STAND OUT:
Highlighting your UP experience for residency applications and interviews

Please be aware that the Underserved Pathway will not appear on your residency application or MSPE unless you choose to include it. The UP team works closely with the MSPE office and provides them a list of students who demonstrate that they are making progress toward UP graduation requirements and have met the UP's MSPE deadline. The MSPE office then uses this list of confirmed students to cross-check student mentions of the UP in their applications.

Residency interviewers often ask about the Underserved Pathway when you include it in your MSPE. A quote from one 2024 UP graduate exemplifies this: "The Underserved Pathway came up in nearly every one of my residency interviews. People were intrigued and wanted to learn more! I was grateful to have the experience on my residency application as a talking point." It highlights the value you place on health equity and the energy you've put into working to improve the lives of marginalized and vulnerable people.

ERAS application

Personal Statement

Did you have an experience in the Underserved Pathway that highlights your values as a person and physician? Mention that in your personal statement!

- Examples:
    - "I worked with my Underserved Pathway mentor in a clinic with a high immigrant and refugee patient population. Through this experience, I learned that 'doing no harm' often means advocating for justice…"
    - "I first became interested in working with people with substance use disorders through my experience in the Underserved Pathway. I did my scholarly project with a local needle exchange program. This ultimately led to my passion for harm reduction, and my decision to pursue family medicine…"

MSPE

Noteworthy characteristics bullet points

- You can use the general UP bullet point:
    - *[Student] is on track to complete the Underserved Pathway, a national model program for medical students interested in caring for rural and urban under-resourced, marginalized, and historically excluded populations. The program includes mentorship, a focused curriculum and research, and real-world experiences.*
- You can tailor your UP bullet point more to your area(s) of focus:
    - E.g., "…. with a focus *in immigrant health care* / *on LGBTQ+ health* / *on health care for the unhoused*"

If you are completing more than one pathway, consider putting them in the same bullet point if you need the other pathways to highlight other activities.

Even if you have three exceptional other bullets, perhaps you can include a reference to the UP by mentioning that that activity or research or other notation also counted towards and was important to your UP completion.

CV

Did you do something tangible as a result of your participation in the Underserved Pathway? Link your UP work to your work, research, or extracurricular experience.

- Examples:
    - Extracurricular: Student Run Free Clinic - "After studying Ethics of Medical Volunteerism in the Underserved Pathway, I participated on the board of my local free clinic and built relationships with specialists to strengthen our referral process for people without the ability to pay for care."
    - Work: EMT - "My work as an EMT in a rural area led me to contribute to the Underserved Pathway's Rural Health modules as an expert reviewer."
    - Research: (put your UP project here!)

Interview

Prepare for typical interview questions based on experiences you've had and things you've learned in the Underserved Pathway. Many of these questions can be answered with stories from clinical or scholarly experiences in the UP and can be used to highlight what you learned. For example:

Why are you interested in this specialty?
What are your passions in medicine?
What can you contribute to our residency?
How have your experiences shaped your views on medicine?
What is the most meaningful thing you've done in your time in medical school?
Tell me about a time you…
…worked as part of a team.
…had to work under pressure.
…had a patient care experience that taught you something.

You also may get an interviewer with a specific area of interest that you can speak to. For example, you may interview with a veteran who practices at the VA, and because you did the

Veterans’ Health module, you can have a two-way conversation about how differences between military and civilian culture affects medical care for veterans.

Additional Resources

https://education.uwmedicine.org/career-advising/

https://education.uwmedicine.org/career-advising/resources/