

PRECEPTOR RESOURCES

[Welcome
Preceptors](#)

WELCOME PRECEPTORS

The Department of Community Medicine welcomes all preceptors and greatly appreciates your participation, dedication, and willingness to facilitate the educational experiences of our medical students. The continued interest and support you have shown in the Mercer program has promoted the development of a successful curriculum. We encourage you to peruse the website and contact us if we can assist you in any way or if you have questions or concerns.

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WHAT IS A MUSM PRECEPTOR?

The Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) Preceptor is a primary care physician in active practice who serves as an educator, community liaison, and role model for MUSM medical students. In addition to their excellent clinical and teaching abilities, preceptors also actively take part in activities that promote the health of their communities.

As a Community Science (CS) preceptor, the physician facilitates the hands-on learning experiences of MUSM students in a clinical, community setting. The preceptor fosters the student's

integration of basic science principles, clinical skills, biomedical practices, family concepts, and population-based medicine. The student also participates in the medical life of the community through the family projects, community needs assessment, community group presentation, community health mobilization, clinical research, and a physician market analysis. Each preceptor promotes the student's understanding of a community-responsive physician, aids the completion of the student's assigned projects, and serves as a role model of the community-responsive physician.

The Community Science (CS) Program utilizes preceptors to introduce medical students to patient care in a rural setting. In the freshman year, students are assigned to a CS Program preceptor. The student follows this physician for the duration of his/her medical education at MUSM. Beginning the freshman year, students establish contact with their preceptor, conduct a community needs assessment, launch a family study project, and practice their clinical skills. In the sophomore year, activities include a clinical research project, the continuation of the family project and clinical skill development. During the senior year, the student continues to sharpen his or her clinical skills while studying the potential for establishing a medical practice in the local area.

PRECEPTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The preceptor is a primary care physician in active practice who serves as an educator, community liaison and role model for students of Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM). The Community Science (SC) program utilizes preceptors to introduce medical students to a patient care in a rural setting. In the freshmen year, students are assigned to a CS program preceptor. The student follows this physician for the duration of their medical education at Mercer.

Beginning the freshman year, students establish contact with their preceptor, conduct a community needs assessment, launch a family study project, and practice their clinical skills. In the sophomore year, activities include a chronic disease management project, the continuation of the family project and clinical skill development. During the senior year, the student continues to hone their clinical skills while studying the potential for establishing a practice in the local area. The preceptor assists the students to integrate clinical skills, basic science knowledge, community science principles, and family concepts into the practice of medicine.

Preceptor Roles

- A. **Educator.** The preceptor explains and demonstrates techniques and procedures to the student, allows the student to perform basic procedures under preceptor supervision, and gives constructive feedback to the student regarding their performance.
- B. **Community Liaison.** The preceptor serves as the interface between the student and the community, introducing the students to appropriate individuals and organizations.
- C. **Role Model.** The preceptor serves as a model of a community responsive physician in their practice style, professional activities, and social/personal interests.

Preceptor Duties and Responsibilities

1. **Learning Agreement and Evaluation.** Before the student begins each Community Science assignment with the preceptor, the preceptor and student complete a Learning Agreement together which specifies the learning objectives the student is to accomplish during their time with the preceptor. In addition to the required projects and goals, the student may add additional personal objectives as needed.
2. **Skills.** The preceptor assists the student in perfecting their clinical skills and abilities.
3. **Student education.** The preceptor encourages the student to become a part of the community's medical and civic life, briefs the student on any unpleasant or controversial issues that the student may encounter, and instructs the student in methods and procedures during the course of the visit.
4. **Preceptor education.** The preceptor participates in faculty development programs and activities which foster the preceptor's ability to teach students in a community office practice setting.
5. **Housing arrangements.** The preceptor assists the student in making housing arrangements whenever possible.
6. **Community contacts.** The preceptor introduces the student to influential persons in the community as well as civic groups. The preceptor also identifies two families from his patient base for the student's family project.

BENEFITS OF BEING A PRECEPTOR

In addition to the MUSM faculty appointment, preceptors receive a number of other benefits including CME credits (AMA), access to GaIN and MEDLINE, an annual AAFP

teaching award certificate, and merchandise discounts. The preceptor also participates in faculty development programs and activities which foster the preceptor's ability to teach students in a community office practice setting.

- ◆ *Clinical Faculty Appointment*: Clinical Assistant Professor, Participation in faculty development workshops, graduation participation privileges
- ◆ *CME Credits*:
 - Category 2 CME's for teaching medical students (AMA)
 - Category 1 CME's for accessing GaIN and MEDLINE
- ◆ *GaIN Network Subscription including*
 - Access to medical library searches and articles supported by the Department of Community Medicine
 - Access to the GaIN Bulletin Board
 - On-line Library Catalogue accessible through the GaIN network
 - Access to medical libraries and databases
 - Access to gophers and browsers on the World Wide Web
 - Access to the National Library of Medicine
- ◆ *Annual AAFP Teaching Award Certificate*

Preceptor Credentialing

CS Program Preceptors are designated as Volunteer Faculty of Mercer University School of Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor of Community Medicine. Prior to the faculty appointment, each physician receives an on-site visit, completes an application form that requires the listing of three references, provides proof of board certification, and provides proof of malpractice insurance. The Department of Community Medicine then verifies licensure, reviews the application and references, and makes a recommendation to the Dean for faculty appointment. The Dean appoints the preceptor as a Volunteer Faculty Member at MUSM. The appointment is reviewed and renewed periodically.