

First year students

First year students are often feeling more settled and pleased to have a quarter completed. Your student needs to be working on his or her summer plans. He or she may have completed an International Health Opportunities Program (IHOP) application or a Rural Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP) application. The IHOP application was due in early January and students are finding out about their acceptance and placements into RUOP for the coming summer. These programs fund immersion experiences for students in international, rural and urban underserved settings for at least a month in the summer between first and second year. They can also complete their Individual Investigative Inquiry (III) project during this time, which will fulfill one of their UP requirements.

Academically your students continue with their basic sciences curriculum and Introduction to Clinical Medicine. Most are doing or have done a preceptorship, so discussing their clinical experiences continues to be important. The Community Health Advancement Program (CHAP) offers many volunteer opportunities and during each quarter. Current second year students are working to recruit first year students to transition into the leadership positions as CHAP Project Coordinators. They will hold these leadership positions through Spring quarter of second year. These positions are often a natural fit for Underserved Pathways students. For more information about CHAP, visit the website at <http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/predoc/programs/chap>.

Second year students

Second year students also are more settled second quarter. The curriculum continues to be hard and fast paced. In the small college groups, your student will have completed two complete H&Ps, presented the cases orally at the bedside, and listened to and discussed at least 8 other presentations of classmates. They will enjoy continued discussion about how they are developing their clinical skill set, including basics such as hearing murmurs and visualizing the optic disc and fundus. Students have put in their requests for their third year "track", or order of the required clerkships. They will no doubt benefit from discussing their interests and their fears with you. This is a great time to touch bases about their continued interest with caring for the underserved.

It is important to continue to discuss your student's progress in the pathway. Have they completed any modules? Have they completed selective courses? Have they completed any community service? Did they complete their Individual Investigative Inquiry (III)? If not, what are their plans for meeting this requirement? Feel free to view our website for more information on the pathway requirements:

<https://courses.washington.edu/upathway/pathwayrequirements.html>.

Please let them know they can discuss this further with pathway staff and faculty.

Third year students

At this time, most third year students have completed three or four clerkship experiences. As they see and learn more clinical medicine, questions may arise around the health disparities that they see on their rotations and the types of care practiced in community versus academic settings. Students are also beginning to consider their career paths as they start to plan out their fourth year rotation schedules. They will benefit from guidance in selecting elective clerkships and fourth year schedules. Discussions about care of the underserved and careers with the underserved can be most helpful as your student navigates this stage of their professional development. Sharing your work and how varied and fulfilling this work can be is important at this time. Students also benefit from reassurance that a reasonable lifestyle is possible.

Fourth year students

Your fourth year student should be completing their residency interviews. They should also be considering their residency program choices and preparing to enter their match list into the NRMP system by February 27th. As students weigh their residency program options, advice on the types of procedural and clinical training that would best suit their career goals can be helpful in their prioritization process. Match day for students is March 18th. An email or phone call to your student to check in and see where they were matched is a great way to keep in touch with your student.

Again, sincere thanks to you for your commitment to this next generation of physicians working for the underserved!