

First year students

First year students are preparing for their upcoming summer experiences. At this time, all should have heard about their acceptance to participate in a research project (Medical Student Research Training Program), the Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP), or the International Health Opportunities Program (IHOP). Your student may be completing their Independent Investigative Inquiry (III) project as part of their RUOP or IHOP. This is a health project students develop to meet a particular identified health need in the community. If your student is not participating in one of these programs, check in to see what your student is planning to do this summer. Other university and non-university based programs allow for US and international health experiences.

Academically, your students continue with their basic sciences curriculum and Introduction to Clinical Medicine. At this point, your student should be enrolled in or have completed one preceptorship. Also, students should be actively volunteering with a health related organization. If they have not started volunteering, this is a great time to talk with them about what types of projects might interest them and to brainstorm with them possible community organizations to contact for opportunities. The Community Health Advancement Program (CHAP), Students in the Community (SITC) and Students Aspiring to Rural and Underserved Experiences (SPARX) programs offer many volunteer opportunities.

Second year students

Second year students are beginning to prepare in earnest for their step 1 USMLE exams. This exam is generally taken in June, before clerkships start in July. They also have received a list of their clerkship assignments and may be thinking about travel and housing for their clerkships that are outside of the Seattle area. The formal classroom activities of second year conclude with several days of orientation to clinical rotations. Talking with your student about preparing for the rigors of clerkships and assisting them with physical exam and history taking skills can be quite helpful.

At this point, your second year student should have completed or be close to completing the preclinical pathway requirements: an underserved preceptorship or RUOP/IHOP experience, an Independent Investigative Inquiry project on an underserved care topic, a portion of the total 32 hours of community service required, and 2 credits of preclinical selectives on underserved topics. Also, they should have completed some of the online pathway learning modules. It's important to check in with your students and see if they have completed these items and what their plans may be for completing these before they start their clinical rotations. As always, if your students have questions, they can contact the pathway faculty and staff for further assistance and questions.

Third year students

Third year students are nearing completion of their required clinical clerkships. Many are thinking about the elective clerkship experiences that they will be taking in their

fourth year. This is a good time to talk with them about the clerkships they feel would qualify for pathway credit. Students are expected to complete 12 credits of clinical clerkships in underserved settings.

Third year students are also beginning to think about their specialty choices. You can help your student think through their specialty choices in the context of a future career in underserved care. The Student Affairs Office will connect each student with an advisor in the specialty specified by the student and held a forum on applying to residency programs which should answer most of their questions about the mechanics of applying to residency programs. However, if you feel comfortable, your advice can also help them through the residency application process.

Third year students will also be looking forward to taking their Step 2 examinations and the Step 2 Clinical Skills examinations. These tests must be scheduled during the summer and before early fall of this year.

Fourth year students

Fourth year students received their match results! We hope you have been in touch with them to congratulate them as they prepare for the next phase of their education and training. Your student should also be completing their remaining clerkship requirements. Some students will be taking advantage of this time to go abroad for elective clerkships. Other students will begin making arrangements to move for residency. Some students will be anxious about starting their residency program and will have many questions for you on how to best prepare for life in residency. Be sure to ask about these important upcoming events during your quarterly check-in. Graduation exercises will happen in Seattle on June 5th.