FAQs (Basic Sciences)

Is funding available for a project?

A variety of summer research opportunities offer funding on a competitive basis. There are a number of programs that will support you in this endeavor such as the Research Track and the Cancer Center summer fellowships (see MSA web site for more info). In addition, Mentors with research funds may also be able to support your project.

Do I need to obtain approval for projects involving animals or biohazards?

Yes. The best person to consult about these issues is your mentor, who will tell you what is required and will provide on the job training. Most laboratory work requires Biosafety and the Hazardous Chemical Materials and Waste Management Training. You should especially be aware of any project involving animals also requires approval from IACUC. In many cases, your mentor will already have approval for these animal studies.

Do projects require that I have experience in a lab?

It helps if you do but you can get experience from other students (graduate, MSTP), postdoctoral fellows, PRAs (Professional Research Assistants who provide technical expertise) and others in the lab.

Can I work on a project that I started before medical school?

Yes, but you cannot use the work you did before medical school for your MSA. You must have done work on the project during your tenure in medical school.

When is the best time to do the project?

Frequently, students work on the project during the first summer and some in the second year. Some students continue to work on the project in the fourth year by signing up for two 4 week research clerkships (IDPT8090-8091).

Do I need the project to work successfully?

No. Some scientific projects do not work in that the results are not publishable. It is important that you know the significance of your efforts and document your efforts.

What about publications?

In many cases, students work with a team of others in the lab to complete the project. For example, if you team up with a MSTP student and work on their project, you will be a co-author on their publication as a second or third author. You do **not** need a publication to complete your MSA.