

Mentored Professional Enrichment Experience

Mentor Notes

The Mentored Professional Enrichment Experience (MPEE) is an optional eight-week elective between the first and second years of medical school. MPEE is an opportunity for SIU-SOM medical students to pursue interests in research and career development that they would not otherwise be able to investigate. Regardless of the area chosen for investigation, students are expected to play an active role in the project. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, students will develop the initial question, design a method to obtain an answer, establish clear goals and objectives to achieve an outcome and present the conclusions of this work before an audience of faculty and peers.

MPEE project areas include "traditional" laboratory research, clinical research, or investigations in health-related areas such as rehabilitation, social work, health education, public health or academic medicine. MPEE projects could involve empirical data gathering or they could be more oriented toward library research.

Students may join an ongoing faculty research project; however, random "shadowing" of physicians performing their usual clinical activities is not an acceptable project.

The location for MPEE may be in Carbondale, Springfield, or another approved site. Students will need a SIU-SOM mentor to sponsor an "out-of-country" (i.e., some place other than the United States) project.

Please pay particular attention to the following three items:

Proposals must be in the student's own writing. Students may use material provided by a mentor but the writing must be their own. Do not write the proposal for the student. Do not allow the student to cut-and-paste material from existing documents (i.e., grant applications, meeting abstracts, publications, etc.).

Proposals from students wishing to work for the same mentor must describe separate distinct activities. Working with the same mentor as someone else is acceptable as long as each student has described a distinct aspect of the mentor's larger project.

Prospective mentors (this only applies to SIU mentors) may submit a separate request for reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for project expenses such as laboratory supplies or subject expenses used during the course of the MPEE project (please indicate amounts in usual budget lines). This request for funds is generally included in the letter confirming agreement to serve as a student's mentor, but must be submitted by the end of February. Not all mentors will be funded, as support funds are limited.