

The Gastroenterology Premed Volunteer Program at Children's Hospital, Boston

The Department of Gastroenterology at Children's Hospital Boston is excited to offer college students, post-baccalaureate students and other pre-medical candidates the opportunity to apply for the Gastroenterology Premed Volunteer Program.

This program is structured to provide interested applicants the unique opportunity to incorporate volunteer service while gaining valuable hospital experience, learning about clinical medicine and mentorship from attending physicians.

Medical school admissions offices look for applications with excellent letters of recommendations from healthcare organizations describing the applicant's sincere commitment to medicine. With demonstration of excellence through reliable attendance, consistent performance and an enthusiastic interest in helping patients, program participants will be eligible for a Children's Hospital Boston Department of Gastroenterology Premed Volunteer Program letter of recommendation to endorse their medical school application.

Interested candidates should contact the Premed Volunteer Program Coordinator as soon as possible in order to begin the application process. The application, orientation and training process can take several weeks to complete before participants are able begin their volunteer service and accomplish the program's service requirements.

Introduction and Training

Students will be required to meet all safety and health standards mandated by the hospital. This will include providing updated proof of immunizations and may require you to have a tuberculosis skin test. Each volunteer must also complete a CORI (criminal background check) before beginning their volunteer services.

Premed Volunteers will be assigned to the Gastroenterology Clinic and will be required to complete 4 hours per week for at least a 12 week period of time.

- All preliminary training must be completed
- Volunteers will follow the job criteria listed on the Department Volunteer Position Description
- Volunteer attendance must be flawless, with the exception of Winter or Spring Breaks, illness, or family emergency
- Performance evaluations will be provided to the student volunteer
- Outstanding departmental feedback and attendance are essential for premed volunteers to obtain letters of recommendation.

About the Program

Volunteers will work with pediatric patients and their families in the GI clinic waiting room. This time can be spent playing with and reading to the children as they wait to be seen. All books and art supplies will be provided by the clinic

Volunteers will also be involved with the clinic front desk by preparing paperwork, greeting patients, making copies and assisting with various clinical responsibilities.

In order to participate, we require a time commitment of at least one 4 hour session per week. Volunteer sessions can be scheduled from 8:00 to 12:00 noon, or 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

For each 3 hours of volunteer work completed, the program participant will be invited to shadow a Gastroenterology Attending Physician for 1 hour in the clinic. You may schedule your 1 hour of shadow time as the 4th hour of your volunteer hour if physician staff are available. Shadow time will be completed in both the clinic and the procedure unit when appropriate.

All program participants will be invited to a monthly group meeting with an Attending Physician or other Clinician where you can discuss topics of interest: i.e. preparing medical school applications, choosing a field in medicine, and/or other clinical areas of interest.

In addition, the Attending Physician Director of the Premed Volunteer Program will meet with each candidate individually to discuss career goals and to provide mentorship.