

OVERVIEW of VESP:

Established in 2010, the UCSF School of Medicine's VESP aims to support fourth-year medical students who are underrepresented in medicine or are interested in working with underserved populations. The program offers **up to \$2,000**, facilitating participation in four-week clinical electives at UCSF.

Program Objectives:

- ❖ Provides exposure to students who are underrepresented in medicine or interested in working with diverse populations in an academic training environment.
- ❖ Foster student interest in applying to an academic **residency training program**.
- ❖ Offer **mentorship** from experienced faculty and housestaff.
- ❖ Enhance **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** within UCSF and the broader Bay Area.

Program Benefits:

- ❖ A faculty mentor is assigned for personal guidance.
- ❖ Networking opportunities with UCSF faculty, housestaff and students.
- ❖ A diversity dinner with faculty and housestaff is held during each rotation.
- ❖ Participants are encouraged to attend various seminars and lectures, including those offered by the UCSF Office of Diversity and Outreach (ODO) and the UCSF Multicultural Resource Center.

Eligibility Criteria:

Fourth-year U.S. medical students who are either from disadvantaged backgrounds, have demonstrated a commitment to working with marginalized and traditionally disenfranchised populations, OR have demonstrated a commitment to working with issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and social justice.

Students must be enrolled at an LCME-accredited institution or COCA-accredited AACOM member institution.

Applicants should have good academic standing at an accredited U.S. medical school. UCSF School of Medicine's clinical electives must also be met. For those specific requirements, visit [AAMC How to Use the VSLO Application](#)

UCSF does not accept international students for clinical experiences.

Available Electives:

Visiting students may apply for any elective listed in the UCSF School of Medicine course catalog. For more details, view the catalog at [Elective Information by Department – UCSF Medical Education](#).

Clinical Rotation Sites:

Clinical electives may be at any of the following sites:

- ❖ UCSF Medical Center at Parnassus
- ❖ San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- ❖ Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
- ❖ UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion
- ❖ UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital at Mission Bay

Testimonials



Cindy Saenz Leiva, 2019 awardee, Family Medicine

VESP was great. As a student from a low-income background, VESP made it financially possible for me to participate in an away

rotation at UCSF. It was also instrumental in connecting me with a community of fellow students and mentors during my time spent away from home. I still keep in touch with my mentors, whom I connected with during that time, and I highly recommend students to apply.



Dr. Dennis Obat, 2022 awardee, Neurology

I am extremely thankful that I got the VESP when I did because it made my sub-internship so much more affordable than it would have had I not been a recipient.

With the financial burden lessened, I was able to focus on my rotation and really immerse myself in the experience. I learned an incredible amount during that month and ended up making new friends and mentors (some through the VESP program itself and not just through Neurology), eventually leading me to rank UCSF first, and I haven't looked back since.

LEARN MORE ABOUT VESP



Visiting Elective Scholarship Program



UCSF Office of Graduate Medical
Education (OGME)
500 Parnassus Ave, MU 250E
San Francisco, CA 94143-0474
Campus Box 0474

How to Apply for VESP

Application Requirements:

- ❖ Complete the VESP application and include a recent CV.
- ❖ Submit an official academic transcript from your medical school.
- ❖ Provide a letter of recommendation from a faculty member in your chosen specialty.
- ❖ Write a personal statement (up to 1,500 words) detailing your experience working with diverse communities and future career plans post-residency.

Additional Steps:

- ❖ Students MUST apply separately to their chosen clinical elective through UCSF School of Medicine. For more info visit: [UCSF Visiting Student Program](#)
- ❖ Apply via the program website: [UCSF VESP](#)

Selection Criteria for Scholarship:

- ❖ Interest in pursuing a career in academic medicine and/or working with underserved populations.
- ❖ Leadership qualities and community service involvement.
- ❖ Academic excellence, as evidenced by transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.

Scholarships, valued up to \$2000, will cover elective fees, transportation and housing.

Testimonials



Dr. Lurit Bepo, 2016 awardee, Internal Medicine
I saw in UCSF an institution that was deeply concerned with treating all patients regardless of their material circumstances or differences in race, ethnicity, sex/gender and otherwise. I saw a place that not only "talked the talk" but also "walked the walk," and this introduction to UCSF inspired my decision to train and now remain here.



Dr. Greta Peng, 2016 awardee, Child Neurology
VESP was a fantastic opportunity for me to experience firsthand the culture of medical education and clinical care at UCSF, as well as getting to know other attendees. Through VESP, I got to really imagine myself as a resident here... It was a really positive experience that helped me choose UCSF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact: UCSF-GME_VESP@ucsf.edu



Dr. Eddie Cruz-Romero
Program Director
UCSF Visiting Elective Scholarship