COMMUNITY SERVICE

Introduction

Tufts University has a long tradition of active citizenship and community service. This is not just for students. The Community Service Learning (CSL) initiative at Tufts University School of Medicine stems from the firm belief that the role of clinicians extends beyond the clinic and hospital walls and that future clinicians benefit enormously from firsthand experience working in the community.

Taking a role within community organizations as collaborators, mentors, and educators, students will more fully recognize their social responsibility as physicians. These experiences enable students to learn more about healthcare disparities, gain exposure to a diverse range of patient populations locally and globally, and hone crucial clinical, communication, organization, and teamwork skills that will benefit their future work as clinicians.

Physician Assistant Students

All PA students are expected to perform a minimum of 40 hours per year of community service. This can be accomplished in many ways and the final decision as to how rests with the individual student. Examples of community service include, but are not limited to:

- Sharewood Project (Required for each student – one session per semester)
  - (http://medicine.tufts.edu/Global-and-Local-Engagement/Sharewood/Volunteer)
- Pine Street Inn (www.pinestreetinn.org/)
- Rosie’s Place (http://www.rosiesplace.org/)
- Bridge Over Troubled Waters (http://www.bysn.org/organizations/bridge-over-troubled-waters)
- Tufts Medical Center Volunteer
- Participating in PA Information Sessions
- Conducting tours during interview sessions
- Activities with MAPA and AAPA
- DMAT (Disaster Management Assistance Team)
- American Red Cross or American Heart Association

Students are expected to maintain a record of their community service experiences, review this with their advisor, and submit a summary record prior to the conclusion of each academic year. The summary will include a description of the activity(s) performed, the name of their supervisor, and an estimation of the number of hours volunteered.