

Keck School of Medicine (KSOM) Primary Care Program Frequently Asked Questions

What are the advantages of participating in the Primary Care Program (PCP)?

In the traditional Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) experience, medical students work with their ICM mentor and interview and/or exam patients only in a hospital-based setting throughout their first 18 months (the pre-clerkship phase) at the KSOM. The Primary Care Program offers the traditional ICM experience, but **also** has the medical students working alongside a primary care, community clinic-based mentor, where they will see patients in a clinic setting monthly. During the pre-clerkship phase, PCP students will receive **additional education in nutrition**, and help teach diabetic health education and exercise classes at the LA County-USC Wellness Center. Additionally, PCP students **are trained in inter-professional team care and geriatrics**. They work in elderly, community based, independent living facilities alongside faculty and health professional students from the schools of psychology, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and social work, providing team-based education and support. There are additional **optional curricular enhancement** opportunities to work with primary care physicians working with marginalized communities in tattoo-removal with recently incarcerated and gang communities, HIV care, with breastfeeding, pregnant and postpartum women, people with substance use disorders in a harm-reduction clinic, and a street medicine team. Students will spend additional training in their AOE post-clerkship in further, more advanced primary care training.

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?

The Primary Care Program is the KSOM's "primary care" Area of Emphasis (AOE). It has a primary care track within ICM. Students meet the same times and days as the traditional ICM students. Students who participate in this program are required to complete all the same milestones, write-ups and OSCE's (ICM testing). 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 and patient logs that are specific to this experience twice during the academic year.**

There is additional mandatory training in nutrition, exercise, point of ultrasound care, primary care office procedures, oral health care, mental and sexual health, immunizations, well childcare, geriatrics, interprofessional teamwork, a service retreat, and several social events to gain additional primary care skills and foster community/friendships. **This amounts to 4-6 hours a month on average.**

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 the pre-clerkship phase?

KSOM students may choose to do their family medicine clerkship in the same community clinic in which the medical students participated in their ICM pre-clerkship phase, if working with a family medicine clinician, to further the relationships that they have made with their patients. This is not obligatory.

Will my participation in the Primary Care Program obligate me to be part of the primary care Area of Emphasis (AOE)?

PCP students will automatically be considered part of the primary care AOE. PCP students will satisfy the requirements of this AOE through primary-care focused activities, including attending additional primary care noontime lectures and completing a primary care research project.

Will my participation in this program obligate me to choose a primary care research project for the required AOE scholarly project?

All PCP students will be required to turn in a primary care research project during their 4th year and are given 4-6 weeks to do so that year. This does not preclude students from doing research in another area at any time; however, PCP students must turn in a primary care research project during 4th year. Students are encouraged to begin working on this project during the summer between Semester 2 and 3. The PCP team can help connect students with faculty mentors and projects. There are primary care travel scholarships available to students to present their research at primary care local, state and national conferences.