

University of Connecticut School of Medicine:

Accreditation:

Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges

Curriculum Description:

Phase 1 (years 1 and 2)

Human Systems: The Human Systems course runs for 38 weeks. The content is sequenced to begin with the basic biochemistry and molecular biology of the cell, and progresses to a presentation of the gross anatomy, histology, biochemistry, and physiology of tissues and organs.

Correlated Medical Problem Solving (CMPS): The CMPS course runs for 38 weeks in year 1 and 38 weeks in year 2. The sole instructional format is problem-based learning. Cases used in this course serve to expand upon and integrate basic science concepts introduced in the Human Systems, Human Development and Health, and Mechanisms of Disease courses.

Clinical Medicine Course (CMC): CMC is a comprehensive course extending throughout phases 1 and 2, which is devoted to student mastery of the fundamental skills, attitudes, and knowledge needed to practice clinical medicine. The course has the following two components:

Student Continuity Practice (SCP): SCP is a longitudinal experience which begins in the fall of the first year and continues through year 3 (optional as elective in year 4). Students spend one half-day per week in an ambulatory clinical site, under the supervision of a physician preceptor.

Principles of Clinical Medicine (PCM): PCM is devoted to medical history-taking skills, physical examination, and professional development. The course is run in a seminar format one half-day per week throughout phase 1.

Human Development and Health: The Human Development and Health course begins the second academic year, and runs for 8 weeks. It comprises a multidisciplinary survey of psychological and social development from conception to death; and investigation of the behavioral and social determinants of health and illness; an introduction to principles of medical law and ethics; an overview of health care services across the life span; and an introduction to clinical epidemiology as it applies to medical practice.

Mechanisms of Disease: The Mechanisms of Disease course runs for 30 weeks in year 2. It focuses on the pathophysiology and pathology of the organ systems, the epidemiology of specific diseases, and relevant therapy.

Elective-I: Electives run throughout phase 1, and are designed to expand upon the core curriculum. Students must complete 12 hours of elective credit during phase 1.

Phase 2 (year 3)

During phase 2 (year 3), there are two courses - Multidisciplinary Ambulatory Experience (MAX) and Inpatient. MAX is divided into two 16-week components - MAX-1 and MAX-2. These three 16-week components can be taken in any order. Students may earn "honors" in major clinical disciplines during phase 2.

MAX-1: There are two six-week experiences: Internal Medicine and Pediatrics; and one-week experiences in Orthopedics and ENT. During these experiences the students have a half-day/week ambulatory Psychiatry clinic.

MAX-2: There are two six-week experiences: Family Medicine and OB/GYN; and a three-week experience in ambulatory General Surgery.

Inpatient Experience: The inpatient block is 16 weeks in duration, and consists of rotations in Medicine (4 weeks), Surgery (4 weeks), Psychiatry (4 weeks), Pediatrics (2 weeks), and an experience called Beginning-to-End (2 weeks). In the Beginning-to-End experience, students follow patients from admission in the Emergency Department through discharge, regardless to which service the patient is admitted.

Home Week: During MAX-1 and MAX-2 the students have three Home Week sessions, where all students return to the medical school. Evaluations are an essential activity during Home Week. In addition, each Home Week is oriented around a cross-disciplinary theme.

Phase 3 (year 4)

Advanced Clinical Experiences (ACE): This course is 3 months in duration, and provides students with an intensive inpatient experience, and exposure to issues related to critical and emergency/urgent care. It is divided into three sections (each 1 month in duration), which can be scheduled at any time during phase 3.

Advanced Inpatient Experience: Students can choose between Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, or Family Medicine.

Emergency/Urgent Care Experience: Students rotate through an urgent/emergency setting.

Critical Care Experience: Students can choose between Medical Intensive Care Unit, Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Care Unit, or Pediatric/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Students may earn "honors" in each section of this course.

Selectives: The Selectives course is 2 months in duration (block or longitudinal) and can be scheduled at any time during phase 3. Students develop and carry out an independent project in one of the following areas; research, community health, or education.

Electives-II: Students have 5 months of elective time in phase 3, with each elective being 1 month in duration (students may use 1 month for vacation/residency interviews). Electives can be scheduled at anytime during phase 3.

Community Service Requirement: Students must complete a minimum of 15 hours of community service prior to the spring of year 4; students participate in a range of established community service programs and/or design their own independent service activity.

Clinical Skills Assessment: Students must pass a clinical skills assessment in year four using standardized patients representing each of the major clinical disciplines.

Grading Policy:

Phase 1 (Years 1 and 2): Courses, with the exception of phase 1 electives, are graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. Phase 1 electives are graded on a pass/fail basis and only those electives passed by the student are reflected on the transcript. Credits are assigned only to Phase 1 electives.

Phase 2 (Year 3): Courses are graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. To receive a satisfactory grade, students must pass each individual experience. Students may receive Honors recognition from departments during phase 2. Honors is designated by a notation at the end of the Spring semester of the third year. Honors may be received in the following disciplines: Family Medicine, Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry or Surgery.

Phase 3 (Year 4): Courses are graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. To receive a grade of S in Advanced Clinical Experience (ACE), students must pass each individual component. The selected area for a student's Advanced Inpatient Experience (AIE) is noted beneath the course listing for ACE. Components of the course not yet taken by the student at the time of transcript preparation are so noted. Honors may be received in each component of ACE, and honors earned at the time of transcript preparation are noted. Honors designations are not awarded for the other courses in year 4.

Grading Key:

I Incomplete
IP Course in progress, may span full year - grade to be posted at year end
NR No grade reported
P Pass
S Satisfactory
U Unsatisfactory
W Withdrawn
WD Withdrawn

Neither grade point average or class rank are used in this grading system.

Combined Degree Programs:

MD/Ph.D.: For students jointly pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy degree, phase 1 elective requirement and phase 3 selective requirements are waived. Students are required to do at least 3 months of electives during phase 3.

MD/MPH: For students jointly pursuing the Master of Public Health degree, phase 1 elective requirement and phase 3 selective requirements are waived.

MD/MBA: For student jointly pursuing the Master of Business Administration degree, the phase 1 elective requirement and phase 3 selective requirement are waived.

MD/OMFS: Students in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Program are admitted with advanced standing and special status into the first year of Medical School. This insures their eligibility to sit for the USMLE Step 1 exam. Phase 1 of the School of Medicine curriculum is primarily satisfied through curriculum previously completed in dental school. During phase 1 students take only Principles of Clinical Medicine in year 2. Students begin full-time study in the School of Medicine during phase 2. The phase 3 selective requirement and community service requirement are waived. Students take a minimum of 4 months of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, 2 months of Anesthesiology, and 1 month of Head and Neck Anatomy Research. Rev11/2007