

**2-3 students needed**

**TITLE: Primary Care Tracks in Medical School**

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**FACULTY MENTOR DEPARTMENT**

Community Health and Family Medicine

**RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

There is a growing shortage of primary care physicians in the United States. Many national organizations are trying to determine the best way to increase interest in primary care. Studies have suggested that primary care tracks during medical school are one way to encourage students to consider primary care by providing longitudinal experiences during the 4 years of medical school along with other activities. While such tracks are in existence at some medical schools, there is limited information available comparing the various tracks.

For this project, students will initially compile information on all US medical schools into a database for research purposes. We will consider characteristics of the medical school and what percentage of their graduates go into primary care. This will involve online searches as well as potentially contacting the medical school for more information. Once this is established, we will begin exploring medical schools that offer primary care tracks. Depending on the data we collect, we may be able to develop a survey to be completed by those directing the primary care tracks at each institution in order to compare the tracks and the experiences they provide.

Students interested in primary care and/or education research should consider applying for this project, which I think is ideal for 2-3 students as there are various roles. By compiling a database of medical schools, there will be potential for other research projects in the future.