



HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Department of Emergency Medicine Internship

in collaboration with
Volunteer and Student Services

Introduction

The Health Scholars Program at Maimonides Medical Center offers an opportunity for high school and college students who are interested in a career in healthcare to spend time as an unpaid team-member in the Emergency Department of the busiest hospital in Brooklyn.

Maimonides Medical Center is a large teaching hospital based in the heart of immigrant Brooklyn, New York. The Maimonides Emergency Department cares for over 120,000 patients each year. This program is aimed at students considering a future in healthcare such as physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, physical therapist, psychologist, social worker, paramedic, and many more professions. Accepted students will be part of a corps of interns who will interact with and help patients from tremendously varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds. They will spend time working alongside a team of healthcare providers and observing the roles of various medical professionals who care for patients in the Emergency Department (ED). Additionally, they will be introduced to fundamental principles of clinical medicine.

Participants in this program will assist in patient care under the guidance of the ED team and support staff members who are caring for patients, and will also receive a structured introduction to healthcare and clinical medicine. Interns will spend time rotating through various areas of the ED, including the adult and pediatric areas.

Eligibility

High school students in 11th and 12th grade, as well as college students and graduates are eligible to participate in the program.

Responsibilities

Participants will perform a variety of functions with the primary goals of helping patients and assisting ED staff. Activities will include speaking with patients and hearing their stories, escalating their needs, improving communication, and being helpful in ways that

improve patient experience in the ED. Interns will be viewed as a member of the healthcare team and will gain exposure to how a busy urban ED operates. In addition to communicating the needs of the patient to the ED physician and nursing staff, interns will assist with other basic but essential patient-oriented tasks. They will strive to create a rapport with patients and serve the indispensable role of helping and comforting patients and their families during their time in the ED.

For those who are interested, there may be an opportunity to participate in ongoing Emergency Department research projects. Such individuals will need to undertake an additional mandatory training module.

Didactics and Information on Careers

The program offers a mandatory weekly virtual Health Scholars conference series. Each one-hour session is divided into 1) a lecture on a clinical topic or an important issue in healthcare and 2) a discussion with a practitioner from a field in healthcare focusing on their career path and experiences.

Those who wish may take an optional course in CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) offered by the Maimonides EMS Division and paid for by the Health Scholars Program.

There will be one or two hands-on Simulation sessions that will teach skills in emergency medicine including suturing, basic ultrasonography, splinting, and more.

There is a weekly Emergency Medicine resident conference each Wednesday morning. Health Scholars are invited to take part, however this is not mandatory.

Capstone Piece

At the end of their rotation, the Health Scholars will submit a final work that evolved from their Health Scholar rotation. For most people, this will be a well written essay, which must be at least one page long. Some ideas for this piece are a description of a patient that made an impact, a patient's personal narrative, an experience with a member of the ED team, a powerful clinical moment, a critique of some aspect of healthcare, their own personal growth within the program, a challenge they faced, or any other relevant topic that the Health Scholar gained insight into during their rotation. The piece may also be creative and take the form of a poem or prose-poem, a magazine article, a series of diary entries, a short scene from a play, a short story, a rap, a recorded soliloquy, a letter, or another format of your choice. Those with artistic or musical talents may submit (a photo or video of) an artistic or musical piece that was inspired by an experience in the program.

Attendance

The internship spans three months. Participants will be expected to work one five-hour shift per week, and may do additional shifts if their schedules allow. Attendance will be

monitored. Participants should arrive 10 minutes before the beginning of their shift in order to be ready to start on time. If an intern is unable to make it to their shift, they should inform the program, and the shift should be made up in the same week. We understand that academic deadlines and exam periods will occasionally coincide with ED shifts. The purpose of this program is to enhance one's academic career, not to create excessive pressure, and we will work to accommodate academic scheduling conflicts. At the conclusion of the program, those who decide that they would like to stay longer than the three months will need to request permission from the program directors, who will decide if they can accommodate them based on the number of new students in the next rotation.

Application Requirements

A complete application for the program includes submission of all required forms, a brief essay explaining one's interest in the program (not to exceed 500 words) or a brief video in lieu of an essay, documentation of vaccination status including COVID and Flu, and a brief letter of recommendation. A virtual interview lasting 15 minutes will be scheduled upon submission of the essay and application form.

Those who have been accepted to the program will be informed by email and will be processed as volunteers through the Department of Volunteer and Student Services at Maimonides Medical Center. The process includes completing the volunteer application and medical packets, in-person interview, and a 3-hour mandatory orientation with the Volunteer Office.

Schedule and Application Deadlines

Rotation Dates 2022-2023 (2023 Summer Dates to Be Released Shortly)	Deadline for Submission of All Materials
Block 1: August 1st – October 31st	June 1st
Block 2: Nov 1st – January 31st	August 1st
Block 3: February 1st – April 30th	November 1st
Block 4: May 1st – June 30th	February 1st

Orientation

As part of the volunteer mandatory orientation, participants will be required to complete training through the Volunteer Office in the following areas: HIPAA (the 1996 federal law protecting patient health information and privacy), as adherence to patient confidentiality is of utmost importance, sexual harassment, corporate compliance, infection control,

emergency management, environment of care safety, and others. An additional training and orientation tailored to the ED will be provided by ED staff upon the start of the internship program.

Attire and Professionalism

Participants must maintain professionalism during their shifts in the ED, and this extends to attire. Interns will be provided with gray colored shirts, which will help to identify them while in the Emergency Department. In addition, the hospital-issued Volunteer ID badge must also be worn while on shift. Comfortable shoes are encouraged, as a significant amount of time will be spent standing.

The following articles of clothing are not permitted while on shift:

- Jeans
- Open-toe shoes and sandals
- Sweat pants, sweatshirts or hoodies
- Ripped clothing
- Baseball Hats
- Short pants or other revealing clothing

For infection control and safety reasons, long hair should be tied back in a neat ponytail.

Similarly, professional behavior should be demonstrated during the virtual and in-person didactic sessions.

Difficulties on Shift

In the unlikely event that an intern becomes sick or is injured while working, the Lead Attending in the Emergency Department should be immediately informed.

If there is any conflict between the intern and a patient or family member, the Scholar should immediately end the interaction and inform an ED staff member, who will take actions to resolve the situation.

Health Scholars will never be placed in a situation that is beyond their abilities or makes them feel uncomfortable. If such a situation arises, they should inform an ED staff member and immediate measures will be taken to help the intern.

Cellphones

It is expected that interns will not be using their cellphones while on shift, unless it is patient-related. Specifically, interns should not be emailing, texting, or going on social media, or passing time on their phones. *It is absolutely forbidden to take photos, videos, or audio recordings of patients.*

Program Completion

Upon satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements of the program, a certificate of completion from Maimonides Medical Center will be awarded. In order to receive the certificate, the intern must turn in their hospital ID and complete the exit paperwork.

Code of Conduct

It is hoped that the Health Scholars take pride in being accepted into this program, and that they recognize the great privilege of providing help to someone in a time of need. We trust that Scholars will behave professionally and with integrity in this program. If a Health Scholar does not comply with Emergency Department rules and with the policies described in this document, a program director will reach out to the Scholar and will re-instruct on the code of conduct and re-emphasize the need to observe ED policies. The Health Scholars Program directors may decide to offer an opportunity to the Scholar to continue in the program. At the discretion of the directors, a serious infraction may result in immediate termination from the program. If an intern is dismissed from the program, the hospital ID must be returned immediately.

Thank you for your interest in this program, and we encourage you to apply if it aligns with your interests.

October 30, 2022