



University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Certificate of Recognition for Mentoring

The School of Medicine recognizes M.D. students who have volunteered their time mentoring others with a Certificate in Mentoring. Any student who has engaged in mentoring while enrolled in the M.D. program is eligible to apply for this recognition.

Requirements:

- Minimum 20 hours of documented, unpaid service in eligible mentorship activities while actively enrolled in the Pitt School of Medicine M.D. program.
 - Note: the same hour of service may not double-count toward both the SOM Certificate in Mentoring and the SOM Certificate in Community Service.
- 500-word reflective essay on your experience mentoring, how it has influenced your experience as a medical student, and your future approach to your medical career.
- Completed application form, documenting total hours engaged in mentoring and contact information of supervisors/mentees for verification.

Eligible Mentorship Activities:

Mentorship is any regular, routinized activity that allows you to share your knowledge and experience with others who are less knowledgeable or experienced than you. At least 80% of the hours must be completed in partnership with a formal SOM office or initiative under the supervision of an SOM staff member. The list below is not exhaustive; other activities can be considered if they meet the definition.

Examples of Eligible Internal Activities (must be at least 80% of total hours)

- Mentoring completed as part of the FAST program
- Serving as an official tutor in SOM Tutoring Program (if unpaid)
- Speaking at high schools/recruitment events sponsored by SOM Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Examples of Eligible External Activities (can be no more than 20% of total hours)

- Volunteer work with reputable nonprofit organizations (i.e., Big Brothers, Big Sisters)
- Tutoring undergraduate students (if unpaid)

Ineligible Activities:

Any activity for which you are paid, receive a grade/academic credit, or complete as part of a class assignment is ineligible. Participating in a study group or tutoring a classmate who is enrolled in the same class as you *cannot* count; however, tutoring a student enrolled in a class that you previously completed *can* count. Leisure activities (i.e., teaching a friend to surf) do not count; the mentorship must be related to your medical studies. SOM reserves the right to rule on the eligibility of any activity.

Application Process: Submit the application materials to Dr. Michael Rizzi (rizzim@pitt.edu), Director of Student Affairs, as soon as you meet the requirements, no later than four months before you graduate.