

Synopsis/Background

This enhanced educational experience in Obstetrics & Gynecology will provide medical students with an opportunity to expand their knowledge within the discipline. Students will participate in a summer research project, attend educational and clinical learning opportunities, and serve the women of our community both in and out of the medical setting. This track is ideal for those interested in Ob/Gyn, Family Medicine (particularly if interested in FM-OB), or Internal Medicine-Women's Health. However, we have had students from this MSSP go into many different fields, and women's health advocates are needed everywhere, in every health system.

Goals and Objectives

- Explore the field of obstetrics & gynecology as a possible career path, gaining exposure to the specialty as well as the sub-specialties within Ob/Gyn through clinical exposure and shadowing
- Gain research experience by working with Ob/Gyn faculty, completing a scholarly activity which is of high enough quality to be submitted for presentation at regional or national meetings
- Gain exposure to didactics on various topics within the field of Ob/Gyn as well as related fields such as maternal nutrition, obstetric anesthesia, and lactation

Program Personnel

- Jane Morris, MD - Faculty Director and Track Coordinator, jane.morris@uc.edu
- Leeya Pinder, MD – Department Vice-Chair for Research, Leeya.pinder@uc.edu
- Michael Thomas, MD – Department Chair, thomasma@ucmail.uc.edu
- Natalie Cassady – Program manager for Ob/Gyn medical students, cassadnc@ucmail.uc.edu

Financial Support

Financial support for the Women's Health Scholars is provided by the Department of OB/GYN. Each scholar is provided with a \$4000 summer stipend to cover summer expenses.

Occasionally, the department sets aside additional funds to assist students with conference travel when presentations are accepted. All efforts are made to distribute these additional funds equitably among the scholars.

Enrollment/Admission Criteria

A maximum of 6 students will be admitted per year. The number of scholars admitted may vary based on departmental budget. An applicant must be enrolled full-time as a medical student at the University of Cincinnati COM. To be considered, students must be in good standing with no failing coursework and no major professionalism concerns.

The application includes a CV and a personal statement. Applicants with evidence of previous research and/or involvement in women's health will be looked upon favorably. Based on review of an applicant's CV and personal statement, applicants will be invited to an interview with members of the MSSP admissions committee. Interviewers may include the MSSP director, the Director of Medical Student Education, the Assistant/Associate Clerkship Director, the departmental vice-chair of research, the department chair, and other Ob/Gyn-MSSP faculty.

Your personal statement should address:

- Your reasons for applying to the Ob/Gyn MSSP and your goals for participation
- Previous involvement in research, community service, and work or volunteer experience (and, if applicable, its relationship to Ob/Gyn)
- Your interest(s) within the field of obstetrics & gynecology, if you know

Criteria for Ongoing Participation

Students are required to complete the following minimum requirements throughout their four years of participation in the Women's Health MSSP. All requirements must be met, and any exceptions must be approved by the MSSP director.

Didactics (15 hours across all 4 years)

Examples may include attendance at Ob/Gyn departmental grand rounds, departmental journal club presentations, resident or fellow lectures (beyond what is required for elective/acting internship), resident research day, attendance at quarterly Cincinnati Ob/Gyn Society educational lectures.

Related topics that are presented by other groups (Ob/Gyn Interest Group, Med Students for Choice, AMWA, etc.) or within other departments will also count towards these hours.

Clinical

- Completion of at least 10 hours of shadowing or experiential opportunities within the department of Ob/Gyn
 - Shadowing or clinical experience may also be in directly related women's healthcare settings (for example, breast health clinics, lactation appointments, or family planning offices) but may not be with an obstetrician-gynecologist. These must be approved by the MSSP director
- Completion of 4 weeks of Phase 3 electives in the department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
 - Certain electives outside the department of Ob/Gyn may also qualify, but the elective must be directly related to women's health and must be approved by the MSSP director prior to starting the elective

Scholarship (approximately 200 hours)

- Completion of the Research 101 course prior to summer between M1-M2
- 8 weeks of participation in the M1-M2 summer scholarly project
- Presentation of your project, either at the UCCOM Fall Research Symposium or in another venue

Service/Leadership (8 hours)

Examples may include volunteer work, serving as a committee member, or leadership roles. This does not directly need to be related to women's health.

Mentorship

The MSSP director will aim to meet individually with each student at least once per semester in phase 1, at least once during phase 2 to discuss career advising and elective selection, and once during phase 3 to review whether the student will be eligible to graduate with the MSSP distinction

If a student is planning to go into Ob/Gyn, faculty career advising sessions in phase 2 or 3 may also count for this requirement

Additional mentorship meetings (e.g. with the student's individual research mentor) may also be arranged separately

General Description & Curricular Overview

In addition to the criteria above, the following should serve as a recommended timeline for completion of the MSSP requirements

M1 (starts January)

- Identify a research mentor and a project of interest to complete in M1-M2 summer
- Meet with MSSP director to identify career goals
- Meet with research mentor prior to summer to discuss scope of project
- Complete Research 101 course
- Complete required pre-work such as CITI training, IRB, Epic training, etc., if needed

M1-M2 Summer

8 weeks of research under the direction of your research mentor

M2

- Meet with MSSP director at least once per semester to discuss status of research project, career goals, and completion of other requirements for the MSSP
- Complete your summer research project, with a plan to submit your poster to the UCCOM Fall Research Symposium or in another venue

M3/Phase 2

- Successful completion of all phase 2 courses

- Meet with MSSP director at least once to discuss completion of all requirements for the MSSP, career advising, and strategic planning for phase 3
- As permitted by clinical responsibilities, students are welcome and encouraged to continue to attend departmental grand rounds and journal clubs, as well as any other desired Ob/Gyn-related learning opportunities. However, we recognize that Phase 2 is very clinically focused, and your primary responsibilities during this time will be to your required rotations
- If desired, presentation of completed research project at the Ob/Gyn Department Resident Research Day in April

M4/Phase 3

- Completion of a 4-week elective in the department of Ob/Gyn
- If desired, presentation of completed research project at the Ob/Gyn Department Resident Research Day in April
- Meet with MSSP director to confirm all MSSP requirements are completed and for residency application planning, if applicable