

ADMISSIONS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The purpose of the committee or group

The Admissions Ambassadors Program is a voluntary service group that offers opportunities for students to connect with prospective and current applicants to UWSOM. Interacting with current medical students can have a profound impact on potential future doctors, including:

- middle and high school kids who may not be sure they can accomplish their goals
- current applicants who need a calming, supportive influence on their interview day
- accepted students who want to determine if UWSOM is the right fit for them

Being an ambassador is an opportunity to have an impact on the future of the medical field.

The structure of the committee or group

The program is composed of current medical student volunteers from all years of study. The Administrative Manager of Admissions oversees the group.

The role of student members

Ambassadors will provide their contact information for a database accessible to the Admissions office as well as the coordinators at the interview sites. When staff has a request for student involvement for recruitment, they will email the appropriate students (i.e., by year or location) to identify volunteers. When applicants or prospective applicants request opportunities to ask questions of current students, contact information will come from this database.

The number of student members

There is no cap on the number of students who can be involved at this time.

The approximate time commitment, including meeting times and frequency

Ambassadors are expected to respond to email requests to participate in opportunities, as they are able, throughout the year. Opportunities will be available to applicants across the region, will vary based on the needs of each site, and typically take between a few minutes (responding to an email) to a few hours (participating in a recruitment event). Many opportunities will be virtual, though there may be some in-person options—it will be clear in the request email which is expected. Opportunities to volunteer may include:

- Interview day help (varies by site): attending sessions with interviewing applicants, offering volunteer tours, hosting applicants, and sitting on student panels (1-2 hrs)
- Helping coordinate and execute Second Look activities (including hour-long meetings to determine plan of action and volunteering during the Second Look day for several hours)
- Participating in informational and recruitment events, including talking to middle and high school students as well as current college students, usually as part of a panel or at a pre-med conference (1-4 hrs)
- Contact List: Current applicants will be provided with Ambassador names and email addresses on the password-protected Interview Day website or if they contact the office with questions for students. Prospective applicants will provide their information and staff will email Ambassadors to reach out to them. (Answering emails should take 3-5 min)

The duration of participation

Once students are members of the Admissions Ambassador Program, they may serve during their entire tenure at UWSOM, though they may need to sign up each year to indicate interest. During the clinical phase of the curriculum, particularly while doing clerkships, student members are not expected to volunteer, but are welcome to do so if it does not interfere with their clinical schedules.

The application process & timeline

A call for volunteers is sent out to the medical student email list serves. Incoming MS1s are contacted to sign up prior to the start of Seattle interviews in the Fall. Students fill out an online form with their contact information when they sign up and are contacted with opportunities as they arise throughout the year.