



SCRUBS Health Mentoring Program

Welcome! We are pleased you are considering a career in healthcare. **SCRUBS** is an acronym for: **S**tudents **C**an **R**eally **U**se **B**edside **S**kills. Our program was named in 2004 by the first group of students who joined the mentoring program at Roper St. Francis Healthcare. The program has won national awards and hundreds of students have worked alongside busy professionals within our facilities. Many are working in our facilities today. Read the information to know if the SCRUBS program is for you and to confirm that you have the time and commitment to fulfill the requirements. We welcome applicants who are kind, honest, honorable and with a genuine desire to comfort and heal the sick. The popular program is often operating at capacity. If we are unable to welcome you, we encourage you to explore opportunities with other lowcountry healthcare facilities.

The SCRUBS program is a one-on-one mentoring program designed to give students considering careers in healthcare (nursing, PA, NP, MD) an opportunity to gain first hand bedside experience inside a hospital to help you with your career decisions.

The SCRUBS program *is* a good way to learn if healthcare is the right career choice for you. It can establish your reputation as someone who is responsible, reliable and eager to learn. Completion of the SCRUBS program is a great thing to list on your college and university applications.

Coordinated through the Volunteer Offices students are in a shadowing/observation role. The SCRUBS programs is *not* and should not be considered a step in the door leading to employment at RSF or continuing healthcare experience for people already on established healthcare tracks. There is considerable time and expense in processing applicants. We ask you not to apply if you already have or are getting hospital experience at another healthcare facility.

A level of maturity is required for direct patient bedside experience. While parents may want general information about the program, students hoping to be considered for acceptance should review this handout and request their interview appointment.

Requirements & Application Process:

Pre-med students are welcome to apply. The minimum age is 16. After careful review of this material, contact us to request an “**interview for the SCRUBS Mentoring program**” at the facility you are applying to. In your email, let us know you have reviewed the information, your anticipated career track and a few times you are available to interview. There is no need to complete application paperwork until you have been interviewed and accepted.

Downtown Location: Roper Hospital, 316 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401
Contact: Lynne Steele - Lynne.Steele@rsfh.com or 843-724-2080

West Ashley location: Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital, 2095 Henry Tecklenburg Dr., Charleston, SC 29414
Contact: Joan Perry - joan.perry@rsfh.com or 843-402-1156

Program Information:

Orientation: The Volunteer Coordinator will guide you through your hospital orientation process including hospital safety, infection control information, patient privacy laws, criminal background check, parking, health screening, hospital tour, ID Badge and scheduling.

Health Screening: For the safety of our patients you will be screened by our Employee Health Office. You will be asked to bring a record of your childhood immunizations. If you have a record of any TB skin test done in the last year bring it. During flu season flu shots are mandatory. Start a file and keep these health records.

How does it work?: Once you have completed the orientation processing, your TB tests have been read and your background check completed, you will follow up with the Dream Pool coordinators to manage your schedule. Keep these numbers to call when you are ready:

Roper Dream Pool: 724-2272

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital: 402-1913 or 1414

- **Schedule:** Schedule 3 - 4 hour shifts. Shifts can be flexible but must be served during weekday business office hours so your coordinator can personally connect you with your mentor. Do not stay in the hospital after your mentored shift in an unofficial capacity; go to other departments or RSFH facilities. Notify your mentor if you are leaving the unit.
- **Hours:** Record your hours in the Volunteer Office each time. Earn a "Certificate of Completion" by completing 40 hours. Let your Volunteer Coordinator know and we will prepare a certificate for you.
- You have an opportunity to make a good impression on professionals who may influence your future career. Be responsible. Notify the Dream Pool coordinator if you are unable to come as scheduled. Don't come to the hospital if you are sick or infectious.
- **Length of program:** Complete your 40 hours within a 3 - 4 month period. This allows you flexibility to work around school and work. If unforeseen circumstances make it impossible for you to complete your hours within 4 months contact both your Dream Pool Coordinator and the Volunteer Coordinator. We will work with you. If you are inactive for a month without notice we will deactivate you and release the spot to the next applicant. Let us know if you are not planning to continue in the SCRUBS program. Proper closure is required if you plan to use the hospital as a reference.
- **Dress:** Dress neatly and professionally. Keep your nails trim and clean. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly as instructed in orientation and do not go in Isolation Precaution rooms. Tie back long hair. You will be provided with a blue scrub top which should be freshly laundered each time. Match it with your own blue or black scrub pants or wear khaki or black pants. Do not wear jeans, denim, leggings or shorts.
- **Experience:** You will get a variety of experiences with different staff members. Ask questions. Learn as much as you can. If there is something you are particularly interested in and don't get to see, talk to your volunteer coordinator. Learn first hand how a patient care unit functions and ask questions about all the roles you see including the Unit Clerk. Most of your shadowing experiences will be with Patient Care Technicians so you can observe hands-on patient care. We can often arrange additional one-day shadowing experiences in other areas: e.g. Imaging, Rehab, OR. Note: MDs are not generally hospital based and MD shadowing is not a regular part of the SCRUBS program.
- You will be given a checklist to get completed. Ask your mentors to check off things you have observed or learned and return it to the Dream Pool coordinator for your file.
- RSFH healthcare is not primarily a teaching hospital. Staff members you are shadowing are taking time from their busy shifts to help you along your career path. Thank them.
- Life changes, time is precious. Healthcare may not be for you. Career exploration means learning the positive as well as the negative. You may discover another career of interest.
- **What if you pass out?** You will learn a lot and have a chance to observe medical procedures. You shouldn't pass out if you remember to eat and get a good night's sleep before you report for duty. If you feel lightheaded - sit down immediately, lower your head, let your mentor know and take slow deep breaths.
- **Note:** RSF will not be responsible for any injuries to students which are not directly the result of RSF negligence. Please be advised that, in the past, students have fainted while watching medical procedures. Students will participate in the program at their own risk. Any injuries or medical bills will be borne by the student and/or the student's guardian.

Good luck!

- For security purposes turn in your ID badge before you leave. Let your coordinator know it is your last day.
- Finished your hours but still want to continue? We love it here too. Volunteer service requires a more structured regular commitment of a 3 - 4 hour regular shift a week. If there is a department you have enjoyed working with and feel you can be of help, talk to the Volunteer Coordinator about transferring to service volunteering.

We want to know as you progress in your healthcare career! Let us know as you get accepted in your programs. Stay in touch. If you apply for any position at Roper St. Francis Healthcare in the future, include the fact that you participated in the SCRUBS program.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the facility of interest to request an interview.

I have read and understand the guidelines of the SCRUBS Mentoring Program:

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian of Minor: _____ Date: _____