SCHOOLS AND OTHER PROGRAMS INVOLVING WORKING WITH CHILDREN

**Worcester Public Schools** ([http://worcesterschools.org](http://worcesterschools.org))*

The Worcester Public Schools system is recognized as one of the best urban school districts in the country. The system aims to provide a quality education to a diverse group of students, regardless of socioeconomic or cultural background. MCPHS University students provide tutoring, mentoring, and classroom assistance primarily in various schools where there are critical needs for the services our students can provide. Though all instruction in the schools is in English, some of the schools have sizable populations of students whose first language is other than English. These students may benefit from working with MCPHS University students who can communicate in a language other than English.

* A background check is required.

**Middle Schools & High Schools**

- **South High Community School** ([http://www.wpsweb.com/south/](http://www.wpsweb.com/south/))
  
  MCPHS University students will have an opportunity to tutor and mentor.

- **Sullivan Middle School** ([http://www.wpsweb.com/sullivan/](http://www.wpsweb.com/sullivan/))
  
  Depending on interests and availability, opportunities may include: helping a teacher in a health class, informally meeting with students in the school cafeteria, helping out with an after-school intramural sports program, or serving as the intake receptionist at the school health clinic.

- **University Park Campus School** ([http://www.wpsweb.com/schools.asp](http://www.wpsweb.com/schools.asp))
  
  This neighborhood school located in the Main-South area near Clark University is a novel collaborative venture of the Worcester Public Schools and Clark, for students in grades 7-12. MCPHS University students will tutor (most likely in math) in the school’s homework center.
Elementary Schools (http://www.wpsweb.com/schools.asp)

Work in the elementary schools may involve tutoring, mentoring, doing science experiments in classrooms, teaching students about health and hygiene, etc. MCPHS University students with special skills and interests are welcome to put them to use in the elementary schools. The elementary schools with which we work are the following:

- **Belmont Street Community School**
  Tutoring math/science to 5th/6th graders, 12.

- **Chandler Street Elementary School**
  Assisting with tutoring, reading, and teaching grades 1-5.

- **City View School**
  Reading, science lab, and math tutoring.

- **Elm Park Community School**
  Assisting with tutoring, reading, and teaching grades 1-5.

- **Goddard School of Science & Technology**
  Assisting students in classrooms, and/or tutoring and mentoring outside of class time.

- **Grafton Street School**
  Math and science in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms.

- **Jacob Hiatt Magnet School**
  Tutor students in math and science, help with enrichment activities, assist with the literacy block, develop a science or fitness club, and/or work with students in labs.

- **Rice Square School**
  Teach science experiments to classes of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders.

Multi-School Program

- **A.V.I.D.** (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
  AVID is a 7th through 12th grade program in several Worcester Public Schools to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students, and in closing the achievement gap. MCPHS University students would work in the public school systems to tutor and work on problem solving with AVID students.
Other Schools and Related Programs

- **Seven Hills Charter School**
  Seven Hills Charter Public School is, as its name indicates, a charter school – a tuition-free school funded by public money, but independent of the local public school system. Seven Hills Charter School is divided into four learning programs ranging from kindergarten through 8th grade. Students can work in a variety of ways including: tutoring children, reading with children individually or participating in “literacy lunches,” helping with enrichment activities or at recesses or in the library, assisting with the performing arts program, developing parent workshops, creating activities such as chess, karate, or robotics.

- **Think Tank**
  Think Tank’s mission is to “provide young adults a place to engage in academics and endeavors that promote personal, social and intellectual growth.” The students who come to the TT are primarily home-schooled, and come to the TT for activities not otherwise available to them. MCPHS University students will be teaching or assisting with teaching the following courses on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings at Think Tank: Chemistry, Biology, and Genetics. Classes are usually very small (4-8 students).

OTHER PROGRAMS WITH YOUTH

- **Ascension After School Program**
  This program welcomes MCPHS University students to help with tutoring, playing games, and mentoring elementary school children. The program runs afternoons Monday through Friday.

- **Cub Scouts**
  Cub Scout Pack 70, based at St. Stephen’s Church in Worcester, consists of five individual dens working with boys between the ages of 6 and 11. The program needs volunteers to help keep the pack up and running by helping lead games and activities for the boys. Both men and women are welcome to volunteer Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m.

- **Friendly House**
  ([www.worcesterresources.org/friendlyhouse](http://www.worcesterresources.org/friendlyhouse))
  This neighborhood center provides after-school recreation and other programs for kids from the neighborhood and throughout the city. They could use volunteers to serve as tutors and mentors in the after-school program.
• **Rainbow Child Development Center: After-School Program**
  (www.rainbowcdc.com)*
  This after-school program provides volunteers the opportunity to provide after-school tutoring & mentoring for grade-school aged children.

  *A background check is required.

• **Rainbow Child Development Center: Pre-School Program***
  The center would welcome volunteers to work with pre-school children. Volunteers will be supervising the children and interacting with them. This would be a good site for students interested in establishing basic bonds with young children and helping in their development, but not for students interested in more academic-based work such as tutoring, as the children are too young for that.

  *A background check is required.

• **Worcester Boys & Girls Club**
  (www.bgcworcester.org)*
  The Boys & Girls Club has a wide range of volunteer opportunities. MCPHS University students could tutor, help to run a sports league for the kids, or teach computer skills, among other things. The Boys & Girls Club has a particular need for Southeast Asian students.

  *A background check is required.

• **A.C.E. (African Community Education)***
  ACE students come from many nations, but they have all come to learn, achieve, and succeed. ACE’s goal is to help them achieve their goals, by providing a safe and supportive environment for learning. MCPHS University students will assist with after-school tutoring: this weekday tutoring program is available to refugee students at all grade levels for up to three hours each day after school. After school tutoring also includes periodic special programming, such as computer classes, MCAS prep courses and violence prevention workshops. Monday-Friday from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tutors are not required to stay for the entire 3 hours or come every day. All they ask is a minimum 2 hour a week commitment.

  *A background check is required.

• **Head Start***
  The Head Start Program is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. Volunteer tasks would be assisting with the following services provided by Head Start: Working with young children in a classroom setting, Nutrition Services, and Family Involvement Activities.
*A background check is required.

ELDER CARE

- **Christopher House, Christopher Heights**
  This nursing home and assisted-living facility would welcome MCPHS University students to assist with visiting patients, playing games with residents, teaching people (e.g., computer skills), etc. – according to each student’s interests and skills. MCPHS University students placed at Christopher House and Christopher Heights will do a variety of things such as lead exercise groups, assist the recreation staff with crafts, bingo, card playing, etc., read to residents, paint the resident’s nails and be friendly visitors to the elderly. The most convenient time for volunteers to come is weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

  *A background check is required.

- **Notre Dame Long Term Care Center**
  (http://notredameltcc.org)*
  This nursing home, with 123 residents, would welcome MCPHS University students, who would “adopt” a couple of elderly residents to visit weekly. Students will visit their elderly friends, help them with writing letters, read to them, participate in activities such as bingo, parties and socials and allow the residents to enjoy the company of people from the community. They prefer volunteers in the afternoon, between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.

  *A background check is required.

- **St. Francis Home** – Adult Day Health Center
  This is a day care facility for adults, mostly elderly people. Approximately 55 patients are at the facility each day. MCPHS University students will talk and read aloud to participants, assist with meals and activities, share a hobby or skill with the clients, help the clients write letters or cards. Students can also learn about different diseases and disabilities which affect some of the clients at the center.

- **Worcester Senior Center**
  (www.ci.worcester.ma.us/hhs/elder_affairs/senior_center.htm)
  This facility offers a variety of services to senior citizens. MCPHS University students can discuss and choose whatever project(s) interest them. Students are invited to help serve lunch and visit with the seniors. Other opportunities include working with cultural senior groups (Spanish, Chinese, Polish or Southeast Asian languages would be helpful). Students should come in the morning or early afternoon, as there is not as much to do later in the day.
OTHER HEALTH CARE

- **Free Medical Clinic at Epworth Methodist Church**
  Patients from all walks of life who do not have insurance or access to medical care for any reason come to the clinic. Patients come from Worcester and the surrounding cities and towns and represent a variety of ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Students may be asked to do a variety of things depending on interest, such as interviewing patients, working on outreach and advertising, electronically logging patient data, and handing out patient education materials.

- **Free clinic at International Central Gospel Church (Akwaaba)**
  Patients from all walks of life who do not have insurance or access to medical care for any reason come to the clinic. Patients come from Worcester and the surrounding cities and towns and represent a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. Akwaaba is geared towards the African immigrant population and we see many patients from Ghana and Kenya, among other countries. Students may be asked to do a variety of things depending on interest, such as interviewing patients, working on outreach and advertising, electronically logging patient data, and handing out patient education materials.

- **Free clinic at St. Anne’s Church, Shrewsbury**
  At this clinic, MCPHS University students have opportunities to welcome patients, and to shadow various healthcare professionals as they go about their work.

- **MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach**
  ([www.massmedline.com](http://www.massmedline.com))
  This organization, located in the MCPHS University building, provides toll-free prescription information and referrals for Massachusetts residents. MCPHS University students would be assisting Mass Medline employees in their outreach to the community.

OTHER

- **Abby’s House**
  ([www.abbyshouse.com](http://www.abbyshouse.com))*
  Named after 19th-century abolitionist and Worcester-resident Abby Kelley Foster, Abby’s House is a “multi-service non-profit organization helping homeless and battered women and children.” MCPHS University students would most likely work at the women’s center on High Street, either serving a meal and talking with the residents and guests, or helping with other programs such as the thrift shop. The center welcomes both female and male volunteers, although male volunteers would have more limited opportunity for interaction. Training is required and will be provided by Abby’s House.
*A background check is required.

- **Mercy Centre**
  (www.mercycentre.com)
  Work with high functioning adults with disabilities, ages 18 – 62; assist staff in various and creative activities to help individuals achieve their personal life-skill goals and/or projects. The program runs from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- **Pernet Family Health Service**
  (www.pernetfamilyhealth.org)
  Pernet Family Health offers a range of supportive services and programs for members of the surrounding community. MCPHS University students typically work in the food pantry, infant supply pantry, or office.

- **Salvation Army Distribution Center**
  This Christian-based organization would welcome MCPHS University students to work in any of their programs. One such program is their after-school program for school-aged children. There may also be opportunities to help distribute clothing, coordinate a food-distribution program or translate materials.

- **Seven Hills Foundation**
  (www.sevenhills.org)
  This organization provides development, education and training programs for the developmentally disabled, primarily for adults. They welcome MCPHS University students to help with daily activities, serve lunch, provide companionship, or perform other similar tasks (with an emphasis on non-verbal communication skills) at any one of four sites: Hope Avenue (Worcester), Greendale (Worcester), West Boylston and Devens. Students are encouraged to participate with clients in a wide variety of activities from horticulture to saori weaving.

  *A background check is required.

- **St. Anne’s Food Pantry at St. Anne’s Church, Shrewsbury**
  (http://www.stannesparish.org/humanServ.html)
  St. Anne's Human Services assists the poor and needy in our local community. St. Anne's Human Services takes in clothing, food and other miscellaneous items. Some of these gifts are sold through the Thrift Shop providing us money to buy food or to provide food vouchers for the hungry. Some is given directly to those in need. Volunteers are needed to help with these efforts. Each Human Services volunteer can offer help in their own special way.

  Hours of Operation:
  - Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  - Friday and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
• **The Bridge of Central Massachusetts**
  *(http://www.thebridgecm.org/)*
  The Bridge is a private, nonprofit human service agency located in central Massachusetts. The agency serves children and adolescents with serious emotional, behavioral, and family challenges, as well as adults with mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse challenges. The Bridge operates 45 programs, including residential treatment, community-based flexible support, supported housing, community-based outreach, and assistance to families transitioning from homelessness. Volunteer tasks would involve participation in some group home activities such as assisting with a meal or group games. Other opportunities would involve engaging residents in discussions or activities that would assist them in their existing life skills programs with healthy eating, and healthy living projects.

• **Worcester Adult Learning Center- Catholic Charities**
  This program, affiliated with Catholic Charities of Worcester, provides MCPHS University students the opportunity to tutor adults in reading, writing, math, or English. Many of these adults are either refugees or trying to attain their General Education Degree (GED).

• **Worcester Community Action Council**
  *(www.wcac.net)*
  The mission of the WCAC is “to stimulate change in the fundamental causes of poverty and to create and provide opportunities for economic self-sufficiency through services, partnership, and advocacy.” MCPHS University student can participate in variety of activities including GED tutoring.

• **YWCA**
  *(www.ywcaworcester.org/)*
  The YWCA would welcome MCPHS University students to work as Fitness Interns. These interns would work primarily with new Health Center members, to help get them started in a fitness program, and then to continue with it.

  Students also could work on health literacy, the breast cancer support group, women’s night, or family fun Friday nights. Experience in fitness, sports and/or aquatics would help, as would Spanish and/or Albanian language skills.

  *A background check is required.

• **Southeast Asian Coalition**
  *(http://www.seacma.org/)*
  The Southeast Asian Coalition is a not-for-profit organization that supports, promotes and advocates for the success of the Southeast Asians of Central Massachusetts in mainstream society. MCPHS University can work with the youth programs, in the ESL classes, or the community activities group.
• **Worcester Refugee Assistance Project (W.R.A.P.)**
The agency provides a variety of services for recent immigrants, refugees, and their children. Their goal is to start assisting refugees from anywhere globally, but their focus now is with the recent and large influx of refugees from Burma. They could use MCPHS University students to teach basic English classes (course materials would be provided), or to teach classes on health and/or nutrition, or to serve as interpreters. Volunteers could also spend time with the youth of the families engaging them in structured after school tutoring and/or games.

• **Regional Environmental Council (REC)**
(www.recworcester.org/)
REC is a grassroots environmental justice organization dedicated to building healthy, sustainable and just communities. MCPHS University students will work in one of their programs called the Environmental Health and Justice Program. Students will do outreach to the community through presentations, social media, etc.

• **Reliant Medical Group**
(www.reliantmedicalgroup.org)
Reliant Medical Group offers patients a full range of primary care and over 30 different specialties, from podiatry to vascular surgery. Provide an array of convenient patient services including bone density testing, MRI exams, Urgent Care, diabetic and nutritional counseling, and much more. Volunteer opportunities range from:

- Mailings
- Work with medical records (limited, as most are now electronic)
- Phone calls to patients (ex: to remind people to pick up forms, etc. in pediatrics)
- Establishing an Excel database for an internal research project to improve patient care
- Greeting and escorting patients
- Reading to pediatric patients in waiting areas