WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
CLINICAL INTERNSHIP/SHADOWING PROGRAM

*Sponsored by the Office of Women in Medicine and Science at Wake Forest School of Medicine and the Wake Forest Health Professions Advising Program*

To be competitive for programs in medicine, it is critical to have clinical experience. This can be achieved through shadowing one or more physicians or physician assistants, volunteering at a local hospital, clinic or nursing home, or employment in a clinical setting (EMT, medical scribe, etc.). Clinical experience is important because it gives the student a clear picture of the realities of, and allows affirmation of a commitment to, the practice of medicine.

The Wake Forest Health Professions Advising Program is partnering with the Office of Women in Medicine and Science at Wake Forest School of Medicine to offer a clinical/shadowing internship program for Wake Forest undergraduates which will provide select students with a high quality clinical experience.

The program is competitive; applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of faculty from the Office of Women in Medicine and Science at Wake Forest School of Medicine and the Wake Forest Health Professions Advising Program.

To be eligible for this program a student must have demonstrated academic excellence and a record of prior community service. Community service is an essential part of becoming a competitive applicant to medical school because it is a measure of commitment to service. Simply engaging in community service is not sufficient; a student must demonstrate that he or she has learned from and grown as a result of the experience.

Students will be assigned to two physician mentors, one of which will be shadowed during the first half of the semester (January 15–March 1), the other during the second half of the semester (March 1–April 15). Students who enter the internship program must commit to at least two four hour blocks during each half of the semester. Additional shadowing hours are the prerogative of the physician. The specific times that the shadowing will occur will be decided upon consultation of the student with the mentoring physician.
In addition to shadowing, students must agree to attend specific programming designed to increase their understanding of the practice of medicine.

Students will be evaluated by each physician that they shadow. These evaluations will be shared with the student and with the Chair of the Health Professions Committee. In addition, by April 30 students must submit to the Chair of the Health Professions Committee a log of hours worked, and a two-page reflection upon the experience. This information will go into the Student’s Health Professions Committee file.

If you are assigned to shadow a physician associated with the Wake Forest School of Medicine, you are required to go through a Health and Safety Orientation before you can begin your internship. You will be required to complete appropriate forms, submit to a background check, undergo TB testing and provide immunization records as well as receive a flu vaccine. The cost of drug screening and the criminal background check must be borne by the student. If you can demonstrate need of assistance with the costs associated with these programs, please contact Dr. Gibson at gibsoncl@wfu.edu. You cannot begin to shadow until all requirements have been completed, and you are cleared to begin by Dr. Gibson.

Students must be able to provide transportation to the site at which they are assigned. Not all physicians who practice through Wake Forest Baptist Health work at the hospital. For example there are alternate sites in Winston-Salem and in Clemmons. Students who shadow at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital will have to pay for parking in the parking deck. The cost is minimal.