

“Mentored Medical Student Clinical Research Program”

General Clinical Research Center
Virginia Commonwealth University

The GCRC at VCU will provide funds for medical students during three of the four years of their training. The purpose of these awards is to expose promising students to an active and productive research atmosphere and to serve as an avenue for exploring options for a future academic and research career in clinical investigation.

Given the significant time commitment of the medical school curriculum, we propose the following timeline for interested students:

A. M-I: students will work with a mentor on a clinical research project during the summer after their first year. First-year students will also be required to attend Institutional Review Board Training to include:

1. Review of the VCU Investigator Manual
2. Training in *Ethical Principles and Federal Regulatory Requirements*
3. Receipt and review of Protecting Study Volunteers in Research (Dunn and Chadwick) and successful completion of the on-line test required of all VCU investigators

B. M-II: students will continue their work with their mentor during the summer after their second year of medical school

C. M-IV: students who have successfully completed the first two summers of organized clinical research and have fulfilled all requirements of the third (clerkship) year) will be enrolled in a more intensive course involving both a didactic curriculum and continued clinical investigation with their mentor.

The didactic course involves the following the Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP), designed by the GCRC Program Director and supported by funds from the School of Medicine. The CRTP curriculum was designed to provide essential training in bioethics, biostatistics, study design, and grant writing. Individual courses are described below:

FALL

BIOS 543	Statistical Methods
BIOS 590	Clinical Research Process
MICRO 510	Scientific Integrity
BIOS 697	Individual Research Project

SPRING

BIOS 544	Statistical Methods
BIOS 590	Clinical Research Process
BIOS 697	Individual Research Project

Eligibility and Requirements for Students and Mentors

1. Students in the first year of medical school who are interested in pursuit of a career in clinical research may apply to the Dean of Student Activities for participation under the supervision of a faculty mentor.
2. Need for financial support will not be a consideration in evaluating applications.
3. Mentors must be actively involved in clinical research performed on the GCRC
4. A faculty member may sponsor only one student application per year.

Financials

1. Students will receive up to \$4,000 per year in support of their time over the summers of the first and second years and during the fourth-year curriculum
2. Students may also receive up to \$1,000 per year to support their training. Costs include textbooks, IRB training and tuition for didactic classes.

Application Procedures

1. Application forms are available on the GCRC website (<http://views.vcu.edu/crc/caps.htm>)
2. Completed forms must be delivered to Room 1-002B.
3. Applications will be reviewed by the GCRC Advisory Committee. Criteria include the student's academic achievement at VCU and the suitability of the mentor.

Obligations of the Student

1. The student will devote full time to the research project throughout the two summers after first and second years of medical school
2. During the M-IV year, students must complete
 - a. the Clinical Research Training Program
 - b. At least a two months rotation on the GCRC in conjunction with mentored research
3. It is mandatory that the student present his or her research at Student Honors Day
4. Any publication resulting from the research should acknowledge support by the GCRC

APPLICATION

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE () _____

E-mail _____

Medical Student Class

Student Narrative: Please provide a brief (200-500 words) description of your particular research interests and goals, prior research experience (if any), and commitment to completion of the program as outlined.