

PRIMARY CARE CLINICAL TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Overview

Each class at the University of Colorado School of Medicine (CUSOM) consists of approximately 184 students. Clinical experiences in primary care are crucial to the career development of our students. We could not provide these experiences without the community preceptors who host our students for varying lengths (typically 4-12 weeks). There are several ways to engage clinically with medical students throughout their training.

Developing Our Clinical Skills (DOCS) (1st year)

Students are paired with a preceptor in the Denver-metro area for 1-3 half days per month. The primary goal for this experience is for the student to become comfortable interacting with patients, practice communication and physical exam skills, and learn from a physician role model. Students are assigned a primary care physician when possible, and we are always in need of more preceptors.

Contact: Foundations.doctoring@cuanschutz.edu

Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) Preceptor (2nd year)

Beginning in September of 2022, the CUSOM MD program became an all LIC program. This means that students no longer participate in block style clerkships where they spend 4-8 weeks immersed in one specialty at a time. Instead, students will spend time longitudinally with 7 core specialty preceptors, developing a relationship with a cohort of patients, and a hospital system. During this time, students will spend approximately a half day per week with a family medicine preceptor. This is a special opportunity for Family Medicine to make an impact on clerkship students. Contact: Brandy.Deffenbacher@cuanschutz.edu

Rural Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) Preceptor (2nd year)

In addition to Denver/metro LIC, CUSOM also has rural LIC sites across the state of Colorado. In this model, students work longitudinally with rural family medicine preceptors, living in the rural community, developing a relationship with a cohort of patients, as well as becoming an integral part of the rural healthcare and hospital system over the course of the clerkship year. Students who participate in the rural LIC are also participating in the CUSOM Rural Program, which is designed to provide this group of learners with additional training and education around issues specific to the health of rural communities. Contact: Roberto.silva@cuanschutz.edu

FM Electives (3rd & 4th year)

During the fourth year, students complete an acting-internship, electives, and residency interviews. We encourage students interested in or committed to family medicine to participate in clinical electives. Electives may occur in Colorado or out-of-state. Students typically arrange these electives on their own, but we assist with learning objectives, paperwork, and evaluation.

Contact: George.Olsen@cuanschutz.edu

DAWN Clinic Preceptor (All years)

DAWN clinic is an interprofessional student run free clinic in Original Aurora dedicated to Aurora's uninsured population. The primary medical clinic runs on Tuesday evenings and combines medical providers, physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing, dental, and behavioral health along with 40-50 students each week. Family medicine preceptors are GREATLY needed and free medical liability insurance is available. Visit <https://www.dawnhealth.org/become-a-volunteer/> for more information.

SMALL GROUP

Overview

There are many opportunities throughout the four years to have interactions with students in a non-clinical teaching environment, all of them in smaller, more intimate teaching sessions. Below is a list of opportunities that range from one session, to longitudinal groups.

One Time Teaching Opportunities (All years)

First Course

This is a course during the first 2 weeks of medical school, with sessions related to the professional and cultural aspects of medical education. Topics range from the humanities to unconscious bias. Sessions last for 3 hours with 1 hour of faculty development prior to the session.

Basecamp Courses

This is a series of 1-2 week "mini-courses" that provide a core curricular thread throughout all 4 years of medical school. Students reflect on their development as future physicians, and build skills and knowledge in core areas that are essential to practice such as shared decision-making and advanced communication. Time commitment is one 2-4 hour session with 1 hour of faculty development prior.

Family Medicine Interest Group & Rural Program Didactics/Skills Workshops

Interactive lecture-discussions and skills workshops. These occur over lunch hours, on Wednesday mornings (Rural Program) or evenings. These are great one-time teaching opportunities and are a fun way to interact with students interested in family medicine and/or rural health.

LIC Program Learning Seminars (didactics): Team Based Learning (TBL) sessions

Interactive small group sessions designed to cover the core clerkship curriculum for every LIC. These sessions happen on an almost weekly basis and are a great opportunity for family medicine faculty to engage with a small group of clerkship students over various primary and specialty care topics. The timing of these sessions varies depending on the LIC, but typically happen over 2-4 hours. These are great one-time teaching opportunities, and are a fun way to interact with students interested in family medicine and/or rural health.

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