

MEMBERSHIP

MSSI Membership FAQs

What does being a member of Medical Students for Size Inclusivity (MSSI) entail?

We are an interscholastic team of medical students, working to raise awareness about weight bias in the medical field, with a focus at change at the medical school level. Broadly, we have several committees, each focused on a particular aspect of our work. They include: research, social media, curriculum, and advocacy. We encourage you to check out our [website](#) for more information regarding specific initiatives. As an organization, we are always growing, so there is also a lot of flexibility for members to explore their own interests and create new avenues within MSSI to expand its impact.

What type of work are you doing? What types of things could I get involved in?

Some of our past projects include:

- [Monthly Newsletter](#)
- [GLP1 Informed Consent Resource](#)
- [Bariatric Surgery Informed Consent Resource](#)
- [Weight Centric vs Weight Inclusive Healthcare Chart](#)

In addition, students are involved in an ongoing literature review synthesizing new research and data that have been published since the 2011 article [Weight Science: Evaluating the Evidence for a Paradigm Shift](#). We host speaker events and create educational content for current medical students and teaching faculty, to learn about weight bias in medicine. We also create resources and support our own members as they advocate for this work at their respective medical schools.

We have an active presence on social media (Instagram, FB, X) to raise awareness about our cause and to connect with others who may be interested. We are actively connecting with professionals within the field to learn and assess other community needs.

In the future, we hope to expand our capacity to advocate for patients currently impacted by weight bias in healthcare. This could include fundraising for size-inclusive medical equipment and furniture, participating in policy reform, reaching out to PCP offices on behalf of patients looking for size-inclusive physicians, and highlighting patients' experiences.

How much time will I have to commit?

It depends! We recognize that we are all medical students first, and all have the responsibilities and commitments related to that role. With that, we are very flexible with time commitment, and

do not have minimal requirements. We want anyone who would like to be involved to have the opportunity to! All we ask is that all members are honest and forward about their availability, so that the team can plan projects and accommodate accordingly.

We have several different options for our members, depending on their interest and availability:

General Member: No assigned committee. Volunteers to assist with tasks / projects within MSSSI based on personal interest and availability. Receives notification of all MSSSI events and initiatives, and committee requests for volunteers.

Committee Lead: Participates on a committee and has specific tasks/roles within the team. Attends committee meetings. Assists with large-scale MSSSI events. Provides input about future directions of the committee.

Director/Leadership: Determines direction of their committee and plans initiatives for their team. Oversees the work of chairs and assists as needed. Attends committee meetings and MSSSI leadership meetings. Participates in determining future directions for MSSSI. Attends AWSIM Board meetings and Advisory Council meetings as needed.

What is the difference between MSSSI and AWSIM (Association for Weight and Size Inclusive Medicine)?

MSSSI serves as the medical student “arm” of AWSIM. This allows students to have their own leadership structure, community for collaboration, and the ability to launch med school specific initiatives, such as research projects and med ed curriculum reform. All members of MSSSI are automatically added as members of AWSIM and can access the same content as MD/DO members of AWSIM.

The member registration form is now the same for both!

To become a member of MSSSI, simply select “MD/DO Student” under membership class, and check “Yes” to the question about joining MSSSI.

Do I need to have prior knowledge or experience about weight-inclusive healthcare?

Not at all! We at MSSSI are willing and eager to work with anyone who is willing to learn! Even those without much experience can contribute greatly to our work - for example, we are always looking for individuals to help review research articles and pull out relevant data. We also welcome students with interests in graphic design and/or multimedia content creation.

Can I start a chapter at my medical school?

Yes, we are happy to work with students to expand this work to new medical schools! MSSSI provides support and resources to members of our group who already lead mission aligned clubs/organizations, and can help students to start a chapter of MSSSI at their school. Becoming a part of MSSSI is a great way for leaders to connect with other student leaders who may be engaging in similar work at their schools, and exchange ideas and support. Read more [here](#).

I am already part of another group that is involved in this work - can I still join?

Absolutely! We love to find ways to collaborate, and/or bring members to our team that have done similar work in other spaces.

I am a practicing physician or other professional, can I still be a member of MSSSI?

Yes! Please see the [Professionals interest form](#) on our Professionals page.

I don't want to become a member, but I would like to be informed of upcoming events.

Signing up for our periodic [Newsletter](#) is a great way to stay informed of MSSSI's progress and future events!

My question was not answered. Apologies! Fill out our [contact form](#) or email us at sizeinclusivemedicine@gmail.com