College of Medicine

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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2 September 2025

STUDENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Announcements

Please note badge replacements will now cost $10!

Student Financial Services

The AAMC's FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) program provides free resources to help medical students make wise financial decisions: www.aamc.org/first.

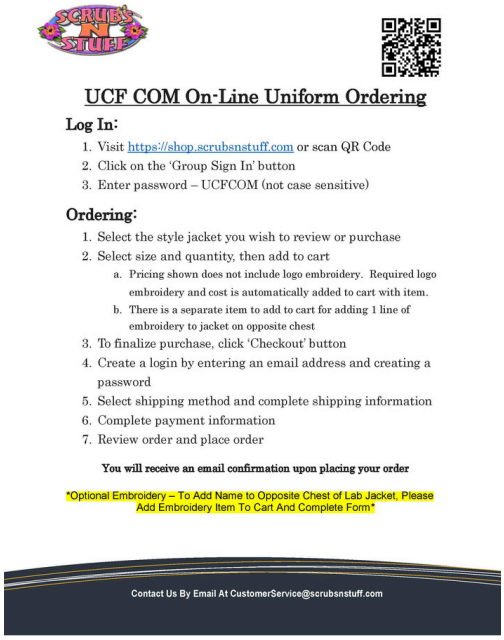
Letters of Recommendation

To request a letter of recommendation (LOR) from any of the Deans (Drs. Verduin, Kibble or Smith), you must complete the LOR Request Form, found on GPS. Keep in mind, you can only request one letter from a Student Affairs Dean. Please note, you MUST attach a curriculum vitate (CV) to your LOR request. The letters are written as formal letters and as such, the form needs to be filled out completely, with the program name and address, even if it is being emailed. If the letter is to be uploaded via a link from a program, please confirm the Dean for that to be sent to. The form should be accompanied by your CV that follows the required format per the CV Toolbox along with any link to the program that provides additional information helpful in writing the letter. Information on creating your CV, along with a sample and template, can be found at the CV - Toolbox (password: COMPASS2025).

Latino, Hispanic, or of Spanish Origin Identified Student Leaders in Medicine: Recognizing More Than 50 Years of Presence, Activism, and Leadership

Over the past 3 years 100s of medical students, residents, faculty and staff have worked on a book entitled Latino, Hispanic, or of Spanish Origin Identified Student Leaders in Medicine: Recognizing More Than 50 Years of Presence, Activism, and Leadership. The book highlights LHS+ individuals' activism in addressing unique health issues and disparities across the U.S. Describes the current state of LHS+ identified individuals in the physician workforce. Describes the social, cultural, and political factors that have influenced LHS+ identified individuals. Relays engaging stories on LHS+ identified individuals' pursuit of medical careers. The book is a part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Series. Through financial donations from the AAMC, learners, faculty, and staff the book is open access and can be accessed for FREE via the following link - https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-35020-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.



UCF COM On-Line Uniform Ordering

Log In:

1. Visit https://shop.scrubsnstuff.com or scan QR Code
2. Click on the 'Group Sign In' button
3. Enter password – UCFCOM (not case sensitive)

Ordering:

1. Select the style jacket you wish to review or purchase
2. Select size and quantity, then add to cart
   a. Pricing shown does not include logo embroidery. Required logo embroidery and cost is automatically added to cart with item.
   b. There is a separate item to add to cart for adding 1 line of embroidery to jacket on opposite chest
3. To finalize purchase, click 'Checkout' button
4. Create a login by entering an email address and creating a password
5. Select shipping method and complete shipping information
6. Complete payment information
7. Review order and place order

You will receive an email confirmation upon placing your order

Optional Embroidery – To Add Name to Opposite Chest of Lab Jacket, Please Add Embroidery Item To Cart And Complete Form

Contact Us By Email At CustomerService@scrubsnstuff.com

Class of 2026 - ERAS Application Reminder!

We're just two weeks away from the 2026 Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) applicant opening! As you prepare your application, we would like to remind you that the entire 2025 Specialty Spotlight webinar series is available on demand. All 12 dynamic sessions highlight a different medical specialty and feature a program director and an advisor who share firsthand insights, preparation tips, and advice on what they really look for in applicants.

To access recordings of these webinars, visit our website or click on the links below:

Adult Neurology
Anesthesiology
Child Neurology
Dermatology
Family Medicine
General Surgery
Integrated Plastic Surgery
Internal Medicine
Neurological Surgery
Pathology
Pediatrics
Psychiatry

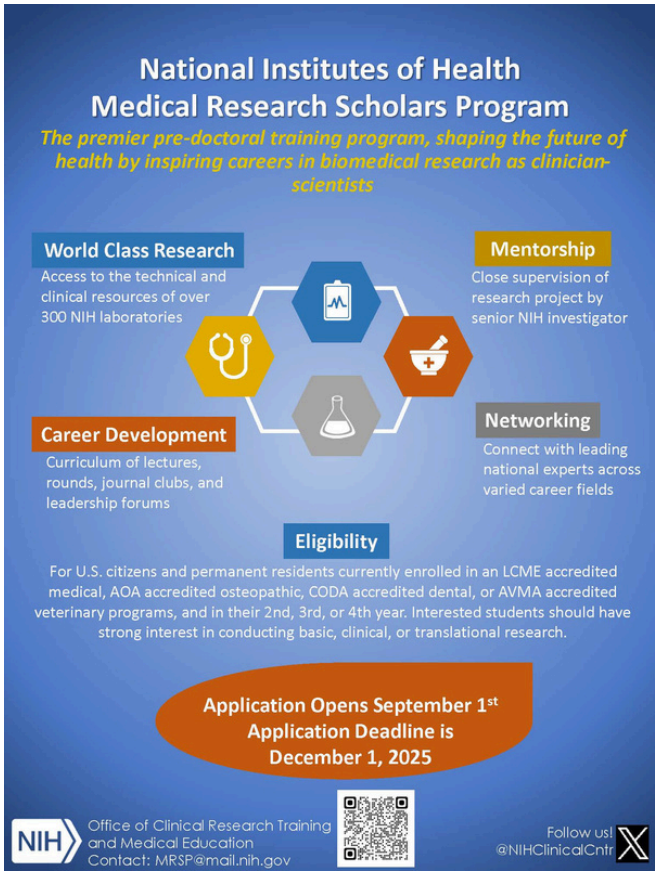
To register for and access recordings of other webinars for residency applicants, you can visit the Upcoming ERAS and Transition to Residency Webinars page. We also recommend you check out our other AAMC resources for 2026 residency applicants:

- Discover What You Need to Know About the 2026 ERAS Application Season.
- Find out about Program Signaling for the 2026 MyERAS Application Season.
- Check out the Careers in Medicine® website for tools that will help applicants understand themselves and discover career options.
- Use the Residency Explorer™ tool to research residency programs and find those that align with your career interests and personal goals.

Submission Opportunities

&

Industry Events



Clinical Orthopaedic Society 2025 Annual Meeting

FIRE+ Program

The Focused Individualized Research Experience-Plus (FIRE+) Program was created in order to support medical student research projects that fall outside and beyond the FIRE curriculum. This Program aims to provide support, management, oversight, and tracking of student research projects and endeavors. The FIRE+ intent is to bring these students and projects under one structured program to ensure appropriate research guidance and support so that research quality, safety, and integrity are maintained and can be evaluated for a sustainable and successful scholarly endeavor.

Any research and scholarly activity performed by medical students OTHER THAN RESEARCH RELATED TO THE M1/M2 FIRE CURRICULUM is required to be included in FIRE+. New research projects outside of the FIRE curriculum in M1/M2, continuity of the FIRE project in M3/M4 years, or independent research as extracurricular activity must be approved by FIRE+. After submission of a brief in-take form, FIRE+ projects will be reviewed to ensure quality and rigor with the anticipation that the project can be publishable in peer-reviewed journals and presentable in national/international professional conferences.

Link: https://redcap.link/FIRE-Plus

Northern Pacific Global Health Leaders Program - Applications due Sep. 15th!

The NPGH LEADERs Fellowship program is now accepting applications from eligible U.S. pre- and postdocs, and LMIC postdocs interested in conducting 12 months of research at our affiliated sites in low- and middle-income countries. Trainees receive a stipend, research funds, travel, and are supported by a team of mentors. Research opportunities are available in a variety of disciplines, including HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, cancer, neurology/nervous system disorders, cardiovascular & blood disease disorders, digestive and kidney diseases, diabetes, maternal & child health, mental health, and more! To learn more about the program, visit our website, where you can also watch an informational webinar to get an overview of this outstanding opportunity. Applications are due September 15, 2025.

Surveys & Studies

Chaos, Conflict, and Compromise: Medical Student Perceptions of the Application Process, Scheduling, and Cost of Away Rotations.

You are being asked to participate in an online survey study titled “Chaos, Conflict, and Compromise: Medical Student Perceptions of the Application Process, Scheduling, and Cost of Away Rotations.” The length of this survey is about 15 minutes. The first 500 medical students who participate in this survey will receive a $5 Amazon gift card.

Survey Link

If there are any questions regarding this research, please contact Rachel Chapman, fourth-year medical student at UCF College of Medicine, by email at Ra513791@ucf.edu or Lynn-Caelle Valere, fourth-year medical student at UCF College of Medicine, by email at Ly333689@ucf.edu.

Explanation of Research

Nova Southeastern University Attitudes towards Emergency Medicine Study

We are conducting a study to investigate U.S. Medical Students' Attitudes towards Emergency Medicine. We encourage you to fill out this survey regardless of your interest in Emergency Medicine. It is important to gather this information to help us understand the large volume of unfilled Emergency Medicine Residency spots in recent years. We are asking you to complete a one-time, anonymous 3-5 minute survey. This research study involves minimal risk to you. You can decide not to participate in this research, and it will not be held against you. You can exit the survey at any time. Participation will have no effect on your grades or standing in your academic program. There is no cost for participation in this study. Participation is voluntary and no compensation is provided. This study has been exempted and approved by the Institutional Review Board of Nova Southeastern University (NSU-IRB Protocol Number 2023-309).

Survey Link

ADHD USMLE Accommodations Survey

We are conducting a research study focusing on the experiences of medical students with ADHD who have applied for accommodations through the USMLE. As medical students, educators, and advocates, we recognize the importance of providing equal opportunities and support for individuals with ADHD who are pursuing a career in medicine. The purpose of this study is to gather firsthand accounts of the challenges, successes, and overall experiences of medical students with ADHD in applying for and receiving accommodations for USMLE testing. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and covers topics related to previous experiences in receiving accommodations, challenges faced, accommodations sought with the USMLE and the impact on academic performance. Participation is voluntary and responses are confidential. Your participation is highly appreciated and will help improve support for medical students with ADHD and potentially help pave the way for students with disabilities as a whole!

Survey Link

UL Residency Application Survey

University of Louisville researchers believe your voice matters! Help us understand how the current political climate and election results are shaping residency specialty and program choices for medical students like you. Survey will only take 5 minutes.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/medpolitics

Surveys & Studies Cont.

Differences in perceived vs personal treatment plans for common acute complaints: An experimental vignette study

The objective of this study is to investigate how perceived and personal health treatment plans differ between healthcare providers of different specialties and education levels.
To participate, you must be: 18 years or older, A UCF student, faculty, or staff member (including residents and fellows), Affiliated with healthcare (medicine, nursing, PA, etc.), Have ongoing clinical experience in your curricular studies or work experience. Further details about the study are attached in this email and are also located on the first page of the survey. If you meet the above criteria and would like to participate, please find the survey links below:
Survey Link

Soft Skills in STEM (SSS) Survey

By completing the survey, you will rate your own soft skills and if you wish to include your email address in the survey, we will share the report of what soft skills the participating companies are seeking. You will also receive suggestions on how you can improve the soft skills you feel you are lacking in to be as prepared for industry as possible!
You can access the survey here.
Please participate to learn how you can continue developing strong soft skills that can help you get your dream job and to receive insight from the participating companies! Thank you.

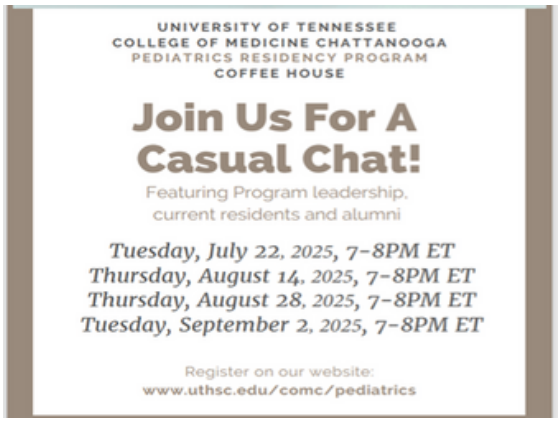
Medical Student Study on Substance use and Addiction

Currently, there is minimal data in the literature regarding what U.S. medical students know about substances of use and misuse beyond alcohol and marijuana. With approval of this exempt study through Phoenix Children's Hospital's IRB in Arizona, our study therefore seeks to address gaps in knowledge and gain an updated perspective of how substance use and addiction impact U.S. medical students. We strive to investigate the availability of substance use and mental health support programs for medical students regionally across the U.S. as well as students' current knowledge of such programs.
The survey is comprised of 33 questions and should take no longer than 10 minutes. We will also be offering voluntary participation in a random draw for twenty $50 gift cards at the completion of data collection. Interested participants will be offered the opportunity to share their email information after submitting their survey responses in such a way that preserves the anonymous status of their survey responses. The link for the survey is https://redcap.link/e0oqodya

Annual US Medical School Survey

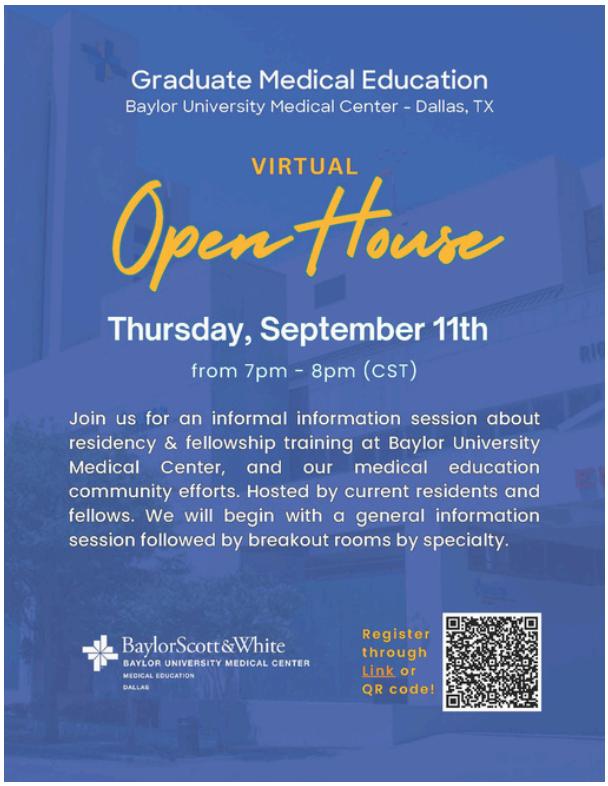
The goal of this report is to provide medical schools with extensive insight into the current core values and preferences of our nation's medical and pre-med students, allowing for programs to foster an environment that appeals not only to their current students, but to pre-med students deciding on which med schools they'll be applying to for the upcoming fiscal application cycle. This report will fill in the gaps that the annual LCME survey metrics don't address, ensuring that programs are able to appeal to both students and prospective applicants to the highest degree.
Survey Link: MedEd Scorecard Survey

Residency Program Sessions & Other Opportunities



University of Tennessee Chattanooga Pediatrics

YOU MUST BE Registered to participate!
Use the link to register beforehand: Click Here



EFA Virtual Residency Fair

Don't miss the 5th Annual EFA Residency Fair — A virtual event to connect with ObGyn residency programs across the country!

WHAT IS IT?

A 2-day online experience where you'll meet Program Directors and Residents from a wide range of ObGyn programs across the country — all from the comfort of your home!

- Live chats & Q&A sessions
- Discover new programs
- Take our quick survey on Letters of Recommendation (LORs)!

More Residency Programs Are Being Added Daily!

Check back often to see who's joining — the list keeps growing!

WHEN: September 6 and 7 from 12 pm - 4 pm EST

HOW TO JOIN:

Visit www.efaobgyn.com to register and RSVP to the programs you want to visit

COST:

Absolutely FREE! No fees, no barriers.

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

Direct access to PDs and residents — a rare and valuable opportunity Learn about programs you may not have considered Make informed choices about where to send your signals

Spread the Word!

Please Forward this invite to MS4s applying to ObGyn. MS1–MS3 students are also welcome to attend and get a head start!

Questions please feel free to email ngabbur@northwell.edu

Volunteer Opportunties

Conversations to Remember

Conversations to Remember, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, dedicated towards combating loneliness and isolation felt by senior citizens. Our virtual visit program matches 2-3 college students with residents of long-term care, assisted living, and memory care communities for virtual video visits. These residents have been suffering from isolation, and your call could really brighten their days just by speaking with them. We provide training to the students in the program about the best ways to interact with the seniors, as well as additional support throughout their service. Typically, students volunteer 1-2 hours per week. Each call lasts up to one hour, based on the senior's attention span and mood on each day. We expect students to volunteer for approximately 16 weeks, so that they can build a friendship with the senior. This does not need to coincide with the start of a semester, as we have new seniors starting all the time, and train new volunteers weekly. The students are matched based on the times that they're available, with a senior who is available at the same time, and they will have a regular, weekly appointment for their visit. Students wishing for more visits or other opportunities that allow them to volunteer more hours can be accommodated with different ways to volunteer, such as assisting us with our social media, call support, or outreach.
https://conversationstoremember.org

Central Florida Special Olympics Volunteer Opportunities

Check out the link below for volunteer opportunities with the Central Florida Special Olympics!
Click here for opportunities!

Do you have an approved volunteer opportunity you need to recruit for? Or an event that needs promoted? Please email the details to Brooke Vercheski for it to be added to the weekly newsletter!

BROOKE VERCHESKI	BROOKE.VERCHESKI@UCF.EDU

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!