

Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs

Visiting Electives Program for Students Underrepresented in Medicine (VEPSUM) Fellowship

What is VEPSUM?

Sponsored by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai's Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs, VEPSUM Fellowship offers four-week electives at The Mount Sinai Hospital and its teaching affiliates in the Graduate Medical Education Consortium to a limited number of qualified 4th-year medical students who attend U.S. accredited medical schools and who are from groups underrepresented in medicine. VEPSUM is designed to increase diversity in the house staff and subsequently the faculty of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and its affiliated institutions by helping talented minority medical students to gain access to electives in our programs. The total number of accepted VEPSUM students is contingent upon available funding and placement capacity.

The majority of the electives will take place at The Mount Sinai Hospital, the teaching hospital of the Icahn School of Medicine, or within its two clinical teaching affiliates: 1) James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Bronx) and 2) Elmhurst Hospital Center.

Visiting elective options are limited to the following programs at this time:

- Anesthesiology
- Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Science
- Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

- Dermatology
- Ophthalmology
- Plastic Surgery

- Emergency Medicine
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Psychiatry

- Internal Medicine
- Pathology
- Radiology

- Neurological Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Surgery

- Neurology
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- Urology

Who is Eligible for VEPSUM?

- 3rd-year medical students who:
 - attend U.S. accredited allopathic medical schools [ie, are enrolled in Medical Degree-granting programs] and
 - are from groups under-represented in medicine, specifically Hispanic (Mexican, Chicano, or Mainland Puerto Rican), Other Hispanic (Cuban, Dominican, or other), Black/African-American (not of Hispanic origin), Native American, or Asian Pacific Islander

Who is NOT Eligible for VEPSUM?

- Applications will not be accepted from medical students who:
 - attend non-US medical schools including currently enrolled in or graduated from foreign medical schools
 - attend non-AAMC [Association of American Medical Colleges] accredited medical schools
 - attend osteopathic medical schools [i.e., are enrolled in Doctor of Osteopathy-granting programs]
 - are not from groups under-represented in medicine.

VEPSUM Program Details

- The application process is open from **December 1st through March 15th** of the third year of medical school and decisions will be announced on or before May 1, of the same year.

- The 4-week electives take place between August and October of the fourth year of medical school, depending on availability of individual placements.
- Students must have completed their required core clerkships before starting the program.
- A completed transcript with grades from these clerkships is necessary for a complete application.
- There is no VEPSUM application fee.
- Housing placement and costs are covered by the VEPSUM program for accepted VEPSUM applicants who are NOT from New York City metro area. Students from the New York City metro area are expected to cover their own housing and travel costs.
- All accepted VEPSUM students will receive a \$500 stipend from the Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs Office. The stipend will be provided to each student during his or her elective rotation.
- Students have the opportunity to network with residency program directors, residents, minority faculty, and students, and have access to the Office of Graduate Medical Education, Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs, medical school library, and departmental seminars and workshops.
- On a case-by-case basis, we will consider eligible applicants who still wish to participate in the VEPSUM program and do not need housing placement or do not need the program stipend. Applicants who wish to be considered must contact Dr. Butts (email: gary.butts@mssm.edu) directly to discuss possible arrangements.

Application Process and Requirements

Electronic applications will be accepted from **December 1st through March 15th** of the third year of medical school. Please send all required application materials via e-mail attachments to vepsum@mssm.edu in order for the application to be considered complete.

Paper applications will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Please submit the following electronic materials:

- Application (please visit the VEPSUM website)
- CV/Resume
- Unofficial medical school transcript. ***Please note that Students must have completed their required core clerkships before starting the program. A completed transcript with grades from these clerkships is necessary for a complete application***
- USMLE Step 1 score and USMLE Step 2 scores if available
- One letter of recommendation from a Dean at your home institution
- One letter of recommendation from a faculty member at your home institution who is in the specialty to which you are applying for in VEPSUM
- Recent Photo

If accepted into VEPSUM, students will need to apply through the **Visiting Student Application Service (VSAS)** system. This should be done only AFTER they have been notified by VEPSUM of their acceptance. VEPSUM will not cover any fees associated with the VSAS process or pre-elective clearance such as specific medical screenings or clearance required for eligibility to rotate as a visiting student.

Applications that are sent only through the Visiting Student Application Service and not through the above procedure will not be considered for allocated funding or elective placements available through VEPSUM.

We look forward to receiving your application.

For more information, please contact us at

Gary C. Butts, MD

Sherria McDowell, MPH

Phone:

Email:

Visit us on the web!

Dean for Diversity Programs, Policy & Community Affairs

Program Manager

212-241-8276

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<http://icahn.mssm.edu/VEPSUM>