School Profile

The exceptional students admitted to Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine embody the pioneering spirit that has been the hallmark of Cleveland Clinic since its founding in 1921. In each year of its existence, the college has attracted top candidates from pre-eminent undergraduate programs who compete for just 32 spots in the school.

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine includes students from more than 80 colleges and universities, including Columbia, Cornell, CWRU, Duke, Harvard, Howard, Johns Hopkins, Ohio State, Spelman, UC Berkeley and Yale.

Match Results

More than half of our graduates match with their No. 1 residency program choice, the vast majority being in the country’s most prestigious institutions.
Course of Study

Students in the College Program have access to all of the resources of Cleveland Clinic, one of the finest healthcare institutions in the world. Students practice medicine with world-renowned physicians who excel in their respective fields, and they conduct research alongside investigators working on the cutting edge of medical science. As students in the CWRU School of Medicine, our students are enrolled in one of the top medical schools in the country and a leading independent research university. This unique partnership builds on the clinical and academic strengths of two outstanding organizations.

Clinical Curriculum

The goal of the clinical curriculum is to ensure that all Lerner College of Medicine graduates develop broad-based clinical expertise. The program uniquely integrates patient care experiences with basic science and research beginning in year 1. Clinical experiences include a half-day longitudinal case with a primary care physician every other week in year 1 and every week in year 2. Students have the opportunity to evaluate new patients and to maintain continuity with past patients during these two years. During their research experience in year 4, students maintain their relevant clinical experience.

Financial Support

Students in the College Program receive full-tuition scholarships. Scholarships are funded through the existing Cleveland Clinic endowment, operational income, and philanthropy. Our goal is to assure that financial constraints do not preclude students from following their dreams of becoming physician investigators.

Highlights

- Small class size of 32
- Portfolio-assessed, competency-based learning environment — no grades
- Student-centered learning experience
- Five-year course of study with a required substantive research project
- Last three years of study customized to match student’s research, clinical interests and professional goals
- Physician advisor and a research advisor for each student
- Basic science curriculum that is organ-system based and linked to relevant clinical experiences
- Continuity of care experiences beginning in year 1 with their own longitudinal preceptor and integrated throughout the curriculum to ensure that graduates enter a future residency with excellent clinical skills
- Graduate education in medicine with problem-based learning (PBL) sessions, interactive small-group seminars and laboratories aimed at developing in-depth problem-solving skills
- Broad opportunities for basic/translational and clinical research
- Patient volume and diversity that provide outstanding clinical training
- Close interaction with clinical and research faculty
- State-of-the-art educational, clinical and research resources
- Upon completion of the five-year curriculum, students graduate with an MD degree with Special Qualification in biomedical research. Students also have the option of pursuing a master’s degree
About Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland Clinic is an independent, nonprofit multispecialty academic medical center that includes a hospital, centralized and regional outpatient facilities, a research institute and an education institute. Since its inception in 1921, Cleveland Clinic has been dedicated to the mission of better care of the sick, research of their problems and further education of those who serve.

Cleveland Clinic is recognized for outstanding clinical care and commitment to academic excellence. *U.S. News & World Report* has consistently ranked Cleveland Clinic among the top hospitals in the country, and it has ranked our heart program No. 1 since 1994. Many specialties are consistently ranked in the top five.

The Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute ranks among the top independent research institutes in the country for NIH funding. Our Education Institute has one of the largest graduate medical education programs in the country, with more than 1,200 residents and fellows in a broad range of specialties.

Cleveland Clinic faculty members are among the nation’s leaders in academic medicine and are responsible for more than 3,700 scientific publications each year. State-of-the-art research (700,000 sq. ft.) and education (250,000 sq. ft.) facilities provide outstanding support of resources for faculty and trainee academic activities. This commitment to the highest quality patient care, research and education makes Cleveland Clinic an ideal setting to train physicians dedicated to ensuring the translation of scientific advances into clinical application.

Commitment to Diversity

A fundamental goal of the recruitment and selection process is to matriculate a diverse student body. Cleveland Clinic embraces the concept of promoting a diverse student body, which scientific research shows enhances the development of thoughtful professionals. These physician investigators will provide care for all persons, no matter what their background, and will promote scientific inquiry that includes all people.
The mission of the college is to educate a limited number of highly qualified persons who seek to become physician investigators and scientists committed to the advancement of biomedical research and clinical practice.

Our goal is to foster a passion for scientific inquiry and skills for critical thinking, coupled with broad-based clinical expertise. Our graduates are optimally positioned to pursue a career as physician investigators.

“One thing that really stands out at CCLCM is the endless amount of resources we have at our fingertips...the many renowned physicians and researchers at Cleveland Clinic are so accessible and enthusiastic about working with students, as well. I can’t imagine a more exciting and supportive place to develop into a physician scientist.”

– Danielle Eytan (’15)

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) represents a historic academic partnership designed to train physician investigators. Established as a joint endeavor between Cleveland Clinic and CWRU, the College Program is a unique medical school program that is setting new standards for the training of physician investigators through innovative approaches to the integration of basic science, research and clinical medicine. In addition to excellent clinical skills, graduates of the College Program have expertise in research and a passion for scientific inquiry. They learn the most advanced treatments and how to deliver them to patients’ bedsides.

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine is transforming medical education through its unique five-year curriculum focused on active learning methods, including problem-based learning, labs, seminars and electronically based self-study programs. This approach fosters critical thinking, self-directed learning and individual knowledge — the skills that ensure future success as physician investigators. The program is based on competencies that follow those of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education during the first two years, and those of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education during the final three years.
Non-Discrimination Policy

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine does not discriminate in admission, employment or administration of its programs or activities on the basis of age, gender, race, national origin, religion, creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, ethnicity, ancestry, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law. In addition, Cleveland Clinic administers all programs and services without regard to disability, and provides reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified disabled individuals, as long as it fits within our Technical Standards.