COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND TEAMWORK THROUGH SIMULATION LEARNING

The Foundation Program introduces students to the Clinical Skills and Simulation Lab (CSSL) at WCM-Q to develop their interpersonal and cross-cultural communication as well as teamwork skills through reading journal articles and encounters with standardized patients. Students gain a better understanding of the critical role that simulation centers like CSSL play in helping students to develop and enhance their communication skills.

SHADOWING PHYSICIANS THROUGH THE CLINICAL OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM

Foundation and pre-medical students are given the opportunity to shadow physicians at WCM-Q’s affiliate hospitals. This optional program exposes students early in their educational journey to the healthcare system in Qatar and familiarizes them with the daily practices of medical professionals in various specialties. The program also aims to promote early career exploration and increase students’ awareness of the challenges physicians face daily. The program takes place during the students’ winter break. Upon completion of an observership, students submit a reflective essay and receive a certificate of participation.
PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY FORMATION THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The Experiential Learning component of the Foundation Program is a semester-long project designed to promote learning among students through introducing them to the medical profession in clinical settings. This component of the Foundation curriculum takes place during the Spring semester.

The project aims to provide future medical students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities for success. Furthermore, students gain an understanding and appreciation of healthcare professions in Qatar and begin constructing a professional identity early in their pre-medical education. Over the course of one semester, students visit a hospital regularly and observe physician-patient interactions, focusing on professionalism and communication dynamics. As a capstone, students engage in online readings and discussions, write post-visit reflections, and deliver a formal presentation to share their experiences. Students gain a real-life insight into the everyday challenges of being a healthcare practitioner and develop a humanistic approach towards establishing a compassionate and caring relationship with their community.