

Primary Care Exploration Program

Sponsored by the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program

What is the Primary Care Exploration Program?

The Primary Care Exploration Program (PCEP) is an opportunity for rising second year medical students to gain practical experience working in primary care in a rural area of Mississippi for 6 weeks in the summer. Students have an opportunity to learn more about the various aspects of primary care by working with a physician preceptor.

What are the goals of the Primary Care Exploration Program?

1. To expose medical students to primary care specialties through hands on experience.
2. To expose medical students to rural communities in Mississippi.
3. To enhance the education of medical students by providing opportunities to take patient histories and interact with patients and physicians after the first year of medical school.
4. To give rural hospitals/clinics/practices the opportunity to showcase their communities, facilities, and future opportunities.

What obligations does a sponsoring hospital/clinic/practice have?

1. To provide a board-certified physician preceptor for the medical student. This physician preceptor should be board-certified in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, or OB/GYN. They will serve as a teacher and mentor the medical student. The student can work with other physicians as well, but there must be one primary preceptor.
2. To provide a stipend in the amount of \$1,500 for the medical student. The stipend can be paid directly to the student or it can be coordinated through the Mississippi State Medical Association Foundation.
3. To provide an active learning environment so that the student learns about primary care and about rural medicine.

Does signing up for the program guarantee that a student will be placed in our location?

No, signing up for the program does not guarantee that a student will be placed in your location. This is the first year of the program, so we do not yet know how many students might sign up to participate. Students will be able to rank order potential locations to work during the program, and then we will match the students with the locations.

What are the dates of the program?

The dates of the program will be June 6 – July 15, 2022. But there will be some flexibility to allow locations to choose different beginning and ending dates if they need to.

Do we have to provide housing for the medical student?

Our goal will be to place students in proximity to where they currently live or where they have family so that they can drive to the location daily. But if a location has the ability to provide housing (in a hospital room, hotel or apartment), then we will be able to let students know that housing is an option in that particular location. This year we are likely to be able to offer a housing stipend to students to offset the cost of housing if they do not live in the area.

Is there the potential to have more than one student participate in our location?

Yes, we would welcome the opportunity to place more than one student in your location if that is something you could accommodate from a staffing and funding perspective.

How do we sign up to participate in the MRPSP Primary Care Exploration Program?

In order to sign up, you fill out the PCEP Host Application that includes the Hospital/Clinic Letter of Agreement.

Is there a deadline to sign up to participate?

The deadline to sign up is **Monday, December 13, 2021.**

Who should we contact with questions?

If you have any questions about the program or how it will work, please contact the MRPSP Executive Director Wahnee Sherman at wsherman@umc.edu or 601-815-9026.