

Pathways of Excellence Mission and Vision Statement

Preamble

We, the faculty and staff of the Pathways of Excellence, are committed to providing our students with a vibrant learning environment that is respectful, inclusive and collaborative, where students and faculty can learn and flourish together. We value learning over teaching, and we support our students' scholarly work and self-exploration on a personal and professional level. Below is our compact of shared mission and values.

Mission

The Path of Excellence Program provides time, community and mentoring to support medical students to develop personal and professional identity while they pursue goals beyond clinical excellence, with the secondary benefit of improving humanity and societal health.

Our Guiding Principles are:

- Community
- Mentorship
- Inspiration

The Paths program seeks to inspire potential applicants, current students, faculty, the medical school, and the broader medical community to attain self-actualization (in the short and long-term). To do so, we provide:

Community

The Paths Program provides communities of practice where like-minded individuals explore areas of interest. These communities consist of classmates, both within their cohorts and across the Trunks and Branches, as well as residents, fellows and faculty, drawing on the talent and expertise of alumni and other people from the larger community. Every Path has a unique personality and perspective. Each Path director leads faculty and advisors to create the tone and ambience of the learning environment, coordinate curriculum, and collaborate with the directors of the other Paths.

Expert faculty disseminate content knowledge through structured sessions with opportunities for active learning and real world application, networking, scholarship, funding, and time to ponder and explore. Advisors work with individual students and small groups on more specific projects and goals. These communities of practice- span all levels of the curriculum, integrated vertically and longitudinally.

Mentoring

Mentorship is recognized as an important component of success in identifying and effectively expressing purpose. Path students identify 1-2 meaningful relationships with faculty and other advisors in their area of passion, directly related to their Path

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work, connecting it to other areas of their education. Initially, every student is matched with a potential advisor based on the student's professed interests. As the student interest becomes more focused, other mentors are identified and engaged. Students benefit bi-directionally in peer to peer mentoring, as well. Faculty actively seek to be included as advisors and mentors. True of transformative learning, as students are transformed, so are the teachers.

Inspiration

The Paths of Excellence Program is the pride of the medical school. Incoming students cite the Program as one of the reasons they chose the University of Michigan Medical School. The model is emulated and reproduced at other institutions. The program is acknowledged for tenets of pedagogy and adult learning theory. Each Path maintains an individual identity and personality, even as the Path Program as a whole collaborates, sharing sessions, resources, faculty and advisors. The Program embraces the concept of failure as a step on the road to success, providing a safe venue for students to dream, explore ideas, try, fail and try again. The process is celebrated as much as the product of student ventures and projects. Following graduation, students fondly proclaim their Path of Excellence experiences as some of the most formative of their medical education.