



Explore Our Pathways

Beginning life as a medical school student comes with decisions and transitions. The University of Massachusetts Medical School offers pathways to lead students to success in their future.

The School of Medicine has four unique pathways to support students after matriculation. Each has its own process of admissions, as well as its own curriculum and requirements.

CLINICAL TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PATHWAY

The Clinical Translational Research Pathway (CTRP) guides students toward understanding, treating and preventing human disease. The pathway puts graduates on the path to becoming leaders in clinical work, evidence-based medicine and research. It's done through hands-on training and small group coursework.

"The students in the Clinical Translational Research Pathway are all highly motivated and share the common goal of integrating medically relevant research into their careers as physicians," said Angela Essa, a first-year School of Medicine student in the CTRP. "I was particularly interested in participating because of its emphasis on evidence-based medicine and the potential to gain new skills in interpreting data and performing statistical analyses."

Skills and background needed to take part in CTRP include epidemiology, biostatistics and cellular-molecular biology at a master's level. Students who don't have a master's degree when they come to UMMS have the chance to earn their Master of Science in Clinical Investigation in the Graduate School of Biological Sciences. After five years, students in the CTRP can graduate with MD and MSCI degrees.

GLOBAL HEALTH PATHWAY

The Global Health Pathway (GHP) trains and supports students to become providers in global health. Students gain experience in clinical research and public health, with a focus on underserved populations in and outside the United States.. The pathway teaches students about diseases, conditions and issues impacting global populations.

"We want to give our students a foundation in global and public health knowledge," said Anindita Deb, MD, assistant professor of neurology, associate program director of neurology residency, and director of global neurology initiative. "They have exposure to a new environment, learning about underserved populations in a global setting. Students can work on understanding resources, cultural competency and healthcare within these communities."

There are capstone and longitudinal project opportunities through the GHP. Students have traveled to Kenya, Ecuador and beyond to work with staff in partner sites.



RURAL HEALTH SCHOLARS PATHWAY

The Rural Health Scholars Pathway (RHSP) nurtures the interest of students who want to explore practice in rural and small-town communities. Seminars and skill-building sessions are offered, with the chance to visit a local farm or small hospital. for first- and second-year students., There are many opportunities for leadership, clerkship as well as electives and capstones for third- and fourth-year students

Learning takes place in the classroom, the clinic and the community with clinical and project options.

RHSP students have participated in skills building sessions and gone on retreats to a farm in Ashburnham.

URBAN HEALTH SCHOLARS PATHWAY

The Urban Health Scholars Pathway (UHSP) offers students the chance to work with diverse patient populations and explore what it means to partner with urban communities. This pathway will accept its third cohort of students in August 2020.

Funded by MassAHEC, UHSP is composed of graduate students, clinicians and faculty. Students are partnered with a physician mentor at an urban community health center. There are opportunities to participate in interactive seminars and skill building sessions geared toward understanding diverse communities.

UHSP students have visited homeless shelters, listened to a panel on the health and social impact on incarceration and learned about traditional Chinese medicine.

All of the pathways give our students the chance to shape their educational experience and focus on their interests and passions in the medical field.

If you would like to learn more about the pathways offered at UMMS, be sure to reach out to our Student Ambassadors/leaders at the School of Medicine and/or the Office of Admissions for more information.