What is the Student Health Assistants Program?

The Student Health Assistants program is a highly structured, yearlong experiential learning and research program for CSB/SJU pre-professional health students at the Emergency Department of St. Cloud Hospital. Since its establishment seven years ago, SHA has continued to grow and has become a unique and great opportunity to get first-hand experience in the medical field.

The SHA Program is administered by the CSB/SJU Undergraduate Research Program. The SHA Program is guided by Manuel Campos, Biology Professor and Pre-Professional Program Advisor, Lindsey Gutsch, SHA Program Administrator, and two SHA student leaders.

Who can apply to be a SHA?

SHA is open to all students interested in pre-professional health programs (pre-dental, pre-medical, pre-physician assistant, pre-physical therapy, pre-optometry, pre-chiropractic, pre-occupational therapy, etc) and is not limited to specific majors. Current first year and second year pre-professional students are especially encouraged to apply.

For information about requirements for SHAs, please visit our “Eligibility & Responsibilities” page.

Can Nursing students participate in the SHA Program?

SHA is not designed for nursing students. Nursing students will quickly find that the clinical experience requirements of their coursework will need to take priority over the SHA program.

Can the SHA Program count as a CSB/SJU internship?

The SHA Program cannot count as an internship. The SHA Program structure does not align with internship guidelines.

Are there summer expectations for students selected to participate in the program?

The SHA Program runs throughout the academic year, August through May – with the expectation that students can begin volunteering during the first week of fall semester. With this expectation, students are asked to regularly check their emails during the summer as all required paperwork and education modules must be completed by August 1.
I have been accepted to be an SHA, what do I need to complete before I start my first shift?

The SHA Program Administrator will send an email to all SHAs with detailed instructions regarding the items below. Please note that if not completed, you will not be able to participate.

- Application packet
- Two step PPD (Mantoux) test
- Necessary Immunizations and proof of these immunizations
- 7-Panel drug and alcohol urine test
- Fingerprint and Background Check
- Flu shot (once its flu season)
- Education modules