



**HARVARD**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL



OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY INCLUSION & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



# VCP

# Visiting Clerkship Program

## Overview

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The Visiting Clerkship Program (VCP) provides support for fourth-year and qualified third-year medical students from groups underrepresented in medicine as defined by the AAMC, including, but not limited to African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native, to participate in the Harvard Medical School Exchange Clerkship Program. It was designed to:

1. Increase awareness of opportunities in academic medicine
2. Increase consideration of academic training programs for internship and residency
3. Increase the number of minority students applying to HMS-affiliated hospital training programs

The Visiting Clerkship Program is sponsored by the Minority Faculty Development Program of the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership.

# VCP | Visiting Clerkship Program

## Program Details

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### Eligibility

Eligible participants are: US citizens or permanent residents, full-time, fourth-year medical students in good standing at accredited US and Canadian medical schools. Third-year students who have completed their core clerkships in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics are also eligible. In addition to completion of core requirements, all students applying to the VCP must have completed USMLE Step 1 prior to the start of their rotation. Students remain registered at their own schools while participating in exchange clerkships at Harvard Medical School. They are not officially enrolled as students at Harvard University.

### Length

Clerkships at HMS are offered year round, and each clerkship lasts for four weeks. Students may rotate throughout the year, HOWEVER, the VCP only provides stipend support for students participating in clerkships in May through November.

### Mentoring and Networking

VCP participants are assigned a faculty advisor and offered opportunities to network with HMS faculty, students, and staff. A lunch or dinner meeting for faculty and students is held during each rotation.

### Course Offerings

The Visiting Clerkship Program participants can take elective courses at Harvard Medical School. Please view electives in the online catalog: [medcatalog.harvard.edu](http://medcatalog.harvard.edu). Participants also have access to the Harvard Medical School Countway Library, hospital seminars, and hospital workshops.

### Financial Assistance

The Visiting Clerkship Program will issue a stipend to out-of-state participants upon completion of the program. The stipend is designed to reimburse travel to and from Boston and housing while in Boston. The Program will also waive the HMS Registrar's Office application processing fee.

## Participating Hospitals

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Participants in the Visiting Clerkship Program will be scheduled for clerkships at one of the Harvard-affiliated teaching hospitals:

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Boston Children's Hospital  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Cambridge Health Alliance  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates  
Joslin Diabetes Center  
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary

Massachusetts General Hospital  
McLean Hospital  
Mt. Auburn Hospital  
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital



# VCP | Visiting Clerkship Program

## Application

Email the Visiting Clerkship Program at [vcp\\_hpssp@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:vcp_hpssp@hms.harvard.edu) to receive a VCP application and a list of required forms all applicants must provide. Applicants are also required to complete the HMS application in VSAS. The VCP will then act as the applicant's liaison for the HMS Registrar's Office to ease the remainder of the application process. Final notice of awarded clerkships will come from the HMS Registrar's Office.

### Rotation Dates and Deadlines

The HMS Registrar's Office maintains strict deadlines. Applicants must complete their application on the HMS Exchange Clerkship website **at least 3 months in advance of the preferred clerkship month.**

In order to be competitive, the VCP strongly recommends applicants submit the VCP application before the Exchange Clerkship deadline. See the chart on the right for rotation dates and corresponding deadlines for the 2021-2022 season. The VCP supports May through November clerkships only.

Clerkship Month	Clerkship Dates	Application Deadline
May 2021	May 3 - May 30	N/A
June 2021	June 1 - June 27	N/A
July 2021	July 6 - Aug 1	N/A
August 2021*	Aug 2 - Aug 29	May 31, 2021
September 2021*	Aug 30 - Sep 26	May 31, 2021
October 2021*	Sep 27 - Oct 24	June 30, 2021
November 2021*	Oct 25 - Nov 21	July 31, 2021

\*Please continue to check the VCP website to confirm whether these clerkship months are available. Changes will be made as the COVID-19 situation in Boston continues to evolve.

## Notes from Visiting Clerkship Program Alum

"I had an incredible clerkship experience during my pediatric GI rotation. I felt feeling inspired and motivated about a career in academic medicine and I am looking forward to applying to the Boston area."

"Great opportunity to network, excellent advice on residency applications and the whole process. I honestly got more information on how to apply for residencies from here than my home school!"

"I had an absolute amazing time on my clerkship and as a result the program at MGH is very high on my list of places to train... First, the connections & networking with faculty and other minority students, second, it allowed for me to visit a new hospital in a different state than where I am from, Third it helped to alleviate the financial burden to travel and housing cost. I would like to thank the VCP program and the MFDP and staff for all of its help and support."

"I would highly recommend it because it provides you the ability to experience a premier medical education in some of the nation's top hospitals with less financial burden but with more academic guidance. What's not to like?"

"This is a very well-organized program. It provides an excellent opportunity to network within one's field of interest. The program provides the student with the resources and connections to be a successful extern. In addition, the travel and housing financial aid is extremely beneficial for students who otherwise would not consider doing an away rotation because of the costs."

"Provides exposure to fantastic residency programs. Offers you connections to meet with several faculty members that could have a strong say in the application process. Great way to get a strong letter. Will meet many great mentors."

"The program does an excellent job of supporting students and putting students in the best possible position to succeed. My advisor was a great mentor and resource and I learned an incredible amount from some wonderful medical educators throughout my rotation. I was truly lucky to have participated in this program."

# About the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership and the Minority Faculty Development Program



The Minority Faculty Development Program (MFDP) in the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership (DICP) was created by the Harvard Medical School Faculty Council in 1990 to support the career development of junior faculty and to address the following crucial pipeline issues:

1. Increasing the pool of minority students interested in careers in science and medicine
2. Promoting medical students, graduate students, and fellows to develop the needed skills for success in the academic arena
3. Advancing the career development of junior faculty

The Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership was established in 2002 to promote the increased recruitment, retention and advancement of diverse faculty, particularly individuals from groups underrepresented in medicine (URM), at HMS and to oversee all diversity activities involving Harvard Medical School (HMS) faculty, trainees, students and staff. The mission of the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership is to advance diversity inclusion in health, biomedical, behavioral, and STEM fields that builds individual and institutional capacity to achieve excellence, foster innovation, and ensure equity in health locally, nationally, and globally.

Our pipeline programs begin as early as the middle school level and carry on through the postgraduate level and involve curriculum development, teacher training, enhancing student research, and career development. DICP/MFDP's work addresses Harvard Medical School's relationship with the community (internal and external) through the provision of programs that link Harvard Medical School faculty, trainees and students with local, regional and national community-related activities.

## Contact us

**Online** - [dicp.hms.harvard.edu/vcp](https://dicp.hms.harvard.edu/vcp)

**Email** - [vcp\\_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:vcp_hpsp@hms.harvard.edu)

**Phone** - 617-432-4422

**Address** - 164 Longwood Avenue, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02115

**Follow the VCP on Twitter** - @HMS\_VCP



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