

UW School of Medicine Pathway Programs

Indian Health Pathway (IHP)

Global Health Pathway (GHP)

Underserved Pathway (UP)

Hispanic Health Pathway (HHP)

LGBTQ Health Pathway (LGBTQ HP)

<http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/md-program/current-students/curriculum/pathways>

Pathways

The required curriculum at the University of Washington School of Medicine is designed to prepare students for diverse careers in medicine. Recognizing many students' desire to work with underserved populations, the school has created five Pathways that offer students the opportunity to pursue their interest and develop knowledge and skills specifically tailored to working with underserved populations here and abroad.

Each Pathway allows students to:

- Organize their courses, clinical rotations, and volunteer opportunities around a particular community, population, or aspect of underserved medicine.
- Explore career interests with mentorship from faculty, staff, and community providers and partners who share those interests.

Why should I join a Pathway?

Pathways provide a way for you to focus your studies in your areas of interest, and to provide an enriching foundation in these areas in order to introduce you to, and prepare you for, health careers in these areas. The content areas and activities required by the Pathways focus on areas of interest not found in the regular curriculum, and will be helpful to you as a health practitioner, regardless of your chosen specialty.

Survey results from graduating students also indicate that residency programs often ask students about their Pathway experience and are impressed by our students' commitment to underserved communities.

Indian Health Pathway: Overview

- The Indian Health Pathway (IHP) provides Native and non-Native medical students with the necessary information and experiences to develop clinical and non-clinical skills that best serve rural and urban American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.
- Students complete specialized coursework, projects, and clinical experiences at sites which serve AI/AN communities and are designed to meet the following goals:
 - Prepare both Native and non-Native medical students for careers in AI/AN health
 - Enhance curriculum on AI/AN health issues and the role of historical, environmental, cultural, spiritual, political, and structural factors which impact health services and access for AI/AN communities
 - Encourage community based and community determined research on AI/AN health issues

Indian Health Pathway: Requirements

- **Courses:**
 - UCONJ 530 Indian Health Issues (winter term only), a one credit nonclinical selective course that focuses on Indian health topics past and present .
- **Scholarly Project or Triple I:**
 - RUOP, MSRTP, or other project with a focus on American Indian/Alaska Native health
- **Clinical Experience:**
 - Two elective clerkships: FAMED 680 and FAMED 681. For each clerkship there is a minimum four-week experience in a clinic that serves an American Indian/Alaska Native population. FAMED 680 is focused on Traditional Indian Medicine.
- **Service, Engagement, and Advocacy:**
 - Involvement in service activities that work with American Indian/Alaska Native communities
 - Students are highly encouraged to join The Medicine Wheel Society

Indian Health Pathway: People

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Global Health Pathway: Overview

- The Global Health Pathway (GHP) is for medical students interested in careers dedicated to improving health in all global populations.
- Students complete coursework, projects, and international experiences designed to meet the following learning objectives:
 - Develop an awareness of key diseases affecting health in low-resource settings, and health systems in which these diseases are treated
 - Understand the historical, economic, political, environmental, and social factors responsible for global health disparities
 - Learn to provide compassionate and effective medical care to patients within different cultural frameworks and in areas with limited resources.
 - Develop a multidisciplinary and multicultural perspective towards global health
 - Learn to collaborate effectively with professionals from diverse academic disciplines and different cultural backgrounds
 - Gain insight and experience into the ways research can help address global health issues

Global Health Pathway: Requirements

- **Courses:**
 - Two to three credits nonclinical elective courses that focus on global health topics. “G H” and other courses can count.
- **International Experience:**
 - Minimum four-week experience abroad or in a U.S. Indigenous community (not personal travel/touring)
- **Clinical Experience:**
 - Minimum four-week experience in a clinic that serves a global population, either abroad or domestically (preceptorships, practicum, clerkships)
- **Scholarly Project or Triple I:**
 - GHIP, RUOP with Global-Domestic community, MSRTP International, or other project
- **Service, Engagement, and Advocacy:**
 - Involvement in service activities that work with global/local communities or other underserved and vulnerable populations

Global Health Pathway: People

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Underserved Pathway: Overview

- The Underserved Pathway helps prepare future physicians to care for vulnerable and underserved populations.
- The Pathway engages students in three educational avenues: mentoring, developing a foundation of knowledge, and a variety of real-world experiences.
- Students customize their Underserved Pathway experience to meet their own educational goals and interests:
 - some may focus on a specific population or community while other may explore broader issues surrounding the underserved such as advocacy or policy.

Underserved Pathway: Requirements

- **Online Modules:**
 - 10 of 23 Modules; *Who Are the Underserved?* is required for all UP students
- **Mentorship Experience:**
 - Quarterly (4/yr) meetings with UP/TRUST mentor
- **Courses/Credits (Foundations or pre-clinical):**
 - 2 credits during foundations or preclinical years on underserved populations or issues
- **Community clinical Experience:**
 - RUOP, GHIP, or preclinical preceptorship in underserved setting
- **Scholarly project:**
 - Focused on issue affecting underserved population(s), often completed as a Independent Investigative Inquiry (III).
- **Clinical Experience:**
 - 12 clinical or patient care phase clinical credits in underserved setting
- **Service, Engagement, and Advocacy:**
 - 24 hours of community service, service learning, or community engagement in an underserved community

Underserved Pathway: People

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Pathway Faculty: David Evans, MD

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Hispanic Health Pathway: Overview

- The Hispanic Health Pathway (HHP) is designed for medical students interested in careers dedicated to improving health services and health access for Latinx communities in the United States.
- Students complete specialized coursework, online modules, projects, and clinical experiences at sites which serve Latinx communities and are designed to meet the following goals:
 - Exposure to a curriculum that explores Latinx culture and its traditions; the impact of family on illness; traditional medicine and traditional healers; ethics; research; and health policy;
 - Develop skills to work successfully with interpreters and, when able, strengthen medical Spanish skills;
 - Provide exposure via required and elective clerkships to clinical sites which specifically care for large Latinx populations;
 - Learn about the role of historical, environmental, cultural, spiritual, political, and structural factors which impact the health of Latinx communities

Hispanic Health Pathway: Requirements

- **Courses:**
 - MED 557 Hispanic Health and Healthcare Disparities, a one credit nonclinical selective course that focuses on Latinx health issues (fall term only)
 - One other nonclinical selective chosen from an approved list. Examples are: LGBTQ Health, Medical Spanish, Transgender Health, Rural Health Class, Global Health Class, etc.
- **Scholarly Project or Triple I:**
 - RUOP, MSRTP, or other project which focuses on a Latinx health issue
- **Online Modules:**
 - Completion of 8 asynchronous online modules (currently being updated)
- **Clinical Experience:**
 - One core clerkship or two elective clerkships, in clinic sites that serve a Latinx population
- **Service, Engagement, and Advocacy:**
 - Involvement in service work in Latinx communities
 - Students are highly encouraged to join the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)

Hispanic Health Pathway: People

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LGBTQ Health Pathway: Overview

- The LGBTQ Pathway will enable UWSOM medical students to provide LGBTQ-competent healthcare and set an innovative standard for the entire medical community:
 - Exposure to a curriculum that explores lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) health and healthcare disparities, research and health policy
 - Develop skills and knowledge to work successfully with LGBTQ community members
 - Provide exposure via required clerkships to clinical sites which specifically care for large LGBTQ populations
 - Learn about the role of societal, political, and structural factors which impact the health of LGBTQ communities

LGBTQ Health Pathway: Requirements

- **Courses (each a one credit non-clinical selective):**
 - FAMED 561 LGBTQ Health and Healthcare Disparities (fall term only)
 - CONJ 570 Clinical Management of the Transgender Patient (winter term only)
 - UCONJ 624 Health, Equity and Community (Highly recommended but not required.)
- **Online Modules:**
 - Completion of 3 asynchronous online modules designed to introduce necessary skills and knowledge for LGBTQ competent care
- **Scholarly Project or Triple I:**
 - RUOP, MSRTP, or other project which focuses on a LGBTQ health issue
- **Clinical Experience:**
 - One core clerkship at an LGBTQ health site (8 credits, 4 weeks)
- **Service, Engagement, and Advocacy:**
 - 36 hours of service work and advocacy in LGBTQ communities
 - Students are highly encouraged to join the Queer Medicine student group

LGBTQ Health Pathway: People

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Can I participate in more than one Pathway?

- Yes: you may participate in any Pathway you choose. Consider your workload, but also consider that you may join a Pathway and are not required to complete it.

2) Do some requirements for one Pathway also overlap with other Pathways' requirements?

- Yes: Many courses count for more than one Pathway. Please check with your Pathway advisor for detailed information.

3) How do I apply?

- Each Pathway has its own application process. Applications are accessible on the respective Pathway websites:
 - a. Indian Health Pathway: <https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/dolson/38538/269261>
 - b. Global Health Pathway: <http://globalhealth.washington.edu/education-training/medical-students/gh-pathway>
 - c. Underserved Pathway: <https://depts.washington.edu/fammed/education/programs/upath/>
 - d. Hispanic Health Pathway: http://depts.washington.edu/cedi/wp_cedi/hispanic-health-pathway/
 - e. LGBTQ Health Pathway: http://depts.washington.edu/cedi/wp_cedi/lgbtq-health-pathway/

FAQs CONTINUED

4) When do I need to apply?

- All Pathways encourage students to apply as soon as possible in order to gain as much benefit as possible from the Pathways. All Pathways require you to enroll by the end of Term 3 of the Foundations Phase (Late Fall/Early Winter).
- Indian Health, Hispanic Health, LGBTQ Health: December 1
- Underserved and Global Health: by Winter break

5) What happens if I apply to a Pathway but do not finish the requirements?

- There is no penalty for not completing a Pathway you are enrolled in, but we strongly encourage you to be persistent, and will help you create a plan to finish. We create the Pathways to be an enrichment to your education, not a hassle, so we hope the requirements can be fulfilled via your SOM coursework, and not in addition to it.

FAQs CONTINUED

6) Do I have to be in a Pathway to be able to complete classes, clerkships or modules?

- **Courses:** Anyone who is a medical student or in any health sciences graduate program is eligible to take the non-clinical selectives offered.
- **Clerkship Rotations:** The IHP rotations FAMED 680 and FAMED 681 clerkships are for IHP students only. Other clerkships are open to all UWSOM students although preference may be given to students in specific Pathways.
- **Modules:** For Hispanic Health, Underserved and the LGBTQ Health Pathways, anyone with a UW NetID can view the modules.
 - For the Underserved Pathway, students must apply and be granted access to modules.

FAQs CONTINUED

7) Are Pathways noted on transcripts? Will they show up on my Dean's Letter (MSPE)?

- Pathways are not noted on your transcripts. If you have completed a Pathway, made significant progress and/or have a feasible plan to complete the Pathway(s) you're in, this may be noted in your Dean's Letter/Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE).

8) What if I don't get the RUOP/Clerkship placements I need for a specific Pathway?

- Pathway students are encouraged to inform the Primary Care Practicum/RUOP/Clinical Site Coordinators of their Pathway status when applying for their sites. Also, when you submit your rotation track preferences to the Registrar be sure to inform the Registrar of your Pathway participation. If you cannot get assigned to a Pathway-listed site, contact the Pathway advisor as soon as possible. Please remember that the program site coordinators and the Registrar will do their best in accommodating you if it is possible. Due to the constraints of the number of medical students that need to be accommodated, the number of clinic sites, and the competition for some of the most popular sites, we ask that you respect the decisions that are made.