

## Eligibility Requirements for the NIH Clinical Electives Program

**In order to be eligible to apply for a clinical elective at the NIH, you must meet the following requirements:**

1. You must be a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident alien, or a foreign citizen entering the U.S. on a B1 visa for business or a WB visa.
2. You must be in good standing in your medical or dental school.
3. You must enter all of your medical school grades as Pass/Fail, or by a letter grade. For final grade-pending clerkship rotations, verification of a passing grade (not documented on the transcript) in writing from the director of the core clerkship is sufficient.
4. You must have your school's approval to participate.
  - a) International students must have both a reference letter from the Dean of Student Affairs (or equivalent) and a reference letter from a faculty member who has supervised your clinical activities; the Dean's letter must state the Dean's title and mailing address.
  - b) LCME, AOA or ADA accredited medical or dental school students are required to submit only one letter from a faculty member.
5. The following communication competency documentation is required:
  - a) A foreign citizen attending an international medical school **must** provide evidence of proficiency in English communication skills either in the form of an Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score or a documented passing grade on the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Exam.
  - b) A U.S. citizen attending a medical school outside the U.S. **must** provide documentation of a passing grade on the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Exam (the iBT cannot be substituted).
  - c) A U.K. or Australian citizen attending medical school in the U.K. or Australia **must** provide a letter from the school Dean attesting to both the student's English language proficiency and the student's competence in doctor-patient communication.
6. For students providing results of the ibT examination, the minimally acceptable scores are as follows:
  - a) Minimum **total score** of 108
  - b) Minimum score of 28 on the **listening subsection**
  - c) Minimum score of 28 on the **speaking subsection**.
7. You must have completed core clerkship rotations in **internal medicine, pediatrics and surgery** prior to submission of your application. Students who are applying for rotations in Gynecology, Women's Health, Reproductive Endocrinology, or Psychiatry must have completed core clerkships in the appropriate discipline prior to submission of their application.
8. Please **do not** send any protected health information (PHI) with your application. Only if you are accepted for a rotation will you be required to provide written documentation of the following:
  - a) Negative Mantoux test (intermediate strength PPD) or, for individuals with a positive Mantoux test, a chest X-ray report (within the past 12 months).
  - b) Tetanus/Diphtheria booster (within the past 10 years).
  - c) Rubeola vaccine or titer.
  - d) Varicella vaccine or titer.
  - e) Influenza A and B immunization (within the past 12 months).

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9. You are strongly encouraged to have begun or completed your Hepatitis B vaccine series at the time of application submission.

In addition, **either you or your school must provide the following:**

1. Professional liability insurance policy with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 annual aggregate, in U.S. dollars, that would cover you for the duration of your elective rotation at the NIH. By signing the NIH/School Clinical Electives Program agreement, the school confirms that it will provide this coverage. If the school cannot provide this coverage, then you must purchase it individually. No student will be allowed to begin an elective rotation at NIH without documented professional liability insurance coverage.
2. Personal health insurance coverage for you during your elective at the NIH. By signing the NIH/School Clinical Electives Program agreement, the school confirms that it will provide this insurance. If the school cannot provide this insurance, you must purchase and maintain it for the duration of the rotation at NIH. No student will be allowed to begin an elective rotation without documented personal health insurance coverage.

**Note:**

- Applicants who cannot meet all of the above eligibility requirements will not be considered for an NIH Clinical Elective rotation. Requests for waivers of these requirements will not be considered unless extraordinary circumstances obtain.
- Medical students from LCME- or AOA-accredited medical schools, and dental students from CODA/ADA-accredited dental schools will be given priority consideration for available elective rotations.
- Graduates of medical or dental schools are ineligible to apply to the Clinical Electives Program. No requests for a waiver of this requirement will be considered.