

The Scholarly Year

The 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 prepares our students to provide the highest quality medical care to their patients, enables them to fulfill themselves intellectually, and encourages the career development of students who seek to become future 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. [The Scholarly Year program](#) is available to students who have completed their second, third, or fourth years, although students most often choose to pursue a scholarly year following their third year to take advantage of the clinical perspective offered by the clerkships. The Scholarly Year program provides an opportunity for students interested in a more intense experience to devote a full year to developing and carrying out a strongly mentored project in an area of their choice. Students interested in considering a Scholarly Year should meet with one of the faculty members of the MSRO 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 in 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 to complete within the time frame available. In addition to more traditional basic, clinical, and translational research studies, projects in aging; quantitative biomedicine; global health; medical education; community service scholarship; and the humanities are encouraged. Projects must be strongly mentored and approved by the MSRO 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 of the following academic year.

The [Student Resources web page](#) can provide you with the following resources:

- A list of funding opportunities to support the year
- Detailed guidelines for students about the process of obtaining approval to do a Scholarly Year
- Guidelines for mentors of students who want to do a Scholarly Year, including what to include in a letter of support
- Information on how to prepare the research abstract required of students who do a research Scholarly Year and are not participating in a national program. The abstract should be 300 words max (title, authors and departments not included), and should describe the background and design of the project. Students should also provide a brief description of the timeline and student's role on the project (no more than 200 words).

Applying for a Scholarly Year:

Scholarly Year students are regarded as fulltime 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.

Students taking a year off to do research are expected to commit 11 months to the project in order to qualify for a Scholarly Year. Students who will be returning to fourth year after a Scholarly Year may choose to return after 10 months, but will be required to do one month of research elective for no credit during fourth year. This elective time can be used to complete work on the project or to write or revise a resulting manuscript, and will be

tracked by the registrar's office. The option to return after 10 months is not available to students who choose to take a Scholarly Year after second year.

All students taking a year off to do research must submit the Request for Scholarly Year form. The Request for Scholarly Year form can be found on the [Medical School Forms web page](#) and must be submitted by May 15. Students who are pursuing a second degree should submit the Request for Degree Program form by May 15 to the Office for Student Affairs.

Students may stay in their housing during their scholarly year. If their scholarly year requires them to be onsite at another institution, students should work with the housing office to ensure they retain their housing upon their return. Students may also remain on the school-sponsored health insurance plan during their scholarly year, and should consider the cost of coverage in estimating their costs for the year.

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 mid-March of the Scholarly Year. The form can be found on the [Medical School Forms webpage](#). 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. As outlined above under "Applying for a Scholarly Year," students are expected to commit 11 months to the project in order to qualify for a Scholarly Year.

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 or a hospitalist elective. Experiences other than Emergency Medicine must be approved by the student's Faculty Advisor.