

Please Investigate the University of Washington for Race-Based Discrimination in Violation of Title VI

Mark Perry

June 4, 2023 at 10:58 AM

to ocr.seattle

Dear Seattle OCR:

This is a federal civil rights complaint against the University of Washington's Department of Medicine (University) for illegal racial discrimination in violation of Title VI. Specifically, the University operates two racially discriminatory programs that restrict eligibility based on race, color, and national origin. Details of those two programs are provided below.

1. The [Visiting Scholars Program](#) (Program 1) is described by the University as “a funded program designed to give students with **diverse backgrounds** a chance to experience the training that the University of Washington Department of Medicine has to offer.”

Eligibility for Program 1 is restricted to “applicants who demonstrate academic excellence and belong to groups that are recognized as historically underrepresented in the health and science professions including **Black/African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, and Pacific Islander**.” Please note that those five racial/ethnic groups are the groups typically recognized by medical schools and medical school organizations like the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as being the racial/ethnic groups that are considered to be Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) and given special preferences.

In violation of Title VI, medical students who are not URiM (e.g., whites, Asians, and Middle Eastern/North Africans) are excluded from the Program and discriminated against on the basis of their race, color, or national origin.

2. The [Visiting Resident Scholars Program](#) (Program 2) is described by the University as “a funded program designed to give Internal Medicine Residents with **a diverse background** a chance to experience the training that the University of Washington Department of Medicine has to offer.”

Eligibility for Program 2 is restricted to “applicants who demonstrate academic excellence and belong to groups that are recognized as historically underrepresented in the health and science professions including **Black/African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, and Pacific Islander**.” Please note that those five racial/ethnic groups are the groups typically recognized by medical schools and medical school organizations like the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as being the racial/ethnic groups that are considered to be Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) and given special preferences.

In violation of Title VI, the University operates the two racially discriminatory programs above that illegally exclude and discriminate against non-URiM students (whites, Asians, and MENAs) based on their race, color, or national origin. Please investigate the University for two violations of Title VI's prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

Mark J. Perry
Senior Fellow, Do No Harm

1. Visiting Scholars Program

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to applicants who demonstrate academic excellence and belong to groups that are recognized as historically underrepresented in the health and science professions including Black/African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, and Pacific Islander. Applicants should be strongly motivated to pursue a career in internal medicine or any of its subspecialties.

The program is limited to students currently enrolled in a U.S medical school.

2. Visiting Resident Scholars Program

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to applicants who demonstrate academic excellence and belong to groups that are recognized as historically underrepresented in the health and science professions including Black/African American, American Indian/Native American, Hispanic/LatinX and Alaska Native/Pacific Islander.

Applicants should be strongly motivated to pursue a career in a subspecialty of internal medicine.

Home applicant institutions must be willing to cover the VRSP applicant's salary stipend during the visiting rotation at the UW.

The program is limited to residents currently enrolled in a U.S residency program.