

Student Observer of Clinical Care Program at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Having the opportunity to shadow Johns Hopkins Hospital physicians while an undergraduate is one of the greatest privileges available to pre-health students.

The **Student Observer of Clinical Care Program** provides pre-health students at Johns Hopkins with the opportunity and privilege to shadow physicians or other health care professionals (e.g., dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, physical/occupational/speech therapists) at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The program, coordinated out of the Johns Hopkins Hospital's Office of Volunteer Services, provides high school and college students interested in a career in healthcare with the opportunity and privilege to shadow physicians and/or other health care professionals at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The introduction of the **Student Observer of Clinical Care Program** provides an active and mandatory approval process to facilitate the matching of providers and students, to register and track the student observer experiences, and to comply security and liability concerns as well as hospital policy.

Some caveats:

1. Registering your shadowing experience by navigating the mandatory clinical observation tracking program is required by ALL student observers to comply with hospital policy.
2. While many Hopkins health care providers enjoy teaching pre-health students about medicine, there is no guarantee or obligation for physicians to take on student observers. Be polite and give them plenty of time in advance when scheduling, as well as a chance to say no.

Steps in the Process

Step 1: Familiarize yourself with the requirements and registration form associated with the [Student Observership of Clinical Care Program](#).

Step 2: If you are looking to match with a PHYSICIAN or a DENTIST, go to www.hopkinsmedicine.org and click the “**Find a Doctor**” link.

This will assist you in locating, completing the application, contacting physicians (or other health care providers working at the hospital), and following-up appropriately.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SHADOWING A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, YOU NEED TO INDEPENDENTLY

RESEARCH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AT JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITALS BY DEPARTMENT)

Step 3: Log into your "[my.jhu.portal](#)" and look up the email of the doctor or other health care provider.

Step 4: Draft a professional email introducing yourself and asking the physician or other health care provider if she or he would be willing to take you on as a shadow through the Student Observer of Clinical Care program. When writing to your physician or other healthcare provider, be sure to remember:

- Address the subject line of the email appropriately such as "Request to be a Student Observer"
- After a professional salutation (Dear Dr. Smith), make sure to identify yourself as being an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins.
- Appropriately introduce yourself, indicating you are a premed/health student at Johns Hopkins University, the major you are pursuing, and, briefly, any other relevant introductory information.
- Make reference in your email to the **Student Observer of Clinical Care Program** and a link to the webpage (<https://volunteerservices.jhmi.edu/pages/app:observer>).
- Very briefly share your career goals, why you are seeking this observational experience, and any specific interests you have that you anticipate being available through this observership.
- Leave the request open-ended, "Would you be open to having me visit with you to discuss the possibility of my shadowing you at some point that is convenient for you?"
- Appropriately close the email with a closing statement like, "Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you."
- Sign off appropriately (include full name and class year).

Step 5: If the physician extends an invitation for you to shadow, reply to them and include a note that they will be receiving an email through the automated Clinical Shadowing Program that they must confirm in order for you to shadow.

Step 6: Now it is time to complete the [Student Observer of Clinical Care Registration form](#). In addition to biographical information, this page requires that you:

1. Download and submit a Confidentiality Pledge for Visitors
2. Download and submit a Bloodborne Pathogens Overview
3. Download and submit a Flu Shot Record
4. Download and submit a Parental Consent Form (for observers under 18)

You will then sign consent and submit the application.

Step 7: The last step is to finalize a time with your confirmed physician to shadow and follow through. Make sure that you understand the expectations of clinical shadows in the hospital before you begin, and it is also recommended that you review the following Do's and Don'ts...

Do's and Don'ts

1. Do be as professional as possible in your correspondence with physicians
2. Do speak with an advisor with any questions
3. Do reflect thoughtfully after each shadowing experience
4. Don't "blast email" the same email to multiple physicians in the same department
5. Don't harass physicians with many emails even if you haven't heard from them after a few days; if it has been two+ weeks, then it is appropriate to follow up by email or phone

While many Hopkins doctors and health care providers enjoy teaching appreciative undergraduates about medicine, there is no guarantee or obligation for physicians to take on clinical shadows.

Good luck, have fun, and be a great representative of pre-health students at Johns Hopkins!

If you have any questions about the **Student Observer of Clinical Care Program**, please email volunteerservices@jhmi.edu.