

## Frequently Asked Questions-FAQs

### APPLYING

**Q: I'm not a current sophomore, can I still apply?**

A: Unfortunately, the application is only open to those who are high school sophomores at the time of applying.

**Q: I missed the application window, can I still apply?**

A: Applications are only accepted during the application window.

**Q: Do I need to attend a certain high school in order to be eligible to apply?**

A: The MC<sup>2</sup> program considers applicants from any high school across the Denver metro and Colorado Springs areas.

**Q: Why does MC<sup>2</sup> focus on recruiting students from underrepresented backgrounds?**

A: MC<sup>2</sup> focuses on recruiting students from underrepresented groups in an effort to build a future workforce that better represents the communities served in healthcare.

**Q: What groups are considered to be underrepresented in the healthcare field?**

A: Underrepresented groups in healthcare typically include individuals from certain racial or ethnic groups, gender identities, lower socioeconomic statuses, underserved communities and more.

**Q: If I am not from an underrepresented group, can I still apply?**

A: Yes! The selection committee takes a holistic approach to the application review process and considers a wide variety of components including the following: school, GPA, extracurricular activities, need, feedback from recommenders, student essays and more. Essays (and other questions on the application and recommendation form) are aimed at understanding a students' interests, passions, and unique gifts, ideas and perspectives that would help them serve a diverse patient population in the future and make a positive impact on the field of healthcare. While students are asked to share information about their race/ethnicity and gender identity on the application, these are not considered in the application review process.

**Q: Is there a minimum GPA requirement to apply?**

A: While there is no minimum GPA requirement to apply to the program, GPA is one of the factors the application review committee takes into consideration. A lower GPA will not automatically disqualify a student from progressing through the application review or interview process. The committee's main focus when it comes to GPA is ensuring that applicants have the ability to succeed both academically and in the program. If a student has a lower GPA and would like to provide context, we encourage them to share their explanation in one of the essay questions on the application or during the interview, if invited.

**Q: How many recommendations are needed to apply?**

A: Students will have the opportunity to identify one recommender to complete the online recommendation portion of the application. Additional recommendations will not be reviewed or considered. The recommendation may be completed by any one adult who knows the student through a school, profession, community setting etc. Recommenders cannot be related to the applicant.



**Q: I am currently a sophomore but scheduled to graduate early from high school, can I still apply?**

A: MC<sup>2</sup> requires a full 2-year commitment, if you know that you will be graduating early, you may not apply to MC<sup>2</sup>.

**Q: How competitive is the program?**

A: Each year the program receives over 650 applications for ~75 spots between all program sites.

### **GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**Q: How long is the commitment to MC<sup>2</sup>?**

A: While the formal commitment to the program is two years (junior and senior year of high school), we hope that students who participate in the program stay connected throughout their educational and career journeys.

**Q: Do I get to choose the hospital I want to work at?**

A: You are able to indicate a preference on your application but ultimately hospital placements will be decided by the MC<sup>2</sup> selection committee.

**Q: Will I get paid for participating in MC<sup>2</sup>?**

A: Students will be paid for the hours worked, only during the internship component of the program.

**Q: What if I do not have a social security number or I am not eligible to work in the US?**

A: Because the MC<sup>2</sup> program includes a paid internship and is designed to prepare students for careers in healthcare, participants must be eligible to work in the United States.

**Q: Can I get school credit for this program?**

A: If students make arrangements with their own school they can receive credit. MC<sup>2</sup> will support this but not create the arrangement for you.

**Q: Can I also volunteer at Denver Health or Children's Colorado?**

A: Yes, but the activities will be separate from MC<sup>2</sup> and it is an additional application. We encourage students to pursue this only after they have completed the internship portion of the program.

**Q: Are COVID-19 vaccinations required to participate in the program?**

A: Program participants are required to have the same vaccinations that the hospital requires for employees. We encourage all our team members to stay up to date on their vaccinations, including for COVID-19, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. However, COVID-19 vaccination is not a requirement of employment. Because of the patient populations we serve, we require that all team members receive an annual flu vaccine or provide an approved exemption. This not only helps to protect our team members, but also the patients and families in our care.

**Q: What kind of workshops and field trips are offered during junior year?**

A: Junior year workshops and field trips are designed to expose students to a variety of careers in the healthcare industry. While offerings vary from year to year, students can expect to learn about a minimum of 10 different career paths, which may include exposure to careers in emergency medicine, laboratory sciences, osteopathic medicine, physical therapy, public health and more!

**Q: What kind of workshops and trainings are offered during senior year?**

A: Senior year workshops and trainings are designed to assist students as they prepare for life after high school. Students take part in writing workshops as they prepare to apply to colleges and scholarships, learn about financial aid and earn mini health related certifications such as Mental Health First Aid, Bleeding Control, Basic Life Support and more!

**Q: How often and when do workshops typically take place?**

A: Workshops, field trips, and trainings are typically held once a month during students' junior and senior years. These events occur after school hours during the school year, on Saturdays for longer sessions, or during the day during school breaks or summer.

**Q: What supports are offered to program alumni?**

A: As students graduate from high school and become alumni of the MC<sup>2</sup> program, alum have access to career coaching and assistance, healthcare related certification programs (such as CNA, EMT, Phlebotomy etc.) and professional development and networking opportunities.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

**Q: Do I get to choose what department I intern in?**

A: You will have an opportunity to share about your interests but ultimately internship placements will be decided by your MC<sup>2</sup> site coordinator.

**Q: What departments are available at each MC<sup>2</sup> site?**

A: Internship departments vary by site and session and include opportunities for placement in patient facing and non patient facing areas. Site specific internship options are shared during a student's pre internship meeting.

**Q: What kind of mentors are students matched with?**

A: Mentors vary by site but generally represent a wide variety of healthcare professions and may include technicians, CNA's, MA's, nurses, medical students, residents, physicians, public health professionals, social workers, therapists, researchers and more.

**Q: How long do internships last?**

A: Students complete internships during one of the following sessions: winter or summer of their junior year. Winter internships last 12 weeks (usually Nov-Feb) whereas summer internships last 6 weeks (usually June-July). Students will complete the same number of internship hours regardless of which session they complete the internship.

**Q: Do I get to choose which session I complete my internship in?**

A: Students can indicate a preferred session, but the final placement will be determined by the MC<sup>2</sup> site coordinator. When selecting a preference, it's important for students to choose the session in which they will have the most availability to complete internship hours and the one they feel confident in meeting the attendance requirements for.

**Q: What is the attendance policy for internships?**

A: Winter interns may miss no more than two weeks of internship. Summer interns may miss no more than one week of internship. If a student is considering another activity that takes place during their assigned internship session that



requires them to miss more than the attendance policy allows, students will need to decide between the proposed activity or the internship with MC<sup>2</sup>.

**Q: How many internship hours will I need to complete?**

A: All students are required to complete between 100 -120 hours.

**Q: When are internship hours completed?**

A: Winter interns complete internship hours after school and/or on the weekends and school breaks, averaging 8-10 hours a week. Summer interns are expected to be available during regular business hours during the week along with afternoons and weekends and average 16-20 hours a week.

**Q: How are internship schedules determined?**

A: Internship schedules are coordinated between the student and their assigned mentor/s. It will be important that students have enough availability to align with their mentor's schedule in order to meet the minimum hours requirement for the internship.

**Q: What will I do in my internship?**

A: Internship duties vary by department but students can expect to observe, shadow and assist staff as appropriate. Internships are designed to be a balance of learning and work, so students may be tasked with duties that are helpful to the department, staff and/or patients.

**Q: What if I don't like my internship site?**

A: Students are encouraged to find learning in all situations! Rarely does the program change a student's internship.

**Q: How much is the paid internship?**

A: A minimum of Colorado Minimum Wage