The Scholarly Year
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai aims to produce physicians who are lifelong learners, able to grow as the field of medicine grows. This ability allows our students not only to provide the highest quality medical care to their patients and to fulfill themselves intellectually, but also encourages the career development of medical students who seek to become future leaders as physician-scholars and leaders. Medical students have many opportunities to enrich their education within the four year curriculum, but these experiences are limited by required course work and clinical responsibilities. Many students interested in a more intense experience choose to devote one or two full years to developing and carrying out a strongly mentored project in an area of their choice. The Scholarly Year program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai is available to students who have completed their second, third, or fourth years. Such experiences may help students to identify the type of career they would pursue after graduation or provide an in-depth introduction to their chosen area of medicine.

Students interested in considering a Scholarly Year should meet with the Associate Dean for Medical Student Research as soon as possible, in order to discuss their plans and identify those programs that will best enable them to reach their goals. In selected cases, students can be approved to do a Scholarly Year of more than one year duration.

All students on a Scholarly Year, other than those matriculated in a second degree program, are expected to take primary responsibility for a scholarly project. The nature of the scholarly project will vary depending upon the student’s interests. In the broadest terms, the project must investigate a question of scientific and medical value and be feasible within the time frame available. In addition to more traditional basic, clinical, and translational research studies, projects in health evidence and policy; design/technology/entrepreneurship; global health; medical education; community service scholarship; and the humanities are encouraged. Projects must be strongly mentored and approved by the Associate Dean for Medical Student Research in order to be certain the experience will result in a rich, productive year. Scholarly Year students are required to submit a final product that reflects what they accomplished during the year and to present their work at the annual Medical Student Research Day in the spring.

A list of funding opportunities is available at http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical-education/medical-student-research-office/scholarly-year-and-travel-funding/scholarly-year. Detailed guidelines for students about the process of obtaining approval to do a Scholarly Year are available at http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical-education/medical-student-research-office/programs/scholarly-year/scholarly-year-guidelines. Guidelines for mentors of students who want to do a Scholarly Year, including what to include in a letter of support, are available at http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical-education/medical-student-research-office/programs/scholarly-year/mentors-guidelines. Information on how to prepare the research proposal required of students who do a research Scholarly Year and are not participating in a national
program can be obtained at http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical-education/medical-student-research-office/research-guidelines/proposal-preparation.

Applying for Scholarly Year
Scholarly Year students are regarded as full-time students with the ability to defer loans. The time spent in scholarship is not included in the four years toward the MD degree for the purposes of determining satisfactory academic progress.

All students taking a year off to do research or a degree program must submit the Request for Scholarly Year form. The Request for Scholarly Year form, which can be found at http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/student-resources/registrar/academic-forms, must be submitted by May 15.

Return from Scholarly Year
Clearance to return from Scholarly Year is required. Students are required to complete a compliance checklist in order to return to the clinical realm. Students should submit The Return from Scholarly Year Form by March 15 of the Scholarly Year. The form can be found at http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/student-resources/registrar/academic-forms. The scholarly product, required of everyone other than students enrolled in a second degree program, is due by May 1, as is the Scholarly Year Student Clearance Check List which addresses all compliance requirements for return to the clinical realm and return to school. At the end of a specified period, if the student does not meet the necessary requirements to return from a Scholarly Year, it will be assumed that the student no longer wishes to be considered in good standing and the student may be placed on administrative leave. If a student wishes to apply for reinstatement at a later date, a new application for admissions must be completed.

Before taking a required Sub-Internship, in Medicine or Pediatrics, a clinical refresher is required for those students returning from scholarly leave into the fourth year. The clinical refresher must be a rigorous experience such as Emergency Medicine. Experiences other than Emergency Medicine must be approved by the student’s Faculty Advisor.