

Frequently Asked Questions about the Eve and Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program

If you do not find the answer to your question(s) below, contact Ms. Osborne 310-347-8087 or email at meosborne@lapedsoc.org

SECTION I – GENERAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS

1. **What is the Eve and Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program?** *Now in its' 41st year, the Eve and Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program is a medical shadow program. Students work under the supervision of a health care professional to get a realistic view of what it is really like to be a doctor, nurse, etc. If there is a financial need, a selected student may request a weekly stipend of \$50.00 to be used for expenses such as transportation costs incurred while participating in the program.*
2. **When is the new application posted online?** *The application is updated and posted in early January for the program that calendar year.*
3. **How many applications does the Program receive and how many applicants are chosen to participate?** *250-350 applications are received every year with the number of chosen applicants ranging from 45 to 50. Each hospital receives and chooses a different number of applications - See Section III, Selection and Notification, question #2 for further information.*
4. **What dates does the Program run?** *The Program runs for 4 weeks in the month of July ONLY, with the exception of the 2010 Olive View UCLA Program which will be run from August 2-20. If you can not participate for these dates, we suggest you look for other similar opportunities in your local area. Unfortunately, we do not have this info to give you.*
5. **What days and times does the Program run?** *The Program runs Monday through Friday, NO nights, NO weekends for 8 hrs a day. Times vary by hospital but most start between 8:30- 9am and end between 4 and 5pm*
6. **I am going on vacation for a few days during the Program; can I still participate if I am chosen?** *No. As positions are in high demand, you must commit for the entire program.*
7. **Who can apply to the Program?** *A current 11th or 12th grade high school student of any ethnicity who will be at least 16 years old by the start of the Program can apply. Note asterisked hospitals on the application require students be 18 years old by the start of the Program. NO current college students can apply. If chosen hospitals will require a social security number and up to date immunization records.*
8. **I am 15 now, but I will be 16 by the start date of the Program, can I still apply?** *Yes, for all hospitals on the application except for those noted on the application with an asterisk, where you must be 18. You also must currently be in the 11th or 12th grade when you apply. If you are currently in 10th grade, you may NOT apply.*
9. **I am 17 now, but I will be 18 by the start of the Programs that require 18 years olds; can I apply to one of those Programs?** *Yes, as long as you are 18 by the start of the Program, you may apply.*
10. **I just found out about the Program and the application deadline has already passed, can I still apply?** *NO. With so many applications to process in a short period of time, we cannot extend the deadline.*

SECTION II - APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **How do I get an application?** *No matter how you secure an application always print or copy it on WHITE PAPER ONLY.*
 - Get one from our website www.lapedsoc.org It is a PDF so you must have the free Acrobat Reader program in order to download it.
 - Email Program Coordinator, Mary Ellen Osborne at meosborne@lapedsoc.org to receive one as a Word document.
 - Contact Program Coordinator by email (see above) or phone 310-347-8087 to have one mailed to you. When leaving a phone message with address information, speak clearly and slowly; spell any unusual names and places.
 - Get one from your high school career/counselor's office; most schools in the LA Metro area are mailed applications in January.
2. **Are there any general tips for filling out an application?**
 - It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you type your application from our website www.lapedsoc.org (See Summer Program tab.) You can not apply online; print and mail your application along with other required documents needed for an application set.
 - If you do not fill out your application online, please print clearly in black ink only.
 - Don't forget to have a high school official sign the front side of your application and a parent sign the consent and agreement form.
 - Remember you will also need to make a complete copy of all required documents to mail along with the original set.
 - If selected, you are responsible for your own transportation to your selected hospital; so choose wisely.
3. **Should I include a transcript?** *Include a transcript if you feel that this document is an asset to your application. Transcripts do NOT need to be official or sealed. If you include a transcript, make sure that you have an original and a copy as required for each application set.*
4. **How should I format my essay and what should it include?** *Your typed (not hand written) essay should be no longer than 1 page, in 12pt., any font, single or double spaced. It should include why you are interested in medicine and/or this medical career program. Essays are carefully read by the Program Counselor at the hospital you have requested.*
5. **Who should I get to write my letter of recommendation? Should I have more than one?** *Any person who knows you can write about your character and abilities. This can be a teacher, counselor, principal, employer/supervisor of a paying or volunteer job, neighbor or family physician; this can NOT be a relative. While the application requires only 1 letter, you may include up to, but no more than, 3 letters.*

6. **Are there any other hospitals that participate in the Eve and Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program, other than those listed on the application?** *No, only the hospitals listed on the application participate. Other hospitals may have similar programs but we do not have information on any other medical programs - summer or otherwise.*
7. **The application asks me to indicate a 1st and 2nd choice hospital; is my application sent to both my 1st and 2nd choice hospital?** *No, normally it is only sent to your 1st choice hospital. However in certain instances, such as you are 16 and accidentally choose a hospital where you must be 18 or if your 1st choice hospital unexpectedly withdraws from the Program, (a rare occurrence) your application will be sent to your 2nd choice hospital.*
8. **How should I send my application?** *US MAIL ONLY. Faxed and emailed application packages will NOT be accepted. Send a complete set of required documents (consisting of the application, the consent and agreement form, an essay and letter(s) of recommendation) AND one copy of this entire application set to the address on the application. Place the original and a complete copy of your application set in one envelope. This envelope will require additional postage. You may open any sealed letter of recommendation or a transcript to copy or you may ask your school to give you two sealed copies.*
9. **How do I know if you have received my application?** *Due to the high number of applications received on and before the deadline, we can NOT send confirmation that we have received each one. If you wish to confirm receipt of your application:*
 - *You may wish to pay for US Mail "Delivery Confirmation," option which will allow you to track your package online. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT YOUR APPLICATION VIA EXPRESS OR CERTIFIED MAIL.*
 - *You can email us at meosborne@lapedsoc.org or you may phone 310-347-8087 but you may find that our line is busy as the application due date nears. Please when communicating with us, either by email or phone, always give your name as it appears on the application and your 1st choice hospital. Applications are filed by hospital request.*

SECTION III - STUDENT SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

1. **Who decides who will participate in this Program?** *Each hospital that hosts an Eve and Gene Black Summer Medical Career Program is run by a counselor. Our counselors VOLUNTEER their time to set-up the activities and supervise the students in their Program. Each counselor receives the applications of all the students who chose that hospital as their 1st choice. They review and select their participants.*
2. **How many students does each hospital choose for their Program?** *The number of students participating at each hospital varies from hospital to hospital and from year to year depending on what that counselor is able to handle at their location. Here is a breakdown: (*Must be 18 by the start of the program to participate)*

Hospital	No. of Apps	No. Selected
*Cedars Sinai	5-8	1-2
Childrens, LA	40-50	2
Harbor UCLA	60-75	3-4
King Multi-Serv. Ambulatory Care	15-25	10-12
LAC/USC	20-35	4
Los Robles/Simi/Kaiser	15-30	4-6
Olive View UCLA	15-25	4
St. John/Santa Monica	25-35	5-6
*St Mary, Long Beach	7-12	2
Tarzana Med Ctr	15-20	2-3
UCLA Medical	45-55	2
White Memorial	15-25	4

3. **If I send my application well before the submission deadline, does this improve my chances of getting into the Program?** *No.*
4. **How and when will I find out if I have been accepted (or not) into the Program?** *You will be contacted by the Los Angeles Pediatric Society by phone or mail on or before the notification date listed on the application. Therefore it is important that you type or print your application so that your contact information is legible.*
5. **I was not accepted into the Program this year, may I apply again next year?** *Yes, as long as you are still age and grade eligible.*
6. **I am/my child is an AP student and I/he/she was not accepted into the Program; why?** *Transcripts (if included) are only one part of what each hospital counselor looks at in choosing participants; the essay and letter(s) of recommendation also factor into the decision process. The Program strives to mirror the diversity of the Los Angeles student population; therefore its chosen participants are a representative cross section of the society of the greater LA area. If you are not a senior, we highly recommend that you apply again. When we receive your application for a 2nd time, this is duly noted to the Hospital Counselor of the Program you are applying to. This factor like the many others mentioned above, plays a part in a counselor's decision.*
7. **There's always been a student from my high school in this Summer Medical Program. This year several applied but no one was accepted; why?** *Counselors do not choose participants based on what high school they attend but by the many factors mentioned in question #7. The number of positions is small, 45-50, and the number of applications is high, from 250-350; the selection process is competitive and unfortunately we are unable to place many talented, well qualified students.*

SECTION IV – PROGRAM INFORMATION IF YOU ARE ACCEPTED

1. **What will I do in this Program?** *Specific activities vary from hospital to hospital, based on what each counselor is able to set up at their location. An orientation is held by the Los Angeles Pediatric Society in mid to late May and specifics are given to the students by their counselors at that time. An invitation will be mailed or emailed to you. Due to the distance of the orientation location to some hospitals, certain Program counselors will hold their own orientation, which they will arrange with their chosen participants.*
2. **How do I get to this hospital?** *Every participant is responsible for their own transportation to and from the hospital(s) where they are participating.*
3. **The application says that if there is a financial need, that a \$50 weekly stipend is available upon request. How do you request this stipend?** *The stipend is given to assist participants with transportation and other expenses incurred while participating in this summer medical career program. Upon your selection you will receive paperwork concerning this stipend. There will be no financial documentation requested other than completing and turning in the paperwork requesting the stipend. Your stipend will be mailed to your home address. You do not need to submit any receipts for the expenses that the stipend is used for.*
4. **What documents will I need to have in order to participate?** *An up-to-date immunization record is required. You may also need a Social Security number. Other required documents are specific to each hospital and your counselor will let you know what is needed.*
5. **What immunizations are required in order to participate?** *It is best to have your immunizations current and a copy of these records available as the extent of this list can vary for each hospital program. All hospital programs require proof of a recent TB test, no more than 6 months to one year old by the start of the Program. If a program has other specific immunization requirements, they will let you know at their orientation.*