

HIV Counseling and Testing Program Participation Requirements 2023-2024

SOURCE

The Community Engagement and Service-Learning Center
Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine

SOURCE's HIV Counseling and Testing Program is open to currently enrolled JHU students in the Schools of Public Health, Nursing and M.D. candidates in years 1-4 from Medicine only. Students must be enrolled throughout the entire 2023-2024 academic school year.

If you are interested in becoming an HIV counselor for testing clinics in Baltimore, please review this full document thoroughly. If you are able to adhere to the requirements and expectations laid out in this document, you may then fill out the online application located [HERE](#).

The application deadline is Weds, October 04 by 11:59 PM ET

Note: In order to participate in the program, you must fully commit to completing the required online training modules between Fri., October 13 – Monday, October 30. No exceptions are permitted.

***If you are not available during this time frame, then you are not eligible for this program.**

Required commitment for the program is dependent on site selection.

- HLC requires a minimum of 1 shift a week.
- HLC requires shifts to be from 8am – 12pm and/or 1pm – 4pm.

Community-Based Organization (CBO) Site Placements

Please review the details about the CBOs that are participating in the HIV Counseling and Testing Program. You will have an opportunity to select which of these CBOs you would be willing and able to be placed with for your HIV Counselor commitment. Please note the typical volunteer shifts at each site, as well as the travel options. This is important, as not all sites are easily accessible if you do not have your own transportation. Additionally, please consider your current academic schedule and what time slots you would have available to serve at any of these CBOs. All sites understand that your schedules will change periodically. However, it is expected that you will continue to serve your clinic throughout the **entire** academic year. This means that as your academic schedule changes, you will still be expected to fit HIV Counseling into your schedule. The exact time slots need not remain the same from term to term. You will agree upon your schedule at the CBO with your site contact and designated student leader.

Harriet Lane Clinic

The Harriet Lane Clinic (HLC) is a primary care clinic serving patients from birth to 25 who come primarily from low-income neighborhoods and experience disproportionately high rates of unintended pregnancy and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The HLC is comprised of three units: the Center for Adolescent & Young Adult Health, the Pediatric Resident Clinic, and the Pediatric and Adolescent HIV/AIDS Program. This facility is a teaching setting for Johns Hopkins Department of Pediatrics, inclusive of: medical students, pediatric, internal medicine-pediatric, and internal medicine residents, adolescent medicine fellows, nursing, social work, psychology, and nutrition.

The HIV Testing Program is a part of the clinic's reproductive and sexual health program, which aims to reduce unintended pregnancy among patients while ensuring access for uninsured, underinsured, and/or patients needing confidential care; increase access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV; and reduce risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STI) acquisition. The goal of the clinic's HIV Testing Program is to increase universal and routine HIV testing among patients 13 and older, identify adolescents and young adults with undiagnosed HIV or at risk for HIV acquisition and link them to HIV treatment or PrEP services, and provide family planning and sexual and reproductive health counseling services.

Included in the HIV Testing Program is the VOISES (Virtual Online Integrated SEXual health Services) for Youth program (www.ourvoises.org) which employs virtual community outreach, telemedicine, and virtual coaching/navigation, to identify (diagnose), link and retain at-risk youth in treatment and prevention cascades. As a component of this program, youth are provided with at home HIV rapid testing and STI testing through www.iwantthekit.org. Peer navigators/coaches assist patients with home testing and provide pre/post-test counseling via telemedicine.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Volunteers will be co-located with clinic providers where they will monitor the schedule and ensure every patient who presents and needs a rapid HIV test gets one.
- Volunteers will also assist with the VOISES and PrEP programs and conduct virtual pre/post-test counseling, phone support, and other support related to at-home HIV/STI testing or clinical follow up.
- Volunteers will complete risk reduction, family planning education, PrEP education, and rapid HIV testing with all patients 13 and older and refer eligible patients to the PrEP team or the PAHAP team as needed.
- Volunteers will complete data collection, cleaning, and compiling as needed as part of the HIV testing program.
- Volunteer at least one community outreach event led by the VOISES and PrEP programs.

Location:

Rubenstein Building
200 N. Wolfe St 1st floor
Baltimore, MD 21205

The Harriet Lane Clinic is located on the East Baltimore Campus of Johns Hopkins University on Wolfe Street between Fayette and Orleans Streets. The clinic is located on the first floor of the Rubenstein Building.

Involvement:

In addition to Level 1 and OraQuick training, all volunteers will be required to complete HIPPA and CITI online trainings. All volunteers will also be required to complete an additional 2-hour training with the clinic's Health Educators before volunteering can begin. This additional training consists of: 1) a brief introduction to East Baltimore and the youth population served at the clinic, 2) integrating family planning, HIV risk reduction/PrEP, and sexual health counseling into standard risk reduction counseling, and 3) skills and techniques to effectively work with adolescents and young adults including understanding stages of adolescent cognitive development and counseling for behavior change including motivational interviewing and personalized cognitive counseling.

Volunteer opportunities are both in-clinic and virtual/phone follow up. In-clinic shifts are primarily available in the afternoons Monday through Friday. Clinic volunteers will help conduct risk reduction counseling and HIV testing during clinic hours. Virtual/phone follow-up volunteers will provide follow up to patients in the VOISES and PrEP programs and updating databases of the PrEP and VOISES programs to document follow up and services provided. Volunteers will work with staff to link patients to in-person clinical services (e.g., in-person testing, transportation, insurance, etc.). Please note that patients are seen in the afternoon, meaning volunteers working afternoon shifts will have opportunities for in-person HIV testing. Outreach events occur after hours and on the weekends and may be required during the duration of the volunteer experience.

Participants must be available to complete one shift per week.

In-Clinic Volunteer Shifts:

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm or 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Virtual/Phone follow-up Shifts:

Monday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Check out what past students have said about their experience:

“The work we do at Harriet Lane is extremely fulfilling every day. I feel like I am building important clinical skills.”

“I really enjoyed the opportunity to interact with patients, especially when we connected. I really felt that I had the opportunity to provide valuable resources to the patients in terms of information about sexual health, various methods of contraception, and making sure the physician was aware of the patients' health risks/concerns.”

“Absolutely the best thing I've done in medical school.”

“This was such a great experience to strengthen communication skills and to learn how to counsel people for harm reduction, in addition to learning how to test for HIV.”

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Harriet Lane Clinic

- Youth, primary care clinic
- Tests will be pre-identified or physician requested
- Mostly afternoon with some morning testing
- Focus on sexual health, risk reduction/PrEP counseling, HIV testing, and family planning
- Participants must be available to complete 1 shift per week

Student Volunteer Counselor Expectations

The following are expectations of all student volunteers in the HIV Testing and Counseling Program:

- Agree on and document, with the CBO, the expected deliverables and duties
- Serve a minimum of 1 shift per week at HLC (shifts are approximately 4 hours in length)
- Meet time and duty agreements made with the CBO and provide adequate notice of absence if needed
- Participate in orientation activities at designated CBO, which may include criminal background check, HIPAA information, reference checks, PPD tests, providing a resume, pertinent videos, drug testing, and attending an orientation session for the CBO (activities vary by site)
- Be prompt, willing, respectful and positive at their CBO
- Regularly report your service hours, including providing feedback, through SOURCE's reporting form on the Hopkins Engage platform (login with JHED ID; Set up Hopkins Engage profile including your photo; Reporting through private SOURCE HIV Counseling and Testing subgroup)
- Be open to learning about cultures and lifestyles different from their own
- Speak with site preceptor and student leader if uncomfortable or uncertain about responsibilities
- Speak with SOURCE staff and/or the student coordinators if displeased with service experience or need mediation
- Adhere to the CBO's rules and procedures, including the confidentiality of the clients served
- Know that they are not able to provide clinical care without the direct supervision of a faculty member from their Johns Hopkins University school (i.e. a medical student must be supervised by a JHU SOM faculty, students are unable to perform blood draws)
- Accept supervision and feedback that will enhance the learning experience

- Coordinate their own transportation to/from the CBO where they are assigned to complete HIV counseling and testing shifts
- Participate in quarterly service-learning reflection sessions with other volunteers, student leader, and site preceptor
- Comply with Maryland state laws/regulations regarding consent procedures, assisting with agency reporting as necessary, etc.
- Be open to providing information and referrals relating to reproductive health services including but not limited to: gender identity issues, same-sex sexual behaviors, abortion services, etc.
- Provide additional services at their designated CBO when not in a counseling session (i.e. administrative duties, health education, putting testing packets together, organizing outreach materials and giveaways, community outreach activities, etc.)
- Be patient at the start of the program, as there are a number of orientation activities to complete prior to being able to be involved as an HIV counselor
- Maintain regular communication with student leader at their site



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