



Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QIPS) Consortium

# QIPS Faculty Scholars Program

## *2026-2027 Call for Applications*

**Now recruiting UMKC SOM faculty interested in a leadership development opportunity**

*Become a champion for Quality Improvement & Patient Safety scholarship through a faculty-driven, student-led project*

**Application deadline: 5pm on Monday, November 3, 2025**

# “QIPS Faculty Scholars” Program Description

The UMKC School of Medicine’s Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QIPS) Consortium is **seeking faculty interested in learning QIPS methodology to support clinical and operational improvement efforts** within the University-based health sciences schools and community affiliates programs that serve the UMKC School of Medicine.

**Future physician leaders** will need problem solving methods and tools to engage in the critical work of making today’s healthcare system sustainable for tomorrow. Now recruiting for its fifth cohort, **the QIPS Faculty Scholars program** is a **scholarship development experience** that will prepare you to lead healthcare improvement efforts, while mentoring an aspiring UMKC medical student.

**This program is for any faculty member working in a clinical setting who is interested in teaching, coaching, and problem-solving to build their academic and leadership profile, even if they are not pursuing a career as a research scientist.**



***Quality Improvement “[a]rises from our conviction that healthcare will not realize its full potential unless change making becomes an intrinsic part of everyone’s job, every day, in all parts of the system.”***

(Batalden P B , Davidoff F Qual Saf Health Care 2007;16:2-3)

Image source: <https://www.chesshealthsolutions.com/2023/08/01/the-quintuple-aim-what-is-it-and-why-does-it-matter/>

# About the QIPS Consortium

## Strategic Pillars:

- **Education:** Develop and maintain a robust educational curriculum in quality improvement and patient safety (QIPS) that incorporates concepts of scientific method, problem-solving, and clinical reasoning throughout.
- **Scholarship:** Expand the infrastructure to support the creation and dissemination of QIPS scholarship locally and nationally.
- **Resources:** Support and provide resources for projects and programs.
- **Collaboration:** Provide an organizational infrastructure for quality and safety across UMKC and its affiliate hospitals to facilitate collaboration, communication, scholarship development and sharing.
- **Community:** Improve quality and safety in the community.

## Events & Programs:

- [Annual Vijay Babu Rayudu QIPS Day](#)
- QIPS Curriculum integration at the SOM
- Coaching to build improvement methodology skills and experience.



## Mission:

*To lead in the scholarship and dissemination of local, regional, and national activities directed at enhancing quality improvement and patient safety initiatives.*

## You should apply if you would like to:

- **Solve recurring problems** that plague daily clinical workflow and create chaos
- Engage in solutions by applying the scientific method to **seek out and eliminate waste**
- **Improve job satisfaction**, reconnect to purpose, and increase provider wellbeing scores (resilience)
- **Coach, develop, and mentor others** through QI project leadership
- **Produce academic scholarship** (scientific sharing, publications, MOC, leadership development)
- **Connect with a professional community** within the School of Medicine; learn from the other hospital affiliate programs, clinical divisions, and academic departments (networking opportunities)
- **Earn recognition** as an improvement scholar and as a mentor, teacher, and coach

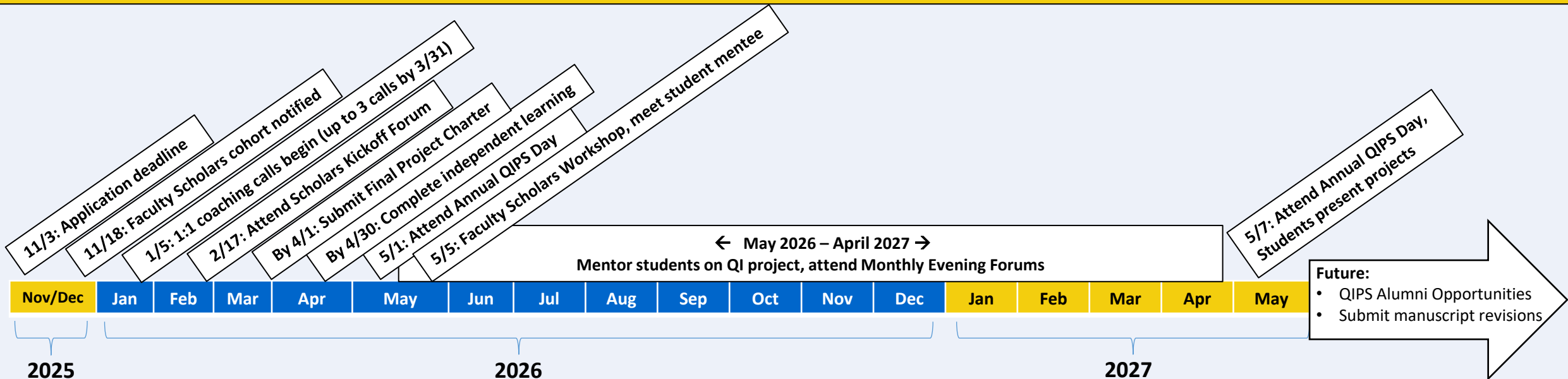
## You qualify for this program if:

- You are a **UMKC SOM faculty member** at any of the [community affiliate programs](#) that serve the SOM
- You **interact with and influence learners** (students, residents, fellows, or other faculty) in your current role
- You have the **authority or influence** to identify and implement an improvement project in your clinical work environment
- You are **willing to coach** others, including medical students and your staff/peers
- You have a **passion for continuous improvement** (clinical and operational)
- You have **academic scholarship** goals (publication, leadership, academic promotion)
- You are passionate about **improving the future of the healthcare delivery system**
- You are adept at **balancing extra-curricular activities** with your existing clinical and administrative responsibilities

## What will be required of QIPS Faculty Scholars?

- Attend up to 3 one-to-one coaching calls between 1/5/26 and 3/31/26 to **refine your project idea** (virtual, flexible timing available)
- Attend the **QIPS Scholars Kickoff Forum** on 2/17/26, 5:30-6:30pm
- Submit your **final project charter** by 4/1/25 and be paired with a student match
- **Independently complete 10 modules of online pre-work** to learn “problem solving basics” (total of 3.5 hours) by 4/30/26
- Attend the **13th Annual Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Day** on 5/1/26, from 8am to 3pm
- Participate in an immersive **one-day workshop on 5/5/26** to learn QI coaching principles, develop a plan for project success, and meet your QIPS Student Scholar. The workshop will be held in-person at the UMKC School of Medicine from 8am to 4pm.
- **Mentor a “QIPS Student Scholar”** to submit a scientific abstract to the Annual QIPS Day (abstract submission in March 2027)
- Assist your student mentee in preparing a first draft of a manuscript for **publication** in which you will be listed as “last (mentor) author” (templates, coaching, and technical support will be provided)
- Attend 7-9 **monthly Faculty Scholar Evening Forums** for ongoing technical guidance and coaching support (e.g., third Tues of each month between June 2026 to April 2027, excluding Aug 2026 and Dec 2026)
- Attend the **14th Annual Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Day** on 5/7/2027, from 8am to 3pm
- Participate in future QIPS Faculty Scholar **alumni opportunities**

### Faculty Scholars Training & Student Mentoring Schedule



## FAQs

### Is past QIPS experience needed to participate?

- Past QIPS project experience is useful but not required.
- Frequent coaching, technical guidance, and resource sharing will be provided throughout the program timeline.

### How are QI project topics determined?

- A project plan is not required prior to applying but broad topic ideas will be solicited as a part of the application.
- Technical support will be provided to help you refine a project idea prior to the launch of the student program in May 2026.
- The problem can be described as a gap using numeric language
- The problem is in your “realm of influence” and you personally know the players. impacted by this problem?

### Prompts to Inspire QI Project Ideas

- Spot inefficiencies: What slows things down or causes extra work?
- Think patient-first: Where could care be clearer, smoother, or more compassionate?
- Focus on safety: Are there steps where errors could happen—or have happened?
- Notice variation: Do people handle the same task differently?
- Ask “what could be better?”: Is there something you’ve always wished worked differently?

To learn more about the program and the projects conducted by past participants, you can visit: <https://med.umkc.edu/research/qips/scholars.html>

### What does project work look like?

You can expect to coach a student on the following activities during a QI project:

- Gathering and analyzing baseline data
- Conducting process observations and mapping workflow
- Interviewing or surveying stakeholders, including possibly patients
- Brainstorming and implementing countermeasures with stakeholders
- Gathering and analyzing data to determine if countermeasures resulted in improvement
- Sharing results with local stakeholders and helping your student mentee submit an abstract, present a poster, and draft a manuscript for publication

### What does a typical mentor meeting look like?

The program will utilize the [A3 framework for problem-solving](#), a structured method that guides the process step-by-step. Students and their mentors will meet at least once a month to review project progress using the A3 framework as a guide.

### What is the time commitment for faculty?

Following the pre-work (Jan 2026 to April 2026) and after the one-day workshop (5/5/26), we estimate that your time commitment will be about 2-3 hours per month while mentoring a student project between May 2026 to May 2027.

### What does my student gain through my participation?

A commendation at graduation, “Distinction in Healthcare Quality & Patient Safety”

### Further questions?

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