

## Mentored Professional Enrichment Experience (MPEE)

### What is the Mentored Professional Enrichment Experience (MPEE)?

The MPEE is an 8-week (~40 hrs/wk) optional elective that takes place between the first and second years of medical school.

### What is the purpose of the MPEE?

The MPEE provides an opportunity for you to design and conduct a research project in collaboration with a research mentor.

### Where will MPEE projects take place?

The projects can be conducted in Carbondale, Springfield, or another approved site.

### What projects qualify as MPEE projects?

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

*Shadowing of physicians performing clinical activities is not an acceptable project for MPEE.*

### What are the responsibilities of MPEE student participants?

**You** will be responsible for the design, implementation, and successful completion of a research project, all with the help of your mentor. This will include a presentation to your peers and faculty.

### What is the process through which you might have a project accepted?

Early in the first year of medical school, you will learn about the MPEE program. If you are interested, you can ask faculty to serve as a mentor. With the guidance of a mentor, you will **prepare and submit a proposal by February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 5 PM, emailed to the MPEE Director.**

### Will there be funding for you?

You, the student, may be eligible for up to \$3,000 to support your work on the project. Your mentor may request up to \$1,500 to help support your project (e.g., lab supplies). Funding is not guaranteed and will be awarded on a competitive basis.

### How will projects be evaluated?

You will work closely with your mentor who will monitor the progress of the project and determine that measurable outcomes have been obtained.

### Am I academically eligible for MPEE?

MPEE students must pass Year 1. In addition, any student scheduled to participate in summer curricular enrichment (previously known as remediation) is ineligible for MPEE.

### What is the role of an MPEE mentor, and where can I find a mentor?

The mentor advises you about such matters as relevant background literature, developing a project, proposal writing, and the actual conduct of the project. Please see the MPEE Mentor Responsibilities information on the [MPEE website](#) for further details.

The SIU-SOM Faculty Research Database is a helpful resource for finding a mentor:  
[https://redcap.siumed.edu/surveys/index.php?\\_report=KLXTEH9MEN873TXF](https://redcap.siumed.edu/surveys/index.php?_report=KLXTEH9MEN873TXF)

For further information, please see the [MPEE website](#), including FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

Program Contact:

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