Pediatrics Across the Continuum (EPAC), which prepared students for pediatric careers with similar mentorship and residency pathways. UCSF Peds-START builds on that experience by selecting students before clerkships who are interested in Pediatrics, longitudinal mentorship, and subsequent pediatric training at UCSF Pediatric Residency based in San Francisco—without the extra assessments or altered timelines.

Q: I'm an MS2 and interested. What do I do now?

Apply! The application includes a CV, a guided statement of interest, and references. Applicants will be notified if they are selected for an interview. The application is **due September 7th**—check the QR code for details!

Q: Can I do Peds-START if I'm in SJV PRIME?

Unfortunately, no. Peds-START is only available to students who will be in the San Francisco Bay Area for their F2 phase starting in January 2026, and SJV PRIME students complete their F2 in the Central Valley.

Q: What if I'm not sure about pediatrics yet?

No worries! If that's the case, Peds-START is not right for you. UCSF will expose you to pediatrics throughout your education. Many students make their decision later and still become strong candidates for pediatric programs, including at UCSF.

Q: Can I still be a pediatrician (at UCSF or elsewhere) if I don't apply or get into Peds-START?

Absolutely! Peds-START is just one path. UCSF has many ways to support you on your pediatric journey, whether you go through this track or not.

Q: What if I join Peds-START and change my mind?

We understand that you can not always predict the future. We ask that only folks committed to pediatrics apply to this program. If things change, we want you to know you can opt out later without impacting your progress toward your MD degree.

Q: Will Peds-START limit my options in medical school?

Not at all. You'll meet all UCSF's graduation requirements, and if you change your focus, it won't affect your ability to pursue other fields.

Q: Will Peds-START limit my F2 options?

Peds-START students still do their full F2 rotation program (Traditional, Model, Valor, Pisces, KLIC, etc) and thus still complete the same core rotations that their peers will complete.

Q: How does residency matching work for Peds-START students?

We are working with the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) to get an exemption for the match for Peds-START participants. While we are not sure yet that we will get this exemption, we will work with Peds-START participants to ensure that the match process is as streamlined as possible to allow you to stay at UCSF, if you desire.

Q: Does Peds-START link to UCSF Pediatric Residency Program based in San Francisco AND/OR UCSF Benioff Oakland Children's Hospital Residency Program?

No- these are separate programs. Peds-START is linked to UCSF Pediatric Residency Program, Department of Pediatrics, based in San Francisco.

APPLICATION:



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If you have more questions about Peds-START, please contact michele.long@ucsf.edu