

Student Research Year Questionnaire

University of Colorado School of Medicine

January 2014

About the Questionnaire

This questionnaire was sent out to the OSR listserv in January 2014, and 22 responses were collected. We asked about how schools support medical students who want to do research for a year, with specific interest in how schools handle student status, enrollment, tuition & fees, financial aid, and scholarships. The questionnaire excluded leave that was part of a national program (HHMI, NIDDK, Doris Duke, etc.), a general leave of absence, or a dual-degree program unless that program was designed specifically to provide a research year for medical students.

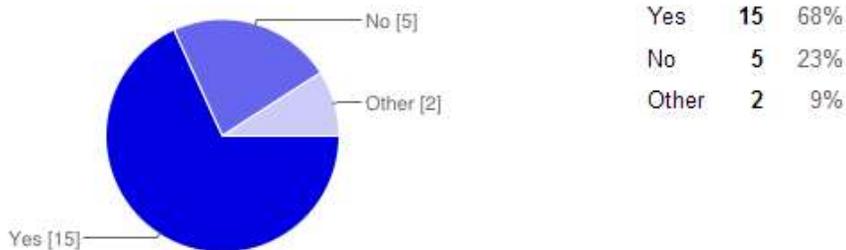
Respondent Schools

Boston University School of Medicine
Case Western Reserve Univ. SOM
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine
Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine
FIU College of Medicine
GWU
Johns Hopkins
Keck School of Medicine
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
New York University School of Medicine
Oregon Health & Science Univ.

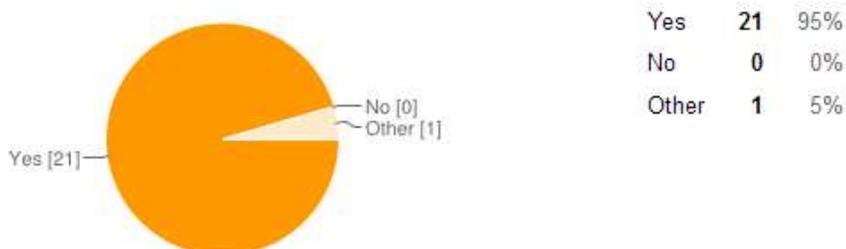
Stanford School of Medicine
University of Central Florida College of Medicine
University of Colorado
University of Minnesota
University of South Alabama College of Medicine
USF Morsani College of Medicine
UT Southwestern
Vanderbilt
Virginia Tech Carilion SOM
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State SOM

Questions

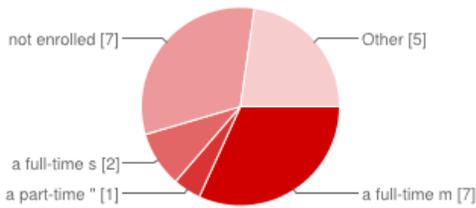
My school formally supports students who wish to take a research year.



Can students do their research independently from your school?

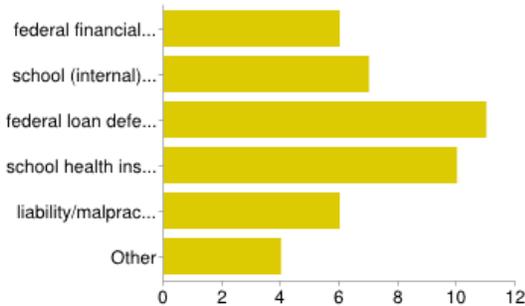


Students during research year are considered...



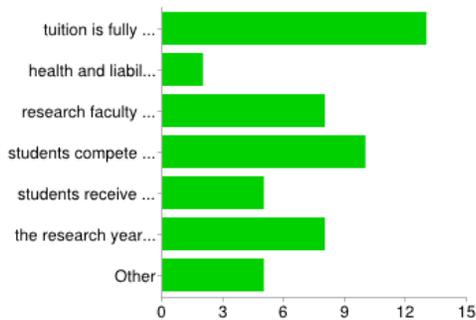
a full-time medical student	7	32%
a part-time "special student" in medical school	1	5%
a full-time student in a graduate (non-MD) program	2	9%
not enrolled	7	32%
Other	5	23%

Students during research year can still receive (or purchase)...



federal financial aid	6	27%
school (internal) scholarships	7	32%
federal loan deferment	11	50%
school health insurance	10	45%
liability/malpractice insurance (for clinic work/preceptor)	6	27%
Other	4	18%

What direct support does your school provide for students during research year?



tuition is fully waived	13	59%
health and liability insurance are paid by school	2	9%
research faculty provides stipend/grant	8	36%
students compete for stipend/grant	10	45%
students receive significant assistance in applying for extramural funds	5	23%
the research year is a formal program	8	36%
Other	5	23%

Comments in response to: "Are students at your school happy with how your school supports time off for research?"

Yes overall students are happy with the potential for research opportunities that allow them to take a year off. It is rather difficult especially to get loans to cover living expenses, but many student appreciate the ability to take a year to dedicate to research.

Since we already have a mandatory 4mo research block during third year, fewer students take a full year off than otherwise might be interested in doing so.

Yes-- each year, 20-25% of students take a research year.

We are a 5 year medical school that requires all students to perform a research year. As such we have a pretty formalized process, that is still pretty flexible based on student interests/desires/needs.

GW...typically support[s] students through grants to pursue outside research; it usually is through a program like howard hughes (outside funding), a scholarship with a GW affiliated grant funder, or a PhD program at an outside institution.

Yes they are. Students can do one year of paid research, keep their health insurance, have tuition frozen at the rate that they started medical school with, and can resume back with the next classes studies. They also get a masters degree with the year so it works well in terms of getting experience as well as an additional degree.

Sure. It is independent, and on a case by case basis you can defer studies for a year if you have a reasonable project you would like to pursue.

Students are generally happy, however, only 10-15 students per year are funded with Dean's stipend/grant (students must apply for this). This can be limiting for those not receiving stipend...they may still choose to take a research year, however, they must find funding outside of the school's funds.

The school is relatively new. The research year is not a formal option but a few students have chosen to apply for a leave of absence to pursue research opportunities.

Unsure, it is rare at our school.

To the best of my understanding, yes; the MedScholars program (<http://medscholars.stanford.edu/>) is one of the most utilized programs at Stanford. Students (non-MSTP) can get up to 5 full-time quarters of research funding (40 hours/wk) which includes tuition (at a reduced rate) and a stipend to cover cost-of-living. Also, they can apply for partial funding (25%, or 10hr/wk; up to 50%) during the formal curriculum, and the quarters do not need to be consecutive (e.g. many of my classmates got funding for the summer between 1st and 2nd year, and then applied again for the year after 2nd year or 3rd year).

There's a formal application process, but my understanding is that most students who apply get it unless their proposal is simply not good. Not counting MSTP students (~10% of each class), 77% of students use at least one quarter of funding before graduation. Including MSTP students, ~54% of our students take extra time to graduate.

Yes, mostly. Funding can be an issue (we have full time student status, tuition waived, and loan deferment, but do not qualify for student loans so we have to find cost-of-living funding through other means), but this is a reality of research in general right now.

Students are generally satisfied with how the school supports time off for research, however they would like more support, in particular a research certification or other transcriptable recognition for participating in a research year.

MSU-CHM offers one full-year scholarship award, and a variety of miscellaneous funding awards that are only for small amounts (\$500-\$1000) for travel, research costs, etc.

Students may receive significant assistance in applying for extramural funds, if they seek help from the Office of Research.

Yes! We have a formalized program called the Dean's Research Scholar Year which fully funds 10-15 students per year. In order to qualify for this funding you must do research with a USC faculty. However, a student can also take advantage of the program if they secure funding from an outside PI, ie defer their loans, qualify for malpractice/health insurance, etc.

I am not extremely well versed in the specifics on students taking time off for research. However, our school has made great efforts to ensure that those opportunities are available for interested students and that there are financial aid options that work well for students. I have not heard too many complaints regarding those opportunities.

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