

Frequently Asked Questions . . .

QUESTIONS MOST OFTEN ASKED ABOUT THE SUMMER EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Who can apply?

The IAFP Foundation program is designed for students between their first and second years in medical school. Medical students who apply to the program must be a member of the Illinois and American Academies of Family Physicians. Students who have completed one year of training in a certified nurse practitioner, physician assistant, nurse midwife or mental health program will also be considered. The program is open to medical students at Illinois medical schools and residents of Illinois attending out-of-state medical schools.

When is the application due?

All student applications must be postmarked no later than March 1. Applications after this date will not be considered. Students will be notified by mid-April if they have been selected to participate in the program.

If selected, how much will I be paid?

Funding for the Summer Externship Program is limited. Those students selected to participate will receive a \$1,000 stipend and will be expected to work full-time for four consecutive weeks. The first \$500 will be provided to the students during an orientation session prior to the start of the externships, and the balance will be mailed upon receipt of the students' exit evaluation forms.

Volunteer externships may be available to students who are willing to participate without funding.

How competitive is the program?

Unfortunately, more students apply to the program each year than we are able to fund. The IAFP Foundation relies heavily on member, corporate and hospital donations to administer the program. In addition, annual requests are submitted to federal and state agencies for grant funding. Notification on the availability of this funding is not provided until late Spring, so it is difficult for us to know in advance how many paid slots will be available for students to participate.

Where will I be sent for my externship?

If you have a preference for a particular location, please indicate so on your application. It's also helpful to know if you're willing to go just about anywhere. Indicating a preference is not a guarantee, but if you are selected for the program, we will do our best to match you to your preferred location provided we have a preceptor in that area.

Can I recruit a family physician as my preceptor?

IAFP has built a large pool of preceptors who participate in the Summer Externship Program. However, if there is a certain family physician you would like to work with, you must determine if he/she is an IAFP member and is willing to participate in the program. Please contact the physician first, and then indicate on your application your desire to work with that physician. Students cannot recruit preceptors who are their relatives. Please note that students who recruit a family physician to participate are not guaranteed placement in the program.

How is room and board handled?

Students who are selected to participate in the Summer Externship Program are often placed in locations that are some distance from their hometown or their medical school. In such cases, IAFP staff works with the preceptors to help coordinate housing and/or meals for the students, such as through the local hospital. Please let us know if you have access to housing at your desired location.

If selected, when do I complete my externship?

The externship program runs between May 15 and September 30. Please indicate on your application the dates you are available to work this summer. Please be as accurate as possible—when we match students to our preceptor sites, we make every effort to work within these dates.

How will I know what is expected of me?

There is a mandatory orientation meeting for all participating students in April or May. Preceptors will be invited to attend as a chance to get acquainted with their externs. At the orientation meeting, you will be given guidelines of the program and IAFP staff will explain what is expected of you during your externship.

What is the selection criteria used to choose externs?

A selection committee will meet in mid-to late- March to review all applications. Greater weight will be given to those students who:

- can demonstrate an interest in providing primary care to rural and underserved populations.
- show active involvement with a healthcare organization or organized student group on campus (ie. AAFP, IAFP, AMSA, GPIT, FMIG, etc.)
- are committed to meeting the healthcare needs of communities throughout Illinois.