

KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE YEAR II REQUIRED STUDENT PROJECT (RSP)

All students in Year II are required to do a student project during the academic year. These projects can be varied in their nature: community or medical outreach projects, basic or clinical science research or educational research. One of the recommended objectives of the second year project is to provide experience to our students in a setting beyond the established curriculum. Linking your RSP to your selected pathway is highly recommended but is not a requirement.

Procedures for identifying your project:

1. Describe the project that you are interested in undertaking during this academic year. Please develop a brief proposal that includes your goals and aims in undertaking this project, and how you will carry out your idea. Projects should be linked to one or more of the Educational Objectives of the Keck School of Medicine. You may find these goals on the MedWeb homepage. In addition, you must identify a faculty member who will serve as your sponsor. If you are interested in doing a project with someone other than a USC faculty member (e.g. a community-based project), please indicate who that individual is and include a brief biographical sketch. The individual you select must agree to sponsor you, to provide you with supervision, laboratory equipment and supplies if you are doing a research project or other guidance and supplies if you are doing a community or educational project. The Curriculum Office, taking into account the academic standing of the proposed sponsor and the educational potential of the proposed project, will review your project proposal and notify you of acceptance.
2. Return the completed form to the Curriculum Office (KAM 314) no later than **5:00 p.m., Sept 25, 2009.**

If you need counseling on possible faculty sponsors and/or help in selecting a project, you may contact Dr. Joel Schechter, Assistant Dean Student Affairs or the Curriculum Office at (323) 442-1763, KAM 314.

3. Students and Sponsors will be required to complete a mid-year evaluation and an end of the year evaluation. At the end of the year, you are required to submit a paper on the project you have completed. The length of your summary paper should be at least 2 pages, but can be longer as you deem appropriate, i.e., length is left to your discretion. Your PPM mentors will review your final summary paper as part of your year-end evaluation.
4. Time spent on these projects may vary dependent on many factors. However, the **minimum** overall time commitment expected for satisfactory completion of the RSP should be no less than 1-2 hours/week over the academic year.

Examples:

- A. Student designs an educational project working with students at Bravo High, meets with them on a regular basis to monitor their progress throughout the project, and evaluates the success of the project through criteria established at the beginning of the project. Sponsor would be expected to be a teacher or administrator at Bravo High, with whom the medical student would consult with throughout the project.
- B. Student shadows an ER physician to gain experience in the medical demands and professional issues facing the physician throughout the academic year. Student does follow-up and evaluations with selected groups of the patients seen. The ER physician would be the sponsor. Note, students undertaking projects involving patients or patient records must satisfy the following:
 - 1) Take the on-line HIPPA certification at <http://www.usc.edu/admin/compliance/>
 - 2) In addition, some clinical studies MAY require submission of an IRB protocol form for approval, which may be obtained at www.usc.edu/admin/provost/oprs/hsirb/ Consult with the Curriculum Office for guidance on your specific project proposal.
- C. Work with a basic or clinical scientist sponsor on a topic of interest to the student, meet with the sponsor and have specific responsibilities with respect to the research project.
- D. It is acceptable for students to plan their RSP so as to link it to their selected pathway, i.e., RSP may be a continuation or expansion of a project begun in the summer after Year I.

Eligibility for promotion to Year III requires successful completion of the Year II RSP.

Please note:

Your final RSP paper should be a reflective piece on how the RSP project did or did not contribute to your professional development. For example, if you do bench research the paper should only **briefly** describe the type of research and its clinical or basic science value; the main idea presented in your paper is your personal reflection on how doing the activity added value to your professional development. How did you surmount challenges or obstacles when you encountered them? What may have occurred that was unexpected? The specific details of your project in most cases should be less important than your thoughts on doing the project. For example, after doing the project you may decide that research is not for you, or the opposite, i.e., that you are excited about doing research in the future. This same idea applies to any and all projects. We want to know what you did (briefly) but most importantly what it meant to you and why.

Key Due Dates to Remember:

Initial Proposal – September 25, 2009

Mid-Year Evaluation - January 29, 2010

RSP Poster Presentation – April 5, 2010

Final Evaluation – April 12, 2010