

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 (HDH) courses (HDH1 and HDH2) provide a multidisciplinary survey of psychological and social development from conception to death; an investigation of the behavioral and social determinants of health and illness; an introduction to principles of health law and ethics; an overview of the health care system and services across the life span; and an introduction to clinical epidemiology as it applies to medical practice. HDH1 presents introductory material in year 1 and HDH2 continues with more advanced material in year two. HDH 1 runs concurrently with Human Systems in year one for 4 weeks. HDH 2 is a 5 week course in year 2.

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)

Clerkships: There are nine clerkships—Ambulatory Medicine (5 weeks); Inpatient Medicine (6 weeks); Ambulatory Pediatrics (5 weeks); Inpatient Pediatrics (3 weeks); Ambulatory & Inpatient Psychiatry (6 weeks); Ambulatory & Inpatient Surgery (6 weeks); Ambulatory & Inpatient Obstetrics/Gynecology (6 weeks); Family Medicine (6 weeks); Neurology (3 weeks). These rotations can be taken in any order. Students may earn “honors” in the 6 major clinical disciplines during phase 2, with the exception of Neurology.

Home Week: Students have one Home Week, where all students return to the medical school. These sessions include important topics for their education, i.e. palliative care, giving bad news, and controversies in genetics.

Elective: Students have an option of completing a 2 week elective in Phase 2.

Phase 3 (year 4)

Advanced Inpatient Experience (Sub-internship): Students can choose between Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, or Family Medicine.(4 weeks)

Emergency Medicine: Students rotate through an emergency room. (4 weeks)

Critical Care: Students can choose between Medical Intensive Care Unit, Surgical Intensive Care Unit, or Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.(4 weeks)

Radiology: Students are taught how to best utilize radiology in clinical care and review the use of the various modalities in patient care (2 weeks)

Students may earn “honors” in each of the above clerkships.

Selectives: The Selectives course is 8 weeks 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 are required to complete 18 weeks of electives between phases 2 and 3, with each elective being 2 or 4 weeks in duration. Electives can be scheduled anytime during phase 3. Students are allowed to receive 1 elective credit for a longitudinal experience in the fourth year.

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 with complaints or diagnoses which represent each of the major clinical disciplines.

Grading Policy:

Phase 1 (Years 1 and 2): Courses are graded on a Pass/ Fail basis. In the event that a student must complete additional work for a course, a Conditional grade is assigned, which becomes a Conditional Pass upon completion. Credits are assigned only to Phase 1 electives.

Phase 2 (Year 3): Courses are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. 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 Pass/ Fail basis. The selected area for a student's Advanced Inpatient Experience (AIE) is noted beneath the course listing. Components of the course not yet taken by the student at the time of transcript preparation are so noted. Honors may be received in Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Advanced Inpatient Experience, and Radiology, 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:

AU	Audit
C	Conditional (additional course work required)
CP	Conditional Pass (additional course work completed)
E	Exempt
F	Fail
FP	Successful Pass after Remediation
H	Honors
I	Incomplete
IP	Course in progress
NR	No grade reported
P	Pass
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory
WC	Withdrawn with concern
WF	Withdrawn while failing
WP	Withdrawn while passing

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, the phase 1 elective requirement and the phase 3 selective requirements are waived. Students are only required to do at least 14 weeks of electives during phases 2 and 3.

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

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