

A Student's Purpose

Medical assistant, Physician Assistant, phlebotomist, Clinical Research Coordinator... all of these are titles that a patient at Arlington Dermatology can hear within the first ten minutes of their visit. Each one has a specific function to bring you the best care at our practice. But occasionally a patient may hear a student being introduced as well. What could a student possibly do for the patient? Probably nothing immediately, but the answer is a little more complex than that.

When a student walks into the room with a provider they are gaining skills that are not found in the classroom. It seems like second nature to most but something as simple as introducing themselves or washing their hands before touching a patient are things that many would often forget to do. Next, the student gets to observe taking a patient's history, assessing the medical issue, and creating a plan for anything that may have come up during the visit. This student to patient interaction may seem one-sided, but that is far from the truth. These students will go on to care for other people during their professional careers, and may even end up caring for people locally, some even at Arlington Dermatology. What are the chances you may ask? Well I am a living proof of this full circle cycle. I am both a student and employee at Arlington Dermatology and I can say that after observing the providers at our office I have been able to emulate their clinical skills, and provide the same level of outstanding care that I saw to our current patients and other patients I see outside our office.

I wear two hats at Arlington Dermatology being both, a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine – Rockford, and a Clinical Research Coordinator. My school is not the only one welcomed at Arlington Dermatology, however. Students from Midwestern University, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, Rush Medical College, and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine have all been



alongside me while I worked and learned at Arlington Dermatology. Each one of these students have learned something and taken it forward with them in their career. Although hearing that a student is in the room can be a little disconcerting, we want you to know that your best interests are at heart. The student, the provider, and anyone else in the room from our office will bring you the best care possible.

Arlington Dermatology is a dynamic workplace. There is a hustle and bustle that is found at few other offices. Students add to this, especially when observing others working. I hope this article cleared up some of the confusion about a student's purpose at our office. Even though I may be an exception to the rule being both an employee and student here, our patients may encounter other students who have walked these halls and I know they provide the same excellent level of care that I see every day at our office.

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