

Finding Summer Health Professions Opportunities

A number of universities have developed robust collections of websites with summer research and volunteer opportunities for students in aspiring to enter the health professions. Rather than curating these sites ourselves, we recommend that you visit their pages. Try these for some inspiration.

General Websites

- [Boston University Pre-Professional Advising](https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/opportunities/summeropportunities/) <https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/opportunities/summeropportunities/>
- [Columbia Postbac Pre-Med Summer Programs](https://www.gs.columbia.edu/content/premedical-summer-programs) <https://www.gs.columbia.edu/content/premedical-summer-programs>
- [Columbia Summer Internships in Biology](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/intern.html) <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/ug/intern.html>
- [Swarthmore Summer Opportunities](https://www.swarthmore.edu/health-sciences-office/summer-opportunities) <https://www.swarthmore.edu/health-sciences-office/summer-opportunities>
- [Northwestern Health Professions Advising Summer Experiences](https://www.northwestern.edu/health-professions-advising/gain-experience/summer/) <https://www.northwestern.edu/health-professions-advising/gain-experience/summer/>
- [Northwestern University HPA Opportunity Database](https://www.northwestern.edu/health-professions-advising/gain-experience/hpa-opportunity-database/) <https://www.northwestern.edu/health-professions-advising/gain-experience/hpa-opportunity-database/>
- [Rochester Institute of Technology Co-ops, Internships & Summer Research](https://people.rit.edu/~gtfsbi/Symp/premed.htm) <https://people.rit.edu/~gtfsbi/Symp/premed.htm>
- [Global Health Corps](https://ghcorps.org/) <https://ghcorps.org/>
- [National Association for Advisors of the Health Professions Student Opportunities Database](https://www.naahp.org/public-resources/student-resources/student-opportunities) <https://www.naahp.org/public-resources/student-resources/student-opportunities>

Field Specific Opportunities

- [Boston University Field Specific Opportunities](https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/experiences/field-specific-summer-experiences/) <https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/experiences/field-specific-summer-experiences/>
- [Swarthmore Summer Opportunities](https://www.swarthmore.edu/health-sciences-office/summer-opportunities) <https://www.swarthmore.edu/health-sciences-office/summer-opportunities>

Government Internships

- [University of Oregon Government Internships List](https://pppmstudents.uoregon.edu/resources-for-current-pppm-students/internship-resources/recurring-internships/) <https://pppmstudents.uoregon.edu/resources-for-current-pppm-students/internship-resources/recurring-internships/>
- [University of Oregon International Internships List](https://blogs.uoregon.edu/pppm/resources/internship-resources/international-internships/) <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/pppm/resources/internship-resources/international-internships/>

Opportunities for Student Enrichment

- [Boston University Summer Enrichment Programs](https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/experiences/summer-enrichment-programs/) <https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/experiences/summer-enrichment-programs/>
- [Summer Health Professions Education Program](https://www.shpep.org/) <https://www.shpep.org/>
- [Summer Enrichment and Pipeline Programs](https://services.aamc.org/summerprograms/) <https://services.aamc.org/summerprograms/>

Summer Research Programs

- [National Institutes of Health Internship in Biomedical Research](https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/sip/) <https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/sip/>
- [National Science Foundation](https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/index.jsp) <https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/index.jsp>
- [Association of American Medical Colleges Medical Pathways & Enrichment Opportunities](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/medical-pathways-enrichment-opportunities) <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/medical-pathways-enrichment-opportunities>

MD/PhD Opportunities (in addition to the research sites above)

- [Association of American Medical Colleges MD-PhD Focused Summer Research Programs](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-md/phd-programs/md-phd-summer-undergraduate-research-programs) <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-md/phd-programs/md-phd-summer-undergraduate-research-programs>
- [Columbia University Summer Programs](https://www.gs.columbia.edu/content/premedical-summer-programs) <https://www.gs.columbia.edu/content/premedical-summer-programs>
- [Boston University Field Specific Summer Opportunities \(use MD/PhD pull down menu\)](https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/experiences/field-specific-summer-experiences/) <https://www.bu.edu/prehealth/experiences/field-specific-summer-experiences/>

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Interesting Experiences

- [Atlantis Global Shadowing Abroad](https://joinatlantis.com/) <https://joinatlantis.com/>
- [Rural Health Courier Program in Kentucky](https://portal.frontier.edu/web/fnu/courier-program) <https://portal.frontier.edu/web/fnu/courier-program>
- [University of Colorado Wilderness and Emergency Medicine Course](https://www.coloradomw.org/courses-2/) <https://www.coloradomw.org/courses-2/>

Additional Tips

Do not be shy about contacting faculty at Purdue and other universities and other institutions about research opportunities. If you have some background in research similar to theirs, sometimes they need help over the summer and have an opening. It never hurts to send a very polite email inquiring about whether they have any opportunities in their labs. Students have been successful using this approach even at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control as well as applying through their summer programs.

Summer is a good time to observe professionals in healthcare fields, volunteer in healthcare settings, and gain experiences with the elderly or with children. In addition, learning about the life experiences of others including ethnicity, religion, differing abilities, sexual orientation, language use, nation of origin, and cultural backgrounds will assist you as you prepare for the cultural competence you need to work in clinical settings.

Besides observation time, your local hospital or community college may offer clinical training in phlebotomy (blood draws), certified nurse assistant, electrocardiography technician, emergency medical technician, etc.

Summer is a great time to consider volunteering in general. Not all of your volunteer time needs to be directly related to healthcare. Any kind of service to others that is important to you will reflect well on you in your applications.

Also, spend some time reading. The critical reading sections of the admissions tests are often problematic for students. Extra time reading for pleasure and thinking about what you have read, perhaps discussing it with a friend, is time well spent. If you would like to read medically related materials, Pre-Professional Advising would be happy to make some suggestions.