Research

At the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, research is threaded through all four years of study. The school dedicates more than 1,200 hours of its curriculum to research—and it shows. In just the past two years, dozens of Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine students have presented at national and international conferences and been published in prestigious scientific journals.

Before graduation, each student is required to complete a hypothesis-driven research project and write a paper of publishable quality. Students are provided with the essential tools and talented mentors needed to complete their projects, and they take inspiration from the leading physician–scientists who visit the school to discuss state-of-the-art research.

The first year focuses on research instruction to ensure students have the tools they need to complete their projects. Once students identify an area or mentor of interest, they begin discussions with faculty members about the nature and scope of the proposed project.

Student select their projects between their first and second years. A seven-week block of unscheduled time is built into the schedule to allow them to begin their research. Between years two and three, students are able to use portions of a 14-week block to do the bulk of their experiments and data collection. Data analysis is completed by the beginning of the fourth year so students can commit enough time to the writing of a manuscript of publishable quality.