UMKC School of Medicine

Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QIPS) Consortium

"QIPS Student Scholars" Program

2027-2028 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, January 15, 2027

"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 13-month, extra-curricular, experiential, project-focused curriculum.**

Recruiting now for the sixth 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.

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

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*)

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.

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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 are eligible to apply 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 2027.
- You **do not have a required rotation in Block 13** (May 2027) and are able to participate in the QIPS Elective. *(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 Block 13 QIPS Elective** (5/3/27)**.** *Note: Preference may be given to students who complete Step 1 prior to March 12, 2027.*

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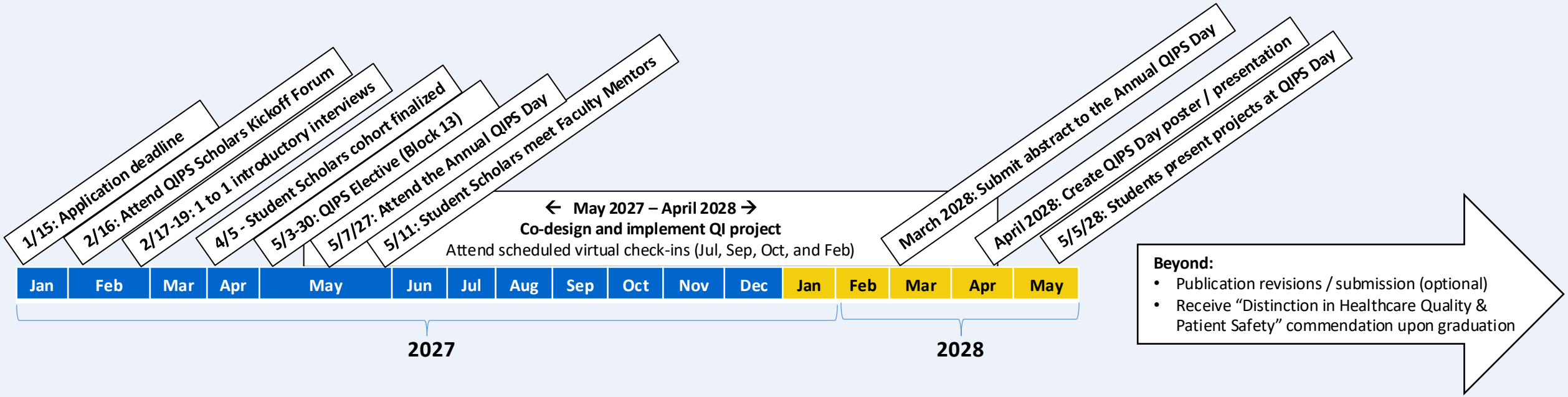
What will be required of the QIPS Student Scholars?

- Attend the **QIPS Scholars' Kickoff Forum** on Tuesday 2/16/27, 5:30-6:30pm
- Attend a **one-to-one, virtual "introductory interview"** between Feb 17-19 (flexible timing available)
- Complete a **13-month** extra-curricular, **project-focused experience** beginning in May 3, 2027 (Block 13) and ending on 5/5/28, the 15th Annual QIPS Day
- Participate in the **QIPS Elective during Block 13** (May 2027) to learn quality improvement, patient safety, and problem-solving basics
- Attend the **14th Annual QIPS Day** on Friday, 5/7/27, 8am to 4pm
- Meet your **"QIPS Faculty Scholar"** mentor on Tuesday 5/11/27, 12-2pm
- Design and **implement a QIPS project** alongside your faculty mentor (anticipate ~10 hours per month) and participate in pre-scheduled virtual check-ins in Jul, Sep, Oct, *Dec, and Feb (*independent assignment)
- **Submit a scientific abstract** to the 15th Annual QIPS Day in March 2028
- Attend the **15th Annual QIPS Day** on Friday, 5/5/28, 8am to 4pm
- **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



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The Student Impact

"... one of the most impactful educational experiences of my medical training..."

~ Mira Bhatia, MS5
Class of 2026

"[The QIPS Scholars Program] has been a career defining experience..."

~ Audrey Otwell, MS6
Class of 2025

"[The QIPS Scholars Program] has been invaluable... in shaping my approach to medicine..."

~ Priya Patel, MS5
Class of 2025

"My experience in the QIPS program has been one of the highlights of my time at UMKC."

~ Jacob Tribble, MS5
Class of 2025

"[The QIPS Scholars Program] has been an incredible part of my time at UMKC...."

~ Satya Sivasankar, MS5
Class of 2025

"[Faculty Mentorship in this program has been] a unique relationship that is not found in other aspects of medical school."

~ Madeline Glodowski, MS5
Class of 2026

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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 10 hours per month** while completing a project over the next 12 months. *Note: Year 6 students will have a modified timeline to complete program requirements by graduation.*

Are there additional details about the elective?

The QIPS elective will be during Block 13 (5/3/27 to 5/30/27) and consists of online coursework in Canvas along with self-study and independent reading. Plan to attend several *required* in-person days each week to work on-site with your Faculty Mentor..

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

Students with questions about their rotations / schedules should contact their ETC.

How do I apply?

Students will have the opportunity to apply for one of five positions in the 2027-2028 cohort. Notification of next steps will be made in late January 2027 and the cohort will be finalized in early April 2027. Click below to apply by 1/15/27.

Further questions?

Contact the Chair of Patient Safety, Dr. Mamta Reddy, at reddyma@umkc.edu

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