

Summer Physician Observer Program

Program Overview

St. Luke's offers college students, who are at least rising juniors, an opportunity to apply for the Pre-Med Observer Program. This program is designed to assist exemplary students in deciding if becoming a Physician is a fit for the student. Participants will have an opportunity to observe Physicians within the Bethlehem Campus, in various specialties as well as the entire multidisciplinary healthcare team. The students are also encouraged to visit a number of diagnostic and treatment areas to understand the role they play in the patient's care. This program runs mid-May through June 30.

The purpose of this program is not to accumulate observation hours, but to guide students in making a career choice. Those students strictly in need of direct patient contact hours can do so through a volunteer assignment. Please see the college student volunteer opportunities page for a brief description and application package.

Program Requirements

In order to be considered, applicants who are rising juniors (having completed 2 years) must have a minimum CUM GPA of 3.25 and those who are rising seniors (having completed 3 years) must have a minimum CUM GPA of 3.4. Please make sure your schedule will permit you to observe at least once a week in the morning from 7 – 11 and one afternoon a week from mid-May through June 30th. You are required to observe a minimum of 60 hours during the session.

To apply for the Pre-Med Observer Program, please send the following to: Volunteer Services, St. Luke's University Hospital, 801 Ostrum St., Bethlehem, PA 18015. Applications for the summer program are due by March 1st; Spaces are limited and only complete application packages will be considered.

1. **Letter of intent** (personal statement) addressing:
 - a. why you think you want to be a Physician
 - b. previous experience that supports this decision
 - c. what interests you in healthcare
 - d. what you hope to gain from the experience
 - e. when you would like to participate
2. **Letters of recommendation** from your professional advisor and a professor in your major field (or suitable replacement) noting interpersonal skills and academic abilities.
3. **Current resume**
4. **Official transcript**
5. **Availability** – please include timeframes of four hours or greater during when you're available to observe between Monday – Friday 7AM – 5PM; please include the date upon which you will be available to begin participating following completion of your spring semester final exams

****It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that items #2 & 4 are sent by the school representative to the Volunteer Services Office via the aforementioned address.***

All documents will be reviewed by Volunteer Services and the Chief Academic Officer of the Medical School to determine who will be accepted into the program. Please feel free to call the Volunteer Department with any questions 484-526-4673.