

Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

The career advising program at Loyola University School of Medicine is directly incorporated into the medical school curriculum. Students are exposed to career advising beginning immediately in their first year in the Patient Centered Medicine (PCM) Course. The PCM Course is structured around small groups made up of two facilitator/advisors and ten students who meet weekly for two to three hours. This small group format continues throughout the second and third years of the Patient Centered Medicine curriculum, allowing for a continuity approach to academic advising and career counseling. This structure also allows for peer input and feedback with respect to career decision-making. The small group facilitators are de facto advisors to the students in their small groups. They are able to develop a close relationship with the students allowing for a more personalized approach to advising. Students find that the system assures that they are closely connected to advisors who understand their academic schedule and challenges.

Integrated within the competency-based curriculum of the Patient Centered Medicine Course are targeted small group activities that facilitate the process of career decision-making. The small group sessions utilize many of the resources provided by the [Careers in Medicine web site](#). This program is a graded process moving from self-awareness through specialty exploration and selection, culminating in successful navigation through the National Residency Matching Program. The small group structure of the Patient Centered Medicine curriculum allows students to interact not only with their advisors, but also with their peers in the process of discerning and choosing their specialty. Loyola believes that peer-feedback can supplement the input students receive both from their advisors and those specialty specific resource personnel that students are encourage to work with.

The current structure of the career advising program at Loyola University Medical School is two years old and is jointly coordinated by the Director of the Teaching and Learning Center, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Assistant Dean for Education. Loyola University believes that this structure for advising promises to be a cost-effective and faculty-efficient system. The key to its success has been coordinating and integrating advising into the structure of the existing curriculum. In the future, the career advising program hopes to strengthen its offerings of specialty-oriented speakers and panels. The program will also be enhanced as Stritch School of Medicine develops its planned “tracks” for students interested in careers in public health, research, academic medicine, or bioethics.

Timeline:

<http://www.meddean.luc.edu/depts/facadvisory/Links/Timelineofcareer.cfm>

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Best thing about the program?

“Integrating it into the curriculum.” – Student Affairs Office