



MCEP Residency Spotlight: Trinity Health Muskegon

www.mcep.org

Quick Facts

Location

Muskegon, MI

Length

4 years

Training Site

Community

ED Type

Level II Trauma
Center

Shift Length

10 hours

Shifts per Month

16-18 shifts

Elective Weeks

16 weeks

Critical Care

16 weeks

Moonlighting

Yes

Ask the Program Director: Ryan Offman, D.O.

What Distinguishes Your EM Program from Others?

Trinity Health Muskegon is an unopposed program with exposure to both community and urban trauma centers. Our residents receive a high-volume of critical care training while in the ED and are responsible for all reductions, sedations, lines, tubes, arthrocenteses, paracenteses and other high acuity procedures while on shift. As the only hospital in the county, we receive all high-acuity patients. We feel our clinical learning environment provides a unique experience that will allow residents to be confident in their skill set and ready for anything, no matter what level of back up they may have in the future.

How Do 3-Year vs. 4-Year EM Residencies Differ in Benefits?

We feel that the 4 years gives you time to develop interests adjacent to clinical medicine. Believe it or not you may want to find fulfillment in other avenues such as administration, education, Ultrasound, and EMS. Four years gives you extra time to explore it, all while learning to command a room, fine-tune practice with moonlighting experience, develop comfort with high acuity, low occurrence situations, and take time out for wellness events with family and your co-residents. Additionally, the extra year of training provides an advantage in obtaining the job that you want in the end.

Are There Lesser-Known Aspects of Your Program That You Could Share?

While we are affiliated with Michigan State University, we are a community program. This partnership provides us with both the resources and name recognition associated with a world class research institution with 2 medical schools. We also have 5 robust tracks that have become highly popular with our residents. These tracks are: EMS, Ultrasound, Medical Education and Leadership, Global Health, and Critical Care. Each track offers unique experiences (as well as preparation for fellowship opportunities). Whether it is responding to a high priority EMS call in the resident response vehicle, becoming proficient in ultrasound guided nerve blocks, traveling to Peru on a global health trip with the MSU Institute for Global Health, producing a research study for publication in a well-known EM journal, or taking your critical care skills to the next level, our tracks provide training and experience not found in your typical "community" residency.

What Is Your Approach to USMLE/COMLEX Step 1 Scores and the Pass/Fail Change?

In addition, to a holistic evaluation including extracurricular activities, SLOEs, and personal interest, we now weigh at Step 2 scores a bit more heavily. We also examine the applicants medical school rank should their school provide that.

Can You Detail the Research Opportunities Within Your Program?

While we value research and scholarly activity, as a community residency program, our primary focus is on strong clinical performance. Through our affiliations with MSU COM and MSU CHM, we have a very robust research curriculum which has produced several publications in high level journals over the past few years (Journal of Emergency Medicine, Academic Emergency Medicine, Journal of ACEP, Western Journal of Emergency Medicine, and American Journal of Emergency Medicine to name a few). In fact, one of our recent studies was featured on the Skeptics Guide to Emergency Medicine, EM:RAP, EM Abstracts, and Journal Feed.

What Qualities Do You Look for in Residency Applicants?

We like applicants who are personable and seem to truly care about providing quality medicine to their patients. We like to see applicants with a commitment to EM. Applications should include something that tells us you have an interest in the type of program and environment that we provide. Interview season is very busy and all programs like to fill their interview spots with people who would truly be a match into their culture.

What Makes an Applicant Stand Out in Your Residency Selection Process?

Honestly, it is the simple stuff. You can look at an application and see if it is well thought out with attention to details -- All of the documents are uploaded, there are no grammatical or spelling errors, and interest in the program always helps. The personal statement is important to us. This is our chance to get to know you. You do not necessarily have to tell us about emergency medicine, we know what that is all about. Rather, we want to know what makes you who you are, what kind of resident will you be, what makes you happy, etc. We are looking to spend four years with you and we want to know you'll be happy with us.

What is the Structure of Mentorship Within Your EM Program?

We have "residency families" consisting of one faculty member and a resident from each PGY level. They regularly meet socially and this gives a chance for lower-level residents to gain support from faculty and upper-level residents, while also giving them an opportunity to learn how to mentor others. Our faculty is also very tight-knit with a diverse background which provides further opportunities for more individualized mentoring depending on each resident's needs.

How Does Your EM Program Support Resident Wellness?

Of course, we do things like retreats, conferences, team building, and social outings. We also find fun ways to change up didactics from time to time with US competitions, EMS exercises in the wilderness or out on the water. We have an annual boat day to welcome new interns to the beauty that West Michigan has to offer. However, most importantly, we have a wonderful, supportive culture among our residents and faculty. We recognize this job is not always easy. Understanding what you do and how you do it matters. We have created a culture of support and accountability to help you realize your potential and give a sense of meaning to your chosen vocation.

What Community Engagement Opportunities Do Residents Have?

We send residents to local schools for a dissection lab where the students learn about the circulatory system and ask questions about being a doctor. Our Women's group has orchestrated a hygiene drive for products to be donated to the women's shelter. Also, our Global Health Residents work with the immigrant clinics in Grand Rapids. Each year, we work with first responders to provide high-level, multisystem simulations which include EMS, Fire, Police, and Coast Guard.

How Do You Prepare Residents for Leadership Roles in EM?

I feel like this is one of our strong suits. As mentioned earlier, we actually have a Medical Education and Leadership Track (MELT). This track was developed by the ED Medical Director and EM Residency Director and also includes the Chief Medical Officer as key faculty. The MELT curriculum provides education in concepts similar to the ACEP Director's Course, as well as opportunities in clinical education, residency administration, and curriculum development. Our EMS track also allows the resident to work alongside the EMS medical director. Our US track residents work with our US director to learn administrative duties. And, our Global Health track residents lead and supervise medical students at attending level while on Global Health trips in locations such as Nepal, Peru, and the Dominican Republic.

For more information on the McLaren Oakland Residency, please go to
<https://www.westmichiganem.com/>
<https://www.trinityhealthmichigan.org/graduate-medical-education/muskegon/programs/emergency-medicine/curriculum>

Program Information provided via the EMRA Match tool

<https://webapps.acep.org/match#/>

**Thank you Dr. Ryan Offman for taking the time to complete our
MCEP Spotlight Interview!**