

Standardized Patient Team



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How do I become a Standardized Patient?

Scan the QR code to complete the pre-application form and email to
MedPartnershipSP@uga.edu



*Thank you for your interest in the educational efforts of
developing physicians through the
AU/UGA Medical Partnership.*



About the AU/UGA Medical Partnership

Augusta University and the University of Georgia have partnered to create a four-year medical education program in Athens to help alleviate a statewide shortage of physicians that threatens the health of Georgians. The AU/UGA Medical Partnership combines the significant instructional and research resources of UGA, the state's flagship land-grant research university, with the expertise of the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University (AU), Georgia's only public medical school.

First- and second-year students study basic science and clinical science in a hybrid curriculum that makes extensive use of small group learning, supplemented by large group interactive sessions. Students at the Medical Partnership have the opportunity to rotate during their third and fourth years in private practices, community clinics and hospitals across northeast Georgia.

For more information on the AU/UGA Medical Partnership,
please visit:
www.medicalpartnership.usg.edu

UGA Health Science Campus
Russell Hall • 1425 Prince Avenue • Athens, GA 30606

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
**MEDICAL
PARTNERSHIP**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Standardized Patient Program



AU/UGA Medical Partnership STANDARDIZED PATIENTS

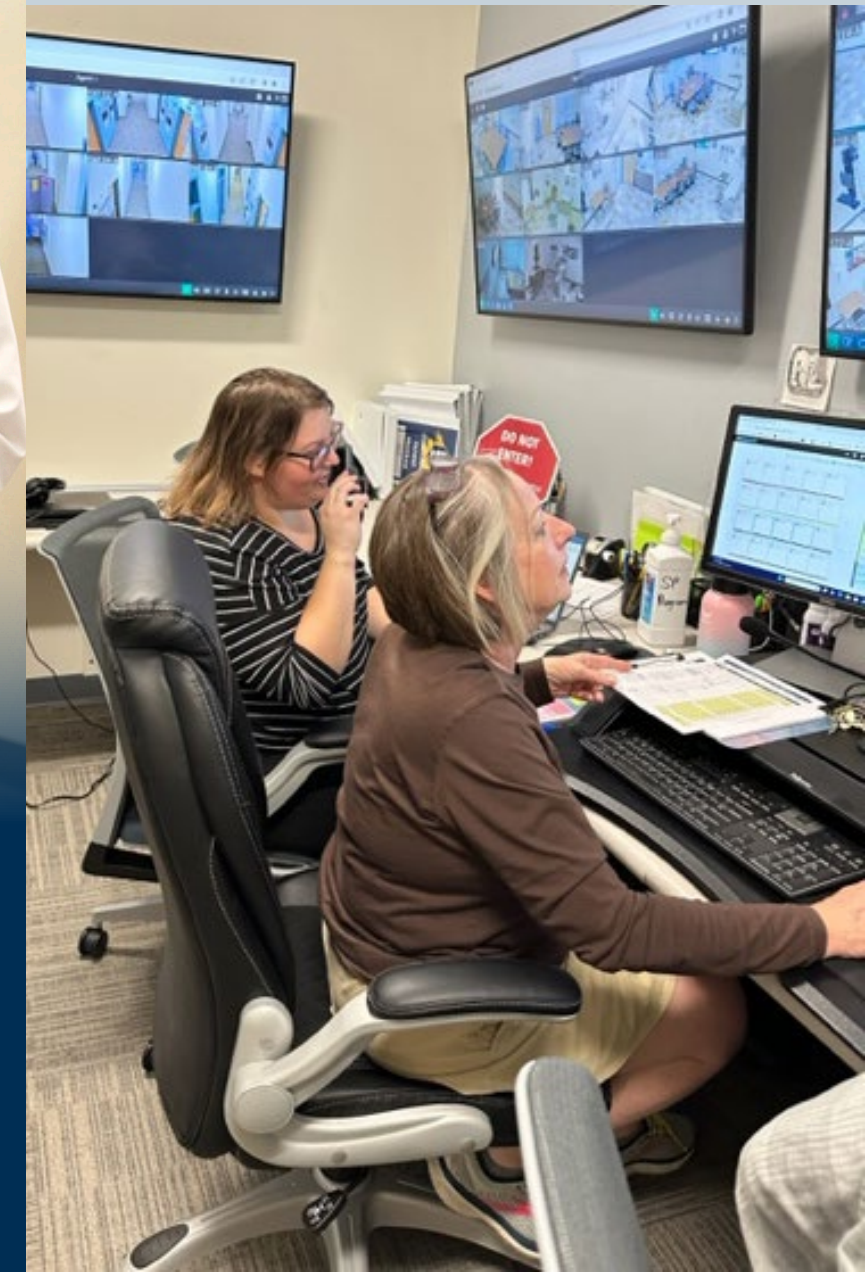
*Educators who make a significant
contribution to medical student learning and
have an impact on the ever changing and
growing field of medicine.*

medicalpartnership.usg.edu

Areas of Interaction

Students attending the AU/UGA Medical Partnership will study the art of doctoring through the Clinical Skills Program, which emphasizes the importance of communication, professionalism, history-taking, and physical examination. The Athens campus teaches clinical skills using a blend of learning activities with a focus on patient interactions. Standardized Patients help train our students through the use of clinical skills, Hi-Fi simulations, and ultrasound.

Fifteen small group classrooms are designed and equipped to video record visits between students and Standardized Patients. Faculty in a nearby viewing room can monitor the encounters and provide feedback to students in order to improve their communication and other skills.



What is a Standardized Patient?

Standardized Patients (SPs) are individuals from the community who portray patients for purposes of teaching medical students within an educational program. SPs allow students to develop excellent bedside manner and data-gathering skills, and other clinical skills such as physical examination.

Unlike a real patient, SPs have the opportunity to provide the medical student with valuable feedback to help improve their ability to interact with patients. Training with SPs is proven beneficial in helping medical students learn to become excellent physicians.

What does a Standardized Patient do?

In some instances, an SP will have the opportunity to provide their own medical history as if they were at a real appointment with a personal physician.

In other situations, SPs study a case scenario and are scripted to give specific responses and behaviors necessary for realistic portrayals. A trained SP will simulate a real patient, presenting not just the patient history, but also the body language, emotions, and personality of the character they are depicting.

Additionally, SPs will serve as patients for the basic head-to-toe physical examination elements. There are no invasive examinations. Other roles may involve serving as a patient for ultrasound examination of the heart, abdomen, knee, and eye. Some SPs may portray other healthcare professionals or family members in a simulated environment. SPs may also be assigned as hall monitors or other duties as needed to assist in the flow of SP sessions.

Some encounters require a training session prior to the event. These training sessions include discussing the case, and possibly a video review of previous SP-student encounters or role playing. In addition, SPs are provided instruction on how to assess and offer feedback on medical students' abilities to interact with patients. In testing or graded situations, SPs complete student evaluations based on the specific set of skills being assessed. SPs will also be trained in basic anatomy, as well as basic history-taking and physical exam skills.



▲ Each of the 15 exam-style rooms is equipped with top-of-the-line technology typical of real hospitals and physicians' offices.

▼ The role of a Standardized Patient is important in helping medical students translate classroom knowledge into clinical expertise in a controlled environment.



▲ Standardized Patients interact with medical students in realistic clinical settings and provide an environment to practice clinical skills such as physical exam.

That sounds like acting... Do I have to be an actor?

No. Some SPs are trained and experienced actors, but most are not. You can be a very good SP without ever having been on stage or in a movie. There are some similarities to what actors do, but there are differences, too.

What types of people do you need?

We are looking for men and women of all ages, physical types, ethnic groups, and various backgrounds to represent the various types of patients they will be portraying. We need individuals who are strong communicators, who can learn quickly, accept direction, and adapt easily to a variety of different situations.

How am I trained and prepared to be a standardized patient?

Once candidates are hired, they will meet with the SP Director and the SP Coordinator for training sessions. The amount of time needed for further training will depend on the complexity of the case and the SPs experience. Certain cases require the SP to provide feedback and/or score student performance so they will need to be trained on that as well. Before encountering students, SPs are required to successfully present or demonstrate their character. Please note that training is mandatory; you cannot work unless you attend training.

Do I need to know a lot about medicine?

No. We will teach you what you need to know to accurately portray a case.

How much does this job pay?

If hired, SPs are paid at an hourly rate of \$16 for training and live encounters.

How do you choose who will become an SP?

We will conduct individual interviews to find out if you are suitable for the job and assess your comfort level in this environment by participating in role-play activities. We also conduct reference and background checks to see if an individual is a good fit before an offer is made. Characteristics we look for in the interview are a positive attitude due to the repeated examinations; no biases toward gender, race, religion, national origin, or physical characteristics; reliability and punctuality; someone who understands confidential matters; and someone who is comfortable with their own health and in dealing with health professionals. We are not looking for individuals who want to pursue their own agenda with doctors or the medical system.

I'm still interested. What do I do next?

Please download the SP pre-application form from the Medical Partnership website for further instructions. We hire at different times depending on the needs of the program. Even if we do not use you right away, we will keep your application on file for future needs. (www.medicalpartnership.usg.edu)

If you are interested in becoming a paid Standardized Patient please email MedPartnershipSP@uga.edu or call 706-713-2642.

General Requirements of Standardized Patients

- Attend Training Workshops.
- Attend additional training sessions as needed.
- Possess personal mode of transportation.
- Complete the required paper work.
- Understand encounters will be videotaped for medical student education purposes only.
- SPs are required to be reliable, flexible, follow direction(s) and recall information. Additionally, they must maintain confidentiality of cases and student information.



Clinical Skills Facilities

Russell Hall is equipped with the most current technology. All 15 Clinical Skills classrooms are designed to serve dual purposes: to teach clinical skills and to provide space for small group learning. Complementing the historic feel of the building, modern technology is infused into every classroom and common lounge area.

The building was also designed with the comfort of the SPs in mind. There is an SP break room with two private dressing rooms and kitchen amenities, as well as a small lounge area.

