

2024 Health Equity Ophthalmology Summer Program

This program is intended for medical students passionate in the areas of diversity, health equity and creating equal opportunities for patients, faculty, and staff, regardless of their race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status.

Program Outline: Participants will be exposed to the field of Ophthalmology to:

- Address inequities and disparities in eye care
- Understand benefits of increasing diversity among the Ophthalmology physician workforces
- Become familiar with skills/techniques to provide primary eye care to patients
- Gain mentorship and guidance to be a competitive applicant to Ophthalmology residencies
- Engage and practice how to be a clinical student while strengthening fund of ophthalmology knowledge

Curriculum includes a research project focused on inequities in eye care, clinical and surgical exposure, and participation in weekly Grand Rounds and department conferences. Participants are expected to present research on a national level (i.e.: NMA, Rabb Venable, ARVO, etc.) & are highly encouraged to submit for publication.

Who Should Apply:

- Current M1s, from any U.S. medical school
- Students with a 4-8-week summer break. Time commitment is approximately 40 hours per week and program start/end dates are coordinated around participant's school schedule.
- Students interested in health equity, specifically within Ophthalmology
- A \$2,500 stipend will be provided for 4-6 weeks of participation
- A \$3,000 stipend will be provided for 6-8 weeks of participation

Past Project Examples: Selected participants will speak with faculty mentors prior to deciding on a final project.

- Utilization of eye care telemedicine services for various sociodemographic groups during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Patient Experiences During a Personalized Glaucoma Coaching Program to Improve Medication Adherence
- Prevalence of Chronic Eye Disease & Follow-up Patterns in American Indian/Alaska Native Patients
- Systematic Review of Underutilization of Eye Care
- Comparing Patient Demographics to the Type of Clinical Treatments Received
- Identifying Disparities in Treatment of Diabetic Eye Disease: (Medicaid versus Private Insurance)
- Helping the Unseen See: Enhancing Glaucoma Detection in Underserved Communities
- Optimizing Educational and Instructional Materials in Visually Impaired and Surgical Patients

Application Components:

- One letter of recommendation (sent directly from letter writer to Rachel Riddle, written by an ophthalmologist, physician from another specialty, or professor (including undergrad years))
- Curriculum vitae
- Personal statement outlining the following (400-word count maximum):
 - What motivated you to apply for this opportunity?
 - Explain why you are a good candidate for this opportunity. Feel free to draw from life experiences, past research experience, and prior diversity, equity, and inclusion participation.
 - State general research interests to allow the review committee to assist in the mentor pairing process.Note: all research topics are appropriate as our goal is to bring diverse opinions to the field of research.

Review Process:

- Application deadline: January 15, 2024, at 5pm EST.
 - Submit your application to <https://docs.google.com/forms>
- Program notifications sent: February 5, 2024
- Program contact: Rachel Riddle, rachtayl@med.umich.edu