

Incentives for Precepting

Most physicians and other health care professionals precept for the professional satisfaction. Many schools also offer their preceptors:

- Academic faculty appointments
- Access to information and library resources
- Recognition events/programs
- Access to continuing education

Continuing Medical Education Credit

- AAFP CME credit: Family physicians may report a maximum of 60 AAFP Prescribed credits for teaching health professions learners. Teaching is considered a live activity.
- AOA CME credit: Physicians serving as GME faculty, GME core faculty or preceptors in any AOA-approved osteopathic or ACGME-accredited medical education program may be granted Category 1-B credit. Physicians serving as preceptors for any COCA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine may also be granted Category 1-B credit. A maximum of 20% of the required CME credits per three-year AOA CME cycle may be earned for this activity.

American Board of Family Medicine Certification Credit

- Up to 50% (75 hours per certification cycle) of the CME required for certification can be earned by teaching medical students and/or other physicians.
- Family physicians can earn ABFM performance improvement credit (MOC IV) by teaching medical students and/or residents and participating in a teaching performance improvement activity sponsored by an academic unit. <https://stfm.org/abfmpitoolkit>

State Financial Incentives

- Georgia: Offers an income tax credit for physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, or physician assistants who provide uncompensated preceptorship training to medical students, advanced practice registered nurse students, or physician assistant students. Credit is accrued on a per preceptorship rotation basis. <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20192020/181322.pdf>.
- Colorado: Offers a \$1,000 income tax credit to uncompensated rural health care professionals who precept. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb16-1142>.
- Hawaii: Offers \$1,000 to physicians, advanced practice nurses, and pharmacists for each clinical training rotation, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. <https://legiscan.com/HI/text/SB2298/2018>
- Maryland: Offers a \$1,000 income tax credit for physicians and nurse practitioners who work in certain areas of the state with a health care workforce shortage and provide preceptorship without compensation, up to maximum \$10,000 per year. <https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Pages/taxcredit.aspx>
- Missouri: Offers a \$1,000 income tax credit to community-based faculty for precepting medical students or physician assistants. The maximum credit is \$3,000 per year. https://www.senate.mo.gov/22info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=71259836
- Ohio: Eligible FQHCs can earn up to an annual cap of \$50,000 for precepting students. ohiochc.org/opcwi
- South Carolina: Effective tax years 2020 through 2025, physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice nurse practitioners who serve as preceptors for two or more clinical rotations and whose practice is 30% or more Medicaid insured, Medicare insured, or self-pay patients, qualify for tax credits. The amount varies. <https://dor.sc.gov/resources-site/lawandpolicy/Advisory%20Opinions/RR20-2.pdf>

How Teaching Benefits Your Practice

As a physician, you know how important preceptors are to medical students. But you may not have given much thought to how precepting will benefit you and your practice. Here's a list of a few of the rewards you'll receive when you invite a medical student into your office.

- **Updated clinical knowledge:** Medical students ask a lot of questions. You'll find that you're learning along with your students as you update your knowledge about trends in medicine and new clinical practice guidelines.
- **Recruitment opportunities:** Developing good working relationships with students may pay off when it's time to add physicians to your practice team.
- **Better patient education:** Medical students are enthusiastic experts who can educate your patients about health conditions and treatment. This will free up you and your colleagues to spend more time on complex cases.
- **Reduced workload:** Share the work. Students can take patient histories, perform basic tests, give immunizations, and document visits in the EHR. They can also help with non-clinical tasks, such as filling out lab requests, coordinating referrals, updating problem lists, and making calls to patients.
- **Research support:** Most medical students are very tech-savvy and can quickly and efficiently research and download information on topics of interest to you. They can also perform EHR queries to use in patient outreach and performance improvement.
- **An energized practice environment:** Precepting is a rewarding experience that adds a new level of excitement to everyday patient care. Your students will be excited to perform tasks that may be mundane to you and your colleagues. You'll find that their enthusiasm for patient care is contagious.
- **Enhanced credentials:** Teaching requires its own set of skills. For example, you'll become adept at helping learners develop goals and expectations, and you'll learn what to say to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills. You'll also develop new strategies for providing constructive feedback, which will benefit your entire practice team.
- **Opportunities for staff:** Precepting gives everyone in your office an opportunity to teach. Students need practice management experience as well as clinical skills, so you'll want to make sure they spend time working with your scheduling, billing, and management staff.
- **Appreciation from your community:** Your patients will appreciate your efforts to ensure that the next generation of doctors is prepared to care for the families in your community. Many medical clerkships require students to complete a community health project. Encourage those you precept to work within your community to educate, increase awareness, and promote healthy behaviors.
- **A change of pace:** Many physicians begin precepting because they feel as though their days have become routine, and they want to add some variety. Precepting can help re-focus your energy and renew your excitement for patient care.¹
- **A chance to give back:** Precepting gives you the opportunity to give make a contribution to the next generation of doctors, just as a doctor once did for you.¹

1. Suzewits, J.: Balancing Act. Precepting: Help Yourself While Helping Students. <http://www.aafp.org/fpm/2002/0200/p68.html> (accessed March 16, 2021).