

OVERVIEW

The Visiting Clerkship Program (VCP) provides support for fourth-year and qualified third-year medical students from groups underrepresented in medicine as defined by the AAMC, including, but not limited to African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native, to participate in the Harvard Medical School Exchange Clerkship Program. It was designed to:

- Increase awareness of opportunities in academic medicine
- Increase consideration of academic training programs for internship and residency
- Increase the number of minority students applying to HMS-affiliated hospital training programs

The Visiting Clerkship Program is sponsored by the Minority Faculty Development Program of the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership.

PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS

Participants in the Visiting Clerkship Program will be scheduled at one of the affiliated teaching hospitals of Harvard Medical School:

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston Children's Hospital
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brockton/West Roxbury Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Cambridge Health Alliance
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates
Joslin Diabetes Center
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
Massachusetts General Hospital
McLean Hospital
Mt. Auburn Hospital
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

MORE INFORMATION

For information about the Visiting Clerkship Program, please contact the Program Coordinator at 617-432-4422 or vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu or visit the website at www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/vcp
More information about the Harvard Medical School Exchange Clerk Program for Visiting Medical Students can be found at the HMS Registrar's website: www.hms.harvard.edu/registrar

PROGRAM DETAILS

Eligibility

Eligible participants are: full-time, fourth-year (US Citizens or Permanent Residents of US) medical students in good standing at accredited US and Canadian medical schools. Third-year students who have completed their core clerkships in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics are also eligible. In addition to completion of core requirements, all students applying to the VCP must have completed USMLE Step 1 prior to the start of their rotation.

Students remain registered at their own schools while participating in exchange clerkships at Harvard Medical School. They are not officially enrolled as students at Harvard University.

Length

Clerkships are offered year around, and each clerkship lasts for four weeks. Students may rotate throughout the year, HOWEVER, the VCP only provides housing and travel support from May through November.

Mentoring and Networking

VCP participants are assigned a faculty advisor and offered opportunities to network with HMS faculty, house staff and students. A dinner/luncheon meeting for faculty and students is held during each rotation.

Course Offerings

Visiting Clerkship Program participants can take elective courses at Harvard Medical School. Please view electives in the online catalog: www.medcatalog.harvard.edu

In addition, participants have access to the Harvard Medical School Countway Library, hospital seminars, and hospital workshops.

Financial Assistance

The program will:

- reimburse up to \$400 toward the cost of traveling to and from Boston;
- pay the application processing fee required by HMS Registrar's Office.

Housing

The Visiting Clerkship Program provides housing for participating students.

APPLICATION

To receive a VCP application, please return the Application Request Form on the back of this brochure or call the Visiting Clerkship office at 617-432-4422; email: vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu. We will send you the forms that are required for VCP application.

In order to complete HMS exchange clerkship application you need to go online at the registrar's website at www.hms.harvard.edu/registrar and enter your clerkship preferences and your preferred month. You can then return the requested forms along with VCP application to the VCP office. We will forward all information to the registrar's office. The registrar's office will contact you with your assigned clerkship.

ROTATION DATES *

ROTATION MONTH	2019 - 2020 ROTATION DATES	ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE
May 2020	May 4 - May 31	January 31
June 2020	June 1 - June 28	February 28
July 2020	July 6 - August 2	March 31
August 2020	August 3 - August 30	April 30
September 2020	August 31 - September 27	May 31
October 2020	September 28 - October 25	June 30
November 2020	October 26 - November 22	July 31
December 2020	November 23 - December 20	August 31
January 2021	January 4 - January 31	September 30
February 2021	February 1 - February 28	October 31
March 2021	March 1 - March 28	November 30
April 2021	April 5 - May 2	December 31
May 2021	May 4 - May 31	January 31
June 2021	June 1 - June 27	February 28

* Visiting Clerkships Program (VCP) supports students from May through November.

DEADLINES

You must submit the online clerkship application on the registrar's website at least 3 months prior to the desired rotation month. The HMS registrar's office strictly enforces application deadlines.

In order to be competitive for a clerkship, it is strongly recommended that you submit VCP application before the 3 month deadline or earlier. For application information, please call: 617-432-4422 or email: vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu.

Comments from VCP Participants

"I had an incredible clerkship experience during my pediatric GI rotation. I felt feeling inspired and motivated about a career in academic medicine and I am looking forward to applying to the Boston area."

"Great opportunity to network, excellent advice on residency applications and the whole process. I honestly got more information on how to apply for residencies from here than my home school!"

"I had an absolute amazing time on my clerkship and as a result the program at MGH is very high on my list of places to train. Three major things. First, the connections & networking with faculty and other minority students, second, it allowed for me to visit a new hospital in a different state than where I am from, Third it helped to alleviate the financial burden to travel and housing cost. I would like to thank the VCP program and the MFDP and staff for all of its help and support."

"I would highly recommend it because it provides you the ability to experience a premier medical education in some of the nation's top hospitals with less financial burden but with more academic guidance. What's not to like?"

"This is a very well-organized program. It provides an excellent opportunity to network within one's field of interest. The program provides the student with the resources and connections to be a successful extern. In addition, the travel and housing financial aid is extremely beneficial for students who otherwise would not consider doing an away rotation because of the costs."

"Provides exposure to fantastic residency programs. Offers you connections to meet with several faculty members that could have a strong say in the application process. Great way to get a strong letter. Will meet many great mentors."

"The program does an excellent job of supporting students and putting students in the best possible position to succeed. My advisor was a great mentor and resource and I learned an incredible amount from some wonderful medical educators throughout my rotation. I was truly lucky to have participated in this program."

ABOUT THE OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND THE MINORITY FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Minority Faculty Development Program (MFDP) in the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership (DICP) was created by the Harvard Medical School Faculty Council in 1990 to support the career development of junior faculty and to address the following crucial pipeline issues:

- Increasing the pool of minority students interested in careers in science and medicine
- Promoting medical students, graduate students, and fellows to develop the needed skills for success in the academic arena
- Advancing the career development of junior faculty

The Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership was established in 2002 to promote the increased recruitment, retention and advancement of diverse faculty, particularly individuals from groups underrepresented in medicine (URM), at HMS and to oversee all diversity activities involving Harvard Medical School (HMS) faculty, trainees, students and staff.

Our pipeline programs begin as early as the middle school level and carry on through the postgraduate level and involve curriculum development, teacher training, enhancing student research, and career development. DICP/MFDP's work addresses HMS' relationship with the community (internal and external) through the provision of programs that link HMS faculty, trainees and students with local, regional and national community-related activities.



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VCP VISITING CLERKSHIP PROGRAM