

KSOM Primary Care Program Frequently Asked Questions

What are the advantages of participating in the Primary Care Program?

In the traditional required Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) curriculum, medical students work with their ICM mentor and interview and/or exam patients generally weekly in a hospital based setting throughout their first two years at the KSOM. The Primary Care Program will offer the traditional ICM experience, but will also have the medical students participate with an off-site, primary care, community clinic based mentor, where they will see patients in a clinic setting monthly. Additionally, students will be required to participate in three inter-disciplinary team experiences with a nurse practitioners, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy and physician assistant student in an inter-disciplinary care setting.

What are the disadvantages of participating in the Primary Care Program?

The traditional ICM curriculum allows the medical students to work with their preceptor and choose 2-4 “focus” experiences. These focus experiences are optional, “field trip” clinical opportunities that are different from the ordinary ICM curriculum. The scheduling in this pilot does not allow for the participating students to choose focus experiences; rather, the community clinic and geriatric facility serve as their focus experiences. If the longitudinal curriculum students have outside ICM clinical interests, they would explore them in the many KSOM student interest groups and volunteer opportunities on campus.

Who should participate in the Primary Care Program?

This program is designed to enhance the clinical opportunities and interests of students who have a very strong interest in *primary care*, specifically, an interest in *family medicine, general pediatrics, general internal medicine* and well *women’s health*. Further, this program focuses on outpatient, community based training where they will see patients, physicians and office staff over time, in urban, inner city, underserved communities.

Will I have additional work to complete that is independent of my regular ICM time if I participate in the Primary Care Program?

No. This Primary Care Program is a track within ICM. Students meet the same times and days as the traditional ICM student. Students who participate in this program are required to complete all the same milestones, write-ups and OSCA and OSCE’s. Because of the clinic and hospital work that are a part of this experience, students will need to keep close attention to efficiently studying their ICM work. Additionally, students will need to fill out evaluations that are specific to this experience at several times during the academic year.

Will my participation in this Primary Care Program obligate me to apply for a primary care residency in the future?

No, medical students are not obligated to apply for any specific residency program if they chose to participate in this program. Nonetheless, this experience is geared towards the students who have a desire to pursue a *primary care residency*, further stimulating their interests in primary care and the opportunities that exist for clinicians in these fields

What opportunities may I have after ICM is completed in my second year to remain connected to my community clinic mentor, my community clinic and the patients that I have formed relationships with over two years?

KSOM students may choose to do their third year, family medicine clerkship in the same community clinic in which the medical students participated in their ICM year #1 and year #2 to further the relationships that they have made with their patients.

Will my participation in this program obligate me to choose my ICM community clinic in which I work in my first and second years as my family medicine clerkship site?

In their third year of training, the KSOM students spend 6 weeks in multiple medical specialty training sites. Family medicine is the only specialty which allows the medical students the opportunity to choose their clinical training site. While it is not obligatory, it is hoped that the student who participates in this program will continue on in this clinical site, fostering longitudinal relationships with their patients.

Will my participation in this program obligate me to choose a community medicine research project for my second year KSOM required scholarly project?

No, your participation in the Primary Care Program will not obligate you to do a community medicine research project; however, we anticipate that the students attracted to this program will be interested in community-based health. The community clinics offer a rich resource for clinical, community based research opportunities that the students may take advantage of studying further.