

## Phase 1 Career Exploration Experience

- The Phase 1 Career Exploration Experience is an optional experience available to UND SMHS MD students as a part of the specialty exploration process. The goal of these experiences is for students to gain observational exposure to specific specialties and different healthcare settings to better understand their future career opportunities.
- Students participating in this program are expected to follow the SMHS professionalism policies and present in professional dress including white coat and UND nametag for their observation shift.
- Students may not participate in patient care during these experiences. These encounters should be solely observational in nature.
- Procedure for scheduling shadowing
  - E-mail [SAA@und.edu](mailto:SAA@und.edu) to notify them of your desire to shadow including your requested site and specific provider (if known). Specialty interest groups may submit group shadowing requests in this same fashion.
  - The Office of Student Affairs will ensure the students are in current compliance with vaccination requirements for the health system where the shadowing is requested and facilitate the campus specific scheduling process.
- These experiences fall under the terms of the Master Clinical Affiliation Agreements between UND and the health systems and students must comply with all requirements put in place by the health system for UND clinical students in a similar setting.
  - Any costs associated with these requirements such as drug screening or mask-fitting are the responsibility of the student.
- The campus office, health system and Office of Student Affairs must be aware of the day and time the student will be shadowing prior to the observation opportunity taking place.
  - For Sanford locations, this must occur a minimum of two weeks prior to the date of the experience.

## Career Exploration Observation (Shadowing at some sites) FAQs

- Why do career exploration observation (called shadowing at some clinical sites) requests for M1 and M2 students have to go through the Office of Student Affairs?
  - Because you are participating in these events as UND medical students, the health systems require SMHS to ensure you meet the minimum requirements of the experience such as having up to date vaccinations and following the requirements of our affiliation agreements with the systems.
  - Additionally, some of the health systems require that SMHS enroll you in their educational records system prior to the experience just as we would clinical students. Without following these requirements, these health systems will not allow our medical students to shadow.
  - The Office of Student Affairs needs to know where you are participating in clinical activities in case of safety concerns or concerns from the health systems.
  - We are required in some cases to provide numbers of students who shadowed during a year and specific data (de-identified) such as how many received influenza vaccinations versus exemption. By having the Office of Student Affairs aware of all shadowing experiences, this allows us to report on this when asked.
- Will I be able to contact the provider on my own to schedule?
  - This is site-dependent; the Office of Student Affairs knows which health systems/locations have additional requirements or processes for shadowing. They will let you know if you are asking to shadow at a site that allows the student to schedule directly with the provider.
- Are these opportunities always available?
  - Health systems may close observation/shadowing at certain times such as they did during the COVID pandemic. To retain our excellent teaching relationships with these health systems, UND SMHS follows these restrictions so that we are able to continue to partner with these systems as clinical training sites. The OSA will alert you to these changes when they are in place.
- What policies must I follow while participating in these experiences?
  - You must follow all UND and health system procedures and policies applicable to UND medical students during these experiences.
  - This includes all COVID-related restrictions in place at the time of your observation. The person scheduling your observation experience will alert you to any COVID-specific policies such as screening, masking or testing requirements for your site. If you are able to schedule directly with the site, please inquire about these directly.
- Why do I have to meet certain extra requirements for an observation experience such as N-95 mask fitting or drug screening? Why do I have to pay for these?
  - These requirements are set by the health system either for the entire system or for specific areas in which you might be observing. Our affiliation agreements require that we follow these requirements for all student activities including shadowing.
  - Because these shadowing and observational activities are optional, they are not budgeted in the curricular budget necessitating students pay for these additional costs.

- Whom should I contact if I have a problem or need assistance while I am on a shadowing/observation experience?
  - You can contact Dr. Porter or the Campus Dean where you are taking part in your experience.
  - If you have a Bloodborne pathogen or other environmental exposure, please ask your provider who to contact at the health system and then immediately after following the health system's procedures, contact Dr. Porter or the Campus Dean.
  
- Will I be participating in patient care during the experience? What if the provider offers or asks me to participate?
  - No, these experiences are observational only.
  - If the provider asks you to interact directly with the patient (taking the history or participating in the exam or a procedure), please remind them that you are there to observe only and as a phase 1 student, you are not participating directly in patient care.