



“QIPS Student Scholars” Program

2026-2027 Call for Applications

Now recruiting medical students interested in a leadership development opportunity
Earn recognition as a “QIPS Student Scholar” and learn skills for a future career as a QIPS leader

Application deadline: 5pm on Friday, December 12, 2025

“QIPS Student Scholars” Program Description

The UMKC School of Medicine’s Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QIPS) Consortium is seeking medical students to participate in a **12 to 18-month extra-curricular, experiential, project-focused curriculum**.

Recruiting now for the fifth cohort, the **“QIPS Student Scholars” program** is a **scholarship development experience** that will prepare students to lead healthcare improvement efforts. **Future physician leaders** will need problem solving skills, methods, and tools to engage in the critical work of making today’s healthcare system sustainable for tomorrow.

Program eligibility includes **any current Year 4 or Year 5 student in “good academic standing” interested in learning QIPS methodology** to support clinical and operational improvement efforts.

The program selects a small cohort of students annually through a **competitive, application-based** selection process.



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**
- Produce **scholarship** (scientific sharing, publications, leadership development, networking opportunities)
- **Connect with a professional community** within the School of Medicine; learn from other hospital affiliate programs, clinical divisions, and academic departments
- **Receive mentorship** from physician leaders and other QIPS leaders across the affiliate programs
- **Earn recognition** as an improvement scholar
- **Earn a commendation** titled “Distinction in Healthcare Quality & Patient Safety” upon graduation

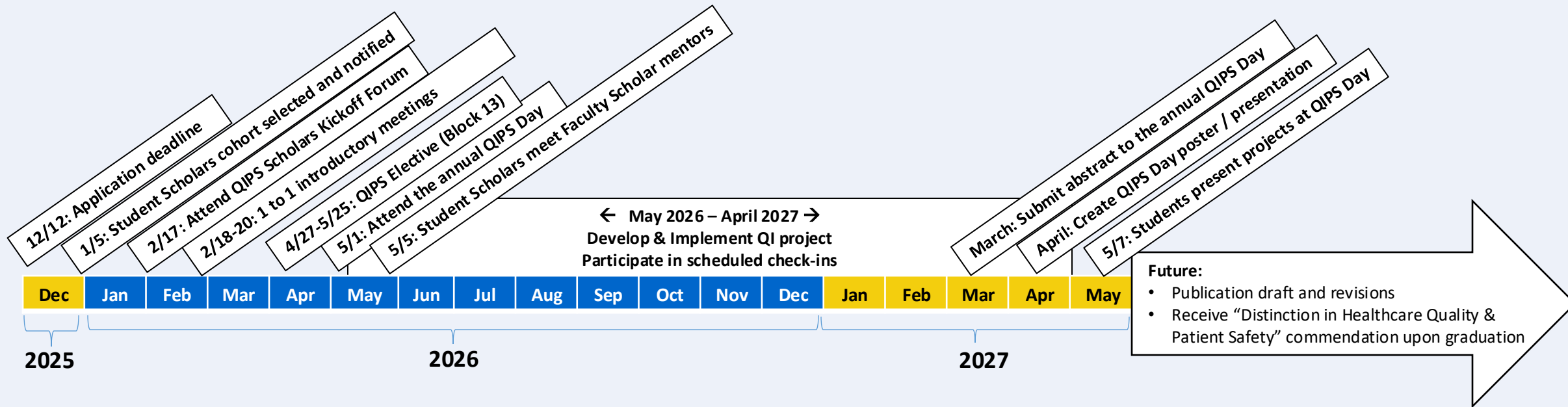
You qualify for this program if:

- You have a **passion for continuous improvement** (clinical and operational improvement projects)
- You have goals related to **academic scholarship** (publication, public speaking)
- You are interested in **improving the future of the healthcare delivery system** (leadership)
- You are currently a Year 4 or Year 5 student in “good academic standing” and will successfully promote to **Year 5 or Year 6**, respectively, in June 2026.
- You **do not have a required rotation in Block 13** (May 2026) and are able to participate in the QIPS Elective course. *(Students with questions about their schedules should contact their ETC)*
- You are adept at **balancing extra-curricular activities** with your existing responsibilities
- Students must successfully **complete their Step 1 Exam prior to the QIPS Elective (Block 13)**. *Note: Preference may be given to students who complete Step 1 prior to March 13, 2026.*

What will be required of the QIPS Student Scholars?

- Attend the **QIPS Scholars' Kickoff Forum** on Tuesday 2/17/26, 5:30-6:30pm
- Attend a **one-to-one introductory meeting** between Feb 18-20 (flexible timing)
- Complete a **12 to 18-month** extra-curricular, **experiential, project-focused curriculum** beginning in May 2026
- Participate in the **QIPS Elective during Block 13** (May 2026) to learn quality improvement, patient safety, and problem-solving basics
- Attend the **annual QIPS Day** on Friday, 5/1/26
- Meet your "**QIPS Faculty Scholar**" mentor on Tuesday 5/5/26
- Design and **implement a QIPS project** with your faculty mentor and participate in scheduled check-ins in July, September, October, December, and February.
- **Submit a scientific abstract** to the [14th Annual QIPS Day](#) in March 2027
- Attend the **annual QIPS Day** on Friday, 5/7/2027
- **Submit a draft manuscript for publication** in which you will be "first author" (templates, coaching, and technical support will be available)

QIPS Student Scholars Schedule



FAQs

How are QI project topics determined?

- Your faculty mentor will determine a project topic in their area of practice, and you will have the opportunity to refine this together.
- The most successful QI projects typically seek to answer the following questions:
 - *What is the “burning platform” for investing time and resources into solving this problem?*
 - *What harm, value, or waste is evident?*
 - *Based on current evidence, is inappropriate overuse, underuse, or misuse evident?*
 - *How will you measure or quantify the improvement effort?*

What does project work look like?

These are some activities you can expect during a QI project:

- Gather and analyze baseline data
- Conduct process observations
- Interview or survey various stakeholders, including patients, staff, and leaders
- Brainstorm, prioritize, and implement countermeasures alongside stakeholders
- Gather and analyze data to determine if countermeasures resulted in improvement
- Share the project results by submitting an abstract, presenting a poster presentations, and drafting a manuscript for publication

Is past QIPS experience needed to participate?

Past QIPS project experience is not required.

What does a typical mentor meeting look like?

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

What is the time commitment?

Following the elective in Block 13, we estimate that your time commitment will be **about 6-10 hours per month** while competing a project over 12-18 months. *Note: Year 6 students will have a modified timeline to complete program requirements by graduation.*

Are there additional details about the elective?

The elective will take place during Block 13 (4/27/26 – 5/24/26). The elective consists of online coursework in Canvas along with self-study and independent reading. In addition, plan to attend several required in-person days to go on-site with your Faculty Mentor.

What if I don't have an elective available in Block 13?

Students with questions about their schedules should contact their ETC.

How do I apply?

Students will have the opportunity to apply for one of up to 5 positions annually. The cohort of Student Scholars will be selected in early January 2026. **To apply, complete and submit this [APPLICATION](#) by 5pm on Friday, December 12, 2025.**

Further questions?

Contact Sari Cantrell at sbcantrell@cmh.edu

