



CUNY School of Medicine is changing the faces in medicine, one graduating class at a time. Our mission is simple—to recruit and nurture talented, highly motivated youth who are passionate about helping others, who dare to dream of becoming a health professional and who have the commitment to do it. Our students come from underserved communities, of limited financial resources, and of racial/ethnic backgrounds historically underrepresented in the medical profession.

Our faculty, staff and students are in the community learning, training, conducting research, and interacting with our neighbors. Our students are in over 55 clinical sites across the five NYC boroughs and Long Island. Harlem Hospital and St. Barnabas Hospital Health System are our primary partners in health. Having similar missions with a focus on primary care, we lead the way in providing a transformative education model whereby students are exposed to their clinical training early into the curriculum.

In both our 28-month Physician Assistant and seven-year BS/MD program curriculum, our students learn about epidemiology and population health, the importance of understanding the forces that shape the health of individuals and communities, and the critical nature of the

relationship between patients and healthcare providers. These represent the building blocks of their training. Our students also engage in faculty-supervised research initiatives aimed to develop and integrate approaches to improve the health of our neighborhoods and our neighbors. The result? Students who become caring and compassionate clinicians serving our communities.



Playing an instrumental role in this unique approach is the Department of Community Health and Social Medicine. Early into their education, students take an intensive three-year sequence of courses in this department and are exposed to field placements in community settings in partnership with community-based health centers and health-related programs in underserved areas of New York City.

Through these field placements, course work and independent study, the Department of Community Health and Social Medicine provides students with the opportunity to go beyond traditional patient encounters and analyze and intervene in the health care of defined populations. The curriculum is carefully integrated, teaching the social perspective of community medicine with the clinical perspective of primary care. Students choose from a variety of community health projects when developing their research skills. Once they enter their medical school years, students take a one-year research-intensive course and two years of evidence-based medicine. In these courses they are given the opportunity to strengthen their understanding of population research and develop research skills and methods to become researchers and well-informed clinicians.

The Department of Community Health and Social Medicine faculty have NIH-funded projects to test innovative biomedical HIV prevention strategies, as well as conduct research in environment and physical activity promotion, asthma self-management, smoking cessation, and cancer prevention. Department faculty research focuses on health disparities, social determinants of health and underserved populations and areas.

One such opportunity is a new research training program in cancer epidemiology in special populations which is a fellowship program designed to motivate students to pursue future education and careers in cancer prevention research. For more information on this opportunity, visit: <https://ceesp.cny.cuny.edu/>.



CUNY School of Medicine statistics show that 65% of our graduates practice medicine in New York (the most of any medical school in New York State). Those who practice careers in primary care is 41%, placing the **CUNY School of Medicine** among the top 10 medical school in the U.S. in producing primary care physicians. Twenty six percent of graduates practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas in New York State. Our legacy of recruiting talented students from underrepresented minority groups in medicine remains strong. Over the past 10 years, approximately 42% of our enrolled students are underrepresented minorities. These figures make the **CUNY School of Medicine** one of the most diverse medical schools in the country.

CUNY School of Medicine has a unique medical education model for our BS/MD students. In our model, we recruit directly from high schools and integrate the college and medical school educational experience by exposing our students to a deep and extensive immersion in the social mission of the medical profession early on, stressing the importance of the social forces in determining the health of both individuals and the communities in which they live. The program provides a seamless transition between the college years and medical school, both in terms of curriculum and acceptance with no MCAT required.

CUNY School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program also has a strong community health focus, training and practicing in the Harlem community.

To learn more about the **CUNY School of Medicine** and the trends we are setting in medical education, visit our website at www.cuny.cuny.edu/CSOM.

