



Penn Visiting Clerkships for Students Underrepresented in Medicine

The Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia | Penn Medicine



The Visiting Clerkship Program for Students Underrepresented in Medicine encompass numerous opportunities for 4th year medical students to explore rotations at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), Penn Presbyterian Hospital (Presby), and Pennsylvania Hospital (Pennsy) in several subspecialties. The clerkships include both sub-internship and elective experiences in top-ranked residency programs. Students not only have the opportunity to spend time learning first-hand what it is like to be a resident at these institutions, but they are paired with mentors and meet with Residency Program Director to aid in their recruitment and preparation for the interview season and Match Process. Funding is included!

Program Highlights

- Each student is paired with a Faculty or Resident mentor in an area of their interest
- Each student will be given the opportunity to have a personal meeting with the Residency Program Director in the program of their interest
- Funding/Stipends of \$1500-\$2000 to cover travel and housing
- Opportunity to interact with current URiM residents, fellows, and faculty at social events

Clerkship Programs

We offer sub-internships (acting internships) and electives with outpatient and consult clinical exposure in the following specialties:

Anesthesiology	Dermatology
Emergency Medicine	Family Medicine
General Surgery	Internal Medicine
Neurology	Neurosurgery
Obstetrics & Gynecology	Ophthalmology
Otolaryngology*	Pathology
Pediatrics*	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Plastic Surgery	Psychiatry
Radiation Oncology*	Radiology*
Urology	Vascular Surgery

*please note these specialties will have rolling acceptances, early applications encouraged

Application Requirements and Information

The application for our Clerkship opens in February and is available through the Perelman School of Medicine's VLSO application. Search "Perelman School of Medicine" under the Elective Catalogue. Then you can find the specific applications by searching "URIM" or by looking up the specialty of your choice and selecting "Visiting URIM Clerkship."

General information: <http://www.allianceofminorityphysicians.org/penn-urim-visiting-clerkship-program.html>

VSLO Website: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/visiting-student-learning-opportunities/visiting-student-learning-opportunities-vslo>

Perelman School of Medicine Visiting Student Website:
<https://www.med.upenn.edu/student/application-and-dates.html>

All applicants must be rising 4th year (or final year if additional degrees or program longer than 4 years) medical students and should apply for the clerkship program that correlates to the subspecialty they are pursuing in the match. **Application deadline is May 9th – however, please note that Otolaryngology, Pediatrics, Radiation Oncology, and Radiology programs will have rolling admissions.** The following materials are required and will be completed/uploaded via the VLSO application site:

- Student Information Form
- Immunization Record (VSLO form is acceptable)
- CV/Resume
- Transcript (official or unofficial)
- Photograph
- Proof of Health Insurance
- Personal Statement expressing interest for specialty/clerkship program
- Letter of Support (not required for Emergency Medicine; letters should preferentially be submitted by an attending physician in the specialty to which you are applying but any attending physician letter will be accepted)

Rotation dates

Available rotation and dates for each specialty vary based on program selection and availability.

August 4, 2025 – August 20, 2025

September 2, 2025 – September 26, 2025

September 29, 2025 – October 24, 2025

October 27, 2025 – November 21, 2025

Learn more about the
community we have
here at Penn & CHOP!



Visiting Clerkship Coordinators & Administrators

Anesthesiology	Dr. Andrew Wong, andrew.wong@penntmedicine.upenn.edu Dr. Allison Lee, allison.lee@penntmedicine.upenn.edu Melissa Maisonet, melissa.maisonet@penntmedicine.upenn.edu
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Pediatrics	Dr. Jessica Fowler, fowlerj@chop.edu Dawn Young, youngd2@chop.edu
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Plastic Surgery	Dr. Josh Fosnot (Program Director), joshua.fosnot@penntmedicine.upenn.edu Kris Gallagher, kris.gallagher@uphs.upenn.edu
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Vascular Surgery	Dr. Venkat Kalapatapu, venkat.kalapatapu@penntmedicine.upenn.edu Kim Klepesky, Kimberly.klepesky@penntmedicine.upenn.edu

For general questions or inquiries, please contact Dr. Jessica Fowler at fowlerj@chop.edu

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are there general visiting student opportunities outside of this program?

General visiting student rotations are available through the Perelman School of Medicine's (PSOM) Registrar's Office. If you are interested in rotating at Penn regardless of acceptance to our program, then you may want to move forward and apply for a general rotation slot now. PSOM uses VLSO for both the URIM Visiting Clerkship program and general visiting student rotations. To find more info: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/student/application-and-dates.html>

2. Are students from non-US medical schools eligible for this program?

Non-US Medical Schools do not usually have agreements with Perelman School of Medicine to cover visiting students' necessary insurance for a visiting rotation and, as such, are not eligible for this program. Medical students who attend schools in US territories (such as Puerto Rico) are eligible. Otherwise please look for opportunities through Penn's Center for Global Health: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/globalhealth/international-trainees-scholars.html>

3. Is there rolling acceptance for this program?

Given the desire to communicate earlier with students, some specialty programs (Otolaryngology, Pediatrics, Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Urology) will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis and sending acceptances along the way until their spots are full. If you have a particular need to know earlier than a program's deadline, please contact the appropriate Clerkship Coordinator or reach out to Dr. Jessica Fowler (fowlerj@chop.edu).

4. Are the rotation dates flexible?

We know that the PSOM rotation dates do not always line up with the rotation dates for visiting students' medical school schedules. We sometimes have flexibility with this and would encourage you to still apply. If accepted, we do our best to adjust the dates to accommodate your medical school schedule.

5. What if I am already scheduled for a rotation at Penn and now want to apply to this program?

That is no problem at all, but we still need you to complete the specific PSOM VSLO application for this program (sometimes there are a few additional items required, and often a different selection committee). If you are accepted for this funded visiting clerkship program, then we'll take care of things internally to switch you over.

6. Does my letter of support have to come from an attending physician in a specific field?

Students are encouraged to have an attending physician in the specialty to which they are pursuing complete the letter. We also know that some students have not yet rotated in a specific field or may not have connected with a faculty member who can write a letter by the time of the application deadline. If that is the case, please have an attending who knows you and who can speak in support of you write the letter.

7. Am I guaranteed an interview if I am accepted to this program?

Interview selection is separate from participation in this program. Some of our participating specialties will invite all students accepted to the Visiting Clerkship Program to interview.

Clerkship Rotation Information & Descriptions

Course listings and descriptions can be found on the Perelman School of Medicine Visiting Student website: https://oasis.med.upenn.edu/public/courses/select_student_level.html

Anesthesiology

The objective of this course is to invite the student to actively participate in all aspects of the anesthetic management of patients having surgery. Students are directly supervised while learning preoperative evaluation, planning and preparation for anesthesia, and intra-operative and post-anesthesia patient care. Experience will be gained in intravenous techniques, fluid and blood administration, airway management, intravenous analgesia and sedation, as well as general and regional anesthetic techniques. Monitoring procedures will include temperature, electrocardiography, capnography, oximetry, and intra-arterial blood pressure measurement, and analysis of blood gases. Principles of postoperative pain management are highlighted. Students will also gain exposure in the anesthetic care of the obstetric and pediatric patient.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Anesthesiology (ANE300)

Dermatology

The objective of the course is for students to obtain an intensive exposure to all aspects of clinical dermatology including diagnosis, laboratory investigation, surgical procedures and therapy. Students will be directly involved in patient care in the dermatology outpatient clinics at HUP and CHOP (as well as the HUP private practices). The course will also include a series of lectures, conferences, and audiovisual presentations that will present an overview of dermatology.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Dermatology (DERM 300)

Emergency Medicine

The Penn EM Sub-Internship is 4 weeks long and takes place at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. Students will complete shifts in the emergency department, including night, weekend, and ultrasound shifts, as well as attend Wednesday morning resident teaching conferences.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Sub-internship in Emergency Medicine (EM308)

Family Medicine

Our Family Medicine Program features the opportunity to choose an elective experience from among the following: inpatient sub-internship on the Family Medicine Inpatient Service, outpatient externship

seeing primary care patients at Penn Family Care, Maternal Child Health elective that includes prenatal visits and inpatient Labor & Delivery including newborn care. In each of these settings students will be supervised and provided with the resources and responsibility given to that of an acting intern. Students will have the opportunity to work with Family Medicine faculty and residents.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Externship in Family Medicine (FAM300)

General Surgery

Our General Surgery Program gives students an opportunity to rotate in general surgery and general surgery subspecialties at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania as sub-interns. Students will experience the premier general surgery training at the University of Pennsylvania, and will enjoy forming relationships with current residents and faculty. Students are expected to actively prepare for and participate in morning rounds, attend all available operations, and give at least one formal presentation during the course of their rotation. Students will have the opportunity to attend all divisional and departmental conferences during their month at Penn.

Rotations available: Colorectal (SUR309A), General/Foregut (SUR303), Hepatobiliary (SUR319), Surgical Oncology (SUR 320, 321, 322)

Internal Medicine

The Edward S. Cooper Visiting Clerkship, sponsored by the Department of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, provides support for talented underrepresented minority fourth year medical students to participate in a four-week elective rotation at a Penn-affiliated hospital. The program is designed to increase medical student awareness of opportunities in academic medicine and increase the number of minority students applying to the Penn Internal Medicine residency programs.

Rotations available (Registrar course): Ambulatory, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Geriatric Medicine, Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Pulmonary Disease, Rheumatology

Neurology

This rotation was crafted specifically for our Visiting Clerkship Program. The clinical experience will include 3 weeks with the inpatient Neurology team and 1 week with the outpatient team. There will be the opportunity to work directly with faculty and residents and see patients with a variety of neurologic diagnoses and disorders.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Neurology (NEURO 250)

Neurosurgery

Neurological surgery encompasses treatment of adult and pediatric patients with disorders of the nervous system including disorders of the brain, meninges, skull, and their blood supply, including the extracranial carotid and vertebral arteries; disorders of the pituitary gland; disorders of the spinal cord, meninges, and vertebral column; and disorders of the cranial and spinal nerves throughout their distribution. Disorders of the nervous system arise from congenital, degenerative, traumatic, oncologic, infectious, and atherosclerotic conditions. Neurosurgery requires a firm foundation in anatomy, pathology, neurology, and radiology in combination with the acquisition of a broad range of surgical and patient management skills. The sub-internship experience offers students robust exposure to a variety of neurosurgical cases and management.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Sub-internship (NSG 300)

Obstetrics & Gynecology

This OBGYN Clerkship includes opportunities to rotate through subspecialty experiences with incredible faculty. The education and clinical learning that will take place is something we know students will enjoy. The rotation experience also offers interaction with current OBGYN residents and other UIM housestaff around the Penn system. We offer two spots through the Penn URIM Visiting Clerkship Program: 1 in the month of August and 1 in the month of September.

Rotations available (Registrar course): Maternal-Fetal Medicine (OBG 300)

Ophthalmology

Students participate fully in the activities of the department. Students will examine patients at Scheie Eye Institute, HUP, CHOP, and VAMC. They will attend resident conferences offered and student-oriented tutorial sessions. Special attention will be paid to the acquisition of skills, such as measuring visual function and using the ophthalmoscope and slit lamp. Participation in the operating room is included. After initial orientation, students may choose to focus in areas of their special interest. The course is flexible to accommodate the students' interest. Exposure to all subspecialties of ophthalmology is available.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Ophthalmology elective (OPH 300)

Otolaryngology

This elective emphasizes diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients with otolaryngologic problems. Student will spend 2 weeks on the Sinus/Otology service (rhinology/skull base, otology/neurotology, laryngology, and comprehensive otolaryngology) and 2 weeks on the Head and Neck service (head and neck surgical oncology and reconstruction). On each of these services, students will be expected to function as a member of the clinical team and will work closely with the residents on inpatient care and in the OR. Students will spend one night on overnight call with a resident. Students will also have the opportunity to work with various faculty in their outpatient clinics. There are no weekend responsibilities. There will be the option to

spend a day at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to gain a brief insight into the field of pediatric otolaryngology. Attendance at departmental conferences, didactics, and Grand Rounds is highly encouraged. Visiting students will be expected to give a 10 min research presentation during Grand Rounds at the end of the rotation.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Otolaryngology (OTO 300)

Pathology

The goals of this rotation are to introduce students to the field of academic anatomic pathology and further their understanding of a variety of disease processes. Students will be active members of the surgical pathology team and be directly involved in case evaluation; or spend time rotating through two laboratory areas of based on their interest and selection with the course director. Labs available include Transfusion Medicine, Coagulation, Molecular Diagnostics and Personalized Medicine, Immunology, Microbiology and Clinical Chemistry. Our faculty are eager to work directly with the students on this rotation.

Rotations available (Registrar course): Surgical Pathology(PAT 300), Clinical Pathology (PAT3 01)

Pediatrics

The Pediatrics Visiting Clerkship Program is designed to give students a chance to experience the exceptional training that CHOP has to offer. In addition, it provides the residents and attending faculty a chance to form a close working relationship with each student. Visiting students will spend four weeks on a Subspecialty Elective rotation or as a Sub-intern on one of our inpatient floors (includes general pediatrics and/or a subspecialty), or the Emergency Department. As CHOP is a tertiary care center, students will have exposure to a variety of patients ranging from bread-and-butter pediatrics to medically complex patients. Students are also invited to attend morning report and noon conference daily, as well as weekly grand rounds.

Rotations available (Registrar course): Pediatric Sub-internship (PED300), Emergency Medicine Sub-internship (PED311), Cardiology (PED314), Child Abuse (PED310), Child Development/Rehabilitation (PED316), Endocrinology (PED394), Gastro-Intestinal (PED334), Hematology (PED324), Infectious Disease (PED354), Oncology (PED323)

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

This clerkship will provide the student with a broad exposure to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Experience will be gained in neurologic and musculoskeletal physical examination and diagnosis. Our goal is to maximize function in individuals with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Holistic medicine is emphasized with the team approach to patient care. Students will participate in care of patients on: -the inpatient rehabilitation service -the acute care consultation service - ambulatory care with exposure to electrodiagnostic studies and nerve blocks.

Rotations available: Sports Medicine, Interventional Spine, General Outpatient Rehab, Inpatient Rehab

Plastic Surgery

The purpose of this visiting clerkship program in Plastic Surgery is to give students the opportunity to experience the premier plastic surgery training experience offered at the University of Pennsylvania. Also, this clerkship experience will allow the students an opportunity to form a relationship with current house staff and faculty. Students will have the opportunity to rotate on the HUP Plastic Surgery service for a 4-week rotation. Students will be expected to function at the level of an advanced medical student. They will be expected to actively prepare for and participate in morning rounds, attend all available operations and give at least one formal presentation during the course of their rotation. Students will be expected to attending all divisional and departmental conferences during this time.

Rotation available (Registrar Course): Sub-internship in Plastic Surgery (SUR367)

Psychiatry

The visiting clerkship program is designed to give students a chance to get a taste of the exceptional training that Penn and CHOP have to offer. Additionally, it creates a professional responsibility for current residents and faculty to engage with the visiting medical students and provide mentorship while they are in our institutions. Visiting students will be given an opportunity to rotate in Adult Psychiatry pr Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. The rotation will be mostly spent in the consult and liaison service at one of our University of Pennsylvania Health System hospitals or at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. These clinical services may also allow the students to encounter emergency psychiatry cases. Depending on the student's interest, they may request to shadow certain clinics during the afternoon for a more tailored experience. Students are also invited to attend weekly didactics and bimonthly grand rounds.

Rotations available (Registrar Course): Hospital-based Psychiatry (PSY300), Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (PSY303)

Radiation Oncology

The goals of the course are: 1) To learn more about the general principles of oncology, including: the basic science of oncology, the diagnostic evaluation and staging of cancer, the multidisciplinary nature of cancer management, the therapeutic decision-making process, the administration of various cancer treatments, and the supportive medical care of the cancer patient. 2) To understand the role of radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer, specifically: simulation (treatment planning); typical radiation therapy fields; planning and administration of CT-based three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3-D CRT) and intensity modulated radiation 3 therapy (IMRT); planning and implantation of radiation sources (brachytherapy) directly into tumors; and intraoperative photodynamic therapy.

Each medical student is assigned to work as part of a cancer site-specific team, which includes a resident and attending physician. The medical student is expected to attend all resident conferences, as well as educational meetings and tumor boards relevant to the individual site-specific services. For the initial consultation, the student will observe the resident as he/she gathers pertinent information (x-rays,

pathology reports, operative reports, etc.) and does a complete history and physical examination. For this first consultation, the resident will present the case to the attending while the student again observes. For subsequent consultations, the student will see and examine the patient, either alone or together with the resident, and later present the case to the team in a format similar to hospital rounds. The student will handwrite a consultation note for select patients, and this note will be reviewed by the attending physician and resident. The student will assist the resident in obtaining pertinent medical data (e.g. lab or x-ray results, patient's medication list), scheduling tests, arranging appointments with other MDs, etc. The student will observe the attending physician and resident as they perform the specialized procedures and discuss the technical aspects of radiation oncology. The student may be quizzed about anatomy and general oncology during these procedures, but is not routinely expected to perform these procedures. At the end of the rotation, each student is required to give a 15-20 minute presentation (typically PowerPoint-based) on a topic of the student's choice. A variety of topic options are available, including a case presentations and review of the pertinent literature, a general review of a specific cancer or disease site, a discussion of basic science advances in oncology, etc. The intended topic should be approved by the program director by mid-rotation, both to ensure its appropriateness and to avoid duplicate topics. A brief handout related to the talk is generally expected and helpful. A presentation does not guarantee an honors grade, but is required for the grade to be considered.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Radiation Oncology (RON300)

Radiology

The purpose of this visiting clerkship program is to give students the opportunity to experience the premier radiology residency training experience offered at the University of Pennsylvania. Also, this clerkship experience will allow the students an opportunity to form a relationship with current house staff and faculty. Students will have the opportunity to rotate on the HUP, PPMC and or PAH service for a 4-week rotation. Students will be expected to function at the level of an advanced medical student. They will be expected to be actively engaged on rotations, attend all divisional and departmental conferences and give at least one formal presentation at the end of their rotation.

A normal clerkship day will include:

- 7:30 am to 9:00 am: Morning conference. There will be 2 conferences of 45 minutes each. Faculty presents both clinical and non-clinical material in various formats, including didactic lectures and interesting case reviews. This is the perfect time to meet most of the current residents.
- 9:00 am to 5:00 pm: You will go to your chosen rotation. The interpretation of studies and performance of the imaging guided procedures is a team approach with residents and fellows working together in concert with attendings. On most rotations, you will be working with a first-year radiology resident (PY2), a senior radiology resident (PGY 3, 4, 5) and or fellows. You will be included in attending read out sessions with trainees and as applicable will be present during imaging guided procedures.
- On Tuesdays you can enjoy Radiology noon Ground Rounds where lunch will be provided

As part of your clerkship, you will be responsible for giving a short case conference: this will occur on the last week of the rotation. The goal is to present a brief didactic conference based on an interesting case you encountered during the month. This could include surgical and or pathology follow up.

Rotations available (Registrar course): Women's/Breast Imaging (RAD336D), Cardiothoracic imaging, Interventional Radiology (RAD320), Body Imaging (RAD337D), Musculoskeletal (RAD310), Neuroradiology (RAD330), Nuclear Medicine (RAD311)

Urology

The purpose of this visiting clerkship program is to give students the opportunity to experience the premier Urology training experience offered at the University of Pennsylvania. Also, this clerkship experience will allow the students an opportunity to form a relationship with current house staff and faculty. Students will have the opportunity to rotate on the HUP service for a 4-week rotation. Students will be expected to function at the level of an advanced medical student. They will be expected to actively prepare for and participate in morning rounds, attend all available operations and give at least one formal presentation during the course of their rotation. Students will be expected to attending all divisional and departmental conferences during this time.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Sub-internship in Urology (SUR345A)

Vascular Surgery

The purpose of this visiting clerkship program in Vascular Surgery is to give students the opportunity to experience the unique training experience offered at the University of Pennsylvania. The vascular surgery sub-I rotation for medical students at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center will be focused on a comprehensive approach to vascular disease. This will be a busy rotation with significant time in the operating room in vascular surgery cases that will span over the entire spectrum of vascular disease in the neck, thorax, abdomen and both upper and lower extremities. There will be excellent exposure to both open vascular surgery and endovascular techniques in vascular surgery. There will also be exposure to outpatient venous procedures in the office. There are several outpatient vascular clinics. Multiple educational conferences are held during every week where medical students are expected to actively participate. There is a dedicated vascular service comprised of vascular surgery attendings, chief resident, mid-level consult residents, intern, and nurse practitioners. Students will be actively involved in evaluating patients both in an inpatient and an outpatient setting. Students will also have the opportunity to spend time in the vascular laboratory to understand noninvasive vascular evaluation.

Rotation available (Registrar course): Sub-internship in Vascular Surgery (SUR318E)