

The Top 10 List—*From the Student's Perspective*

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai attracts leading applicants from around the world and carefully selects those who not only have the strongest academic credentials, but also a firm commitment to science in serving society.

Outlined below is what generations of these students have said most attracted them to the Icahn School of Medicine:

1. The Mount Sinai Community

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISSMS) offers a strong, collaborative learning environment. Students here share study guides and class notes through Facebook and LISTSERV, to supplement classroom learning. Many second-year students assist their first-year colleagues with challenging courses by serving as teaching assistants and personal mentors. Work-life balance is important for Icahn School of Medicine students and faculty, resulting in a relaxed environment where students provide advice and support for one another.

2. Balanced and Well-Rounded Student Body

Icahn School of Medicine students are passionate about medicine, but are still able to find a balance between their school work, extracurricular interests, and hobbies, which they are eager to share with one another. The student body is diverse—drawing people from various cultures, ethnicities, ages, majors, and experiential backgrounds—which fosters continuous education. Students are able to share their interests and talents through many Mount Sinai-sponsored activities including the Mount Sinai Arts' Coffee Houses, IM sports, and more.

3. Pass/Fail Grading System and Online Testing

The Icahn School of Medicine has a pass/fail grading system for the first two years of medical school. Although students receive grades on exams, transcripts read as “pass” or “fail.” Honors and high pass grades are awarded for third- and fourth-year students. The examinations are accessible online for two to three



days. This system fosters cooperation among students, reduces competition, and allows students to focus on learning without the added stress of numerical grades, internal ranking, or proctored tests. Additionally, the curriculum allows students to take one to two courses at a time, making it easier to find the proper balance to succeed.

4. Faculty-Student Relationship

Students are integrally involved in curriculum planning and the day-to-day operations of the School. The administration and faculty are extremely responsive to student input and offer an online evaluation system, encouraging student feedback. In addition, students can make course changes through their elected Course Representatives. ISMMS faculty members also offer academic and personal support to all students. Upon entering the School, each student is assigned to a chief advisor who is available to provide guidance, information, and referrals to department-specific mentors. The faculty and administration aim to prioritize students' well-being and reduce stress.

5. Housing

Unlike other schools in New York City that offer dorm-style housing, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai offers subsidized furnished apartments. Aron Hall—an apartment building for ISMMS students—is conveniently located one block from the School and The Mount Sinai Hospital and is equipped with a laundry room, gym, basketball court, outdoor patio, and student lounge. Rent is inexpensive and includes both Wi-Fi and Ethernet connections as well as 24-hour doormen. Affordable couples housing is also within a five-minute walk from the Hospital.

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6. Location, Location, Location

New York City is an amazing place to live and learn! The campus straddles the border between the Upper East Side and East Harlem, providing Icahn School of Medicine students with a safe and diverse neighborhood to explore. Students are within walking distance of renowned museums such as The Guggenheim Museum and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Recreation Office offers incredible discounts to Broadway shows, movies, sporting events, restaurants, and other activities so students can explore New York City without breaking budgets. The office also offers free passes to the 92nd Street Y—an extensive gym with an indoor pool and fitness classes.

7. Student Involvement in Service Learning and the Community

From the first day of their medical careers and beyond, Icahn School of Medicine students are encouraged to get involved with the East Harlem Community. Students have the opportunity to participate in organizations such as the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership (EHHOP)—a student-run free clinic, Physicians for Human Rights, Students for Equal Opportunity in Medicine, and Medical Students Making Impacts. There are numerous global health opportunities ranging from local initiatives with the Little Sisters of Assumption to working in countries like Peru and Kenya. Furthermore, there are opportunities to learn about advocacy and social justice through programs like the Human Rights and Social Justice Scholars, where students work directly with community-based organizations in East Harlem. Students can also easily create new organizations and receive funding and support.

8. Research Opportunities

As part of the curriculum, all Icahn School of Medicine students participate in research projects with a range of topics including global health, basic science, clinical research, community health, and education interventions. Many students take advantage of these opportunities by participating in domestic or international research projects after their first year. In addition, about one-third of Icahn School of Medicine students choose to take a scholarly year between their third or fourth years. The Medical Student

Research Office (MSRO) makes it easy for students to connect with faculty who are not only doing interesting research, but are known to be good mentors. MSRO is also a great resource for identifying funding sources for research projects. Since the Icahn School of Medicine is unaffiliated with an undergraduate institution, ISMMS students have even more research opportunities available to them.

9. Early Clinical Exposure

The Art and Science of Medicine (ASM), is a required course available for first- and second-year students, which introduces them to clinical skills and patient encounters. The Longitudinal Clinical Experience (LCE) allows students to care for and follow a chronically ill patient for the first two years of medical school. Student-run groups, such as the Doula Project, Prenatal Partners, Kidney Kids, and others also provide opportunities for students to be involved in patient care from the first day of their medical career. The Mount Sinai Hospital is a tertiary care center that serves a diverse patient population and gives medical students excellent, well-rounded clinical training. Students also have the opportunity to rotate through the Mount Sinai Health System's seven member hospital campuses in New York City.

10. Bright Futures

Icahn School of Medicine students have an unwavering commitment to excellence, as their board scores and competitive matches suggest: Our last report reveals that ISMMS students scored a mean of 237 on their USMLE Step 1 exams. In addition, our students continue their training at some of the top residency programs in the country. The most popular specialties of this year's graduates were Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, General Surgery, and Orthopedic Surgery.

