

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:

The curriculum is divided into three stages; Stage 1: Exploration; Stage 2: Clinical Immersion; and Stage 3: Transformation and Entrustment.

Exploration Stage 1 (first 18 months of curriculum). During Stage 1, each course is offered sequentially in each of the five 10-week blocks and designated by the letters A, B, C, D, and E.

Each 10-week block of Stage 1 is composed of the following courses, which are evaluated in an integrated exam at the end of the block:

CoRE (Case Oriented Essentials): Team Based Learning is the key pedagogy in this offering. Each block of CoRE progresses the student toward greater independence and enhanced clinical reasoning skills with deep exploration of the basic sciences and developing foundational knowledge in biopsychosocial science through the presentation of virtual patients and families.

Fabric of Anatomy & Biology Lab: The laboratory experience includes Gross Anatomy, Virtual Anatomy, Histopathology, and early exposure to Radiology and Ultrasound in both the Human Anatomy Lab (HAL) and Virtual Anatomy Lab (VAL). The goal of the Laboratory program is to provide students with fundamental knowledge of the anatomy and microanatomy of the entire human body. This knowledge will inform physical examination and clinical reasoning skills. Students learn to correlate state-of-the-art medical images with anatomy and to recognize pathological changes associated with anatomy. Laboratory experiences include physiology experiments.

DoCC (Delivery of Clinical Care)/Clinical Home: Students learn the necessary skills to interact with and examine patients, and are provided feedback to promote growth as a professional. The course is integrated with the other courses in Stage 1. Students learn and are assessed in the Clinical Skills Center in exercises with patient instructors. The ***DoCC Course*** grade includes the ***Clinical Home*** component in blocks B, C, D only. During Clinical Home students are connected to one of our four major teaching hospital systems. They are introduced to the hospital system and the care continuum. Activities occur at the hospital or other site i.e. homecare visit. Students develop a deep understanding of the health care system including the role of professionals on the healthcare team, health care economics, social determinants of health and the continuum of care.

CLIC (Clinical Longitudinal Immersion in the Community): Students are paired with a physician in an outpatient practice, allowing the student to interact with actual patients with a focus on primary care. Within a month of starting medical school, students begin practicing the skills that they learn in DoCC in the authentic office environment. This experience lasts for at least the first three years (may be continued during fourth year on an elective basis), allowing for significant personal and professional growth. In the final 6 months of the third year, students may elect to spend time in a subspecialty site.

VITALS (Vertically Integrated Teams Aligned in Learning and Scholarship): Longitudinal teams of students from across the four years join dental students to learn together and teach each other critical, timely material across the spectrum. The content includes such topics as bioethics in the news, emerging diseases, health care policy and social determinants of health. These sessions support students' future roles as scholarly physicians, life-long teachers and learners.

Discovery and Scholarship: Students receive instruction in Responsible Conduct of Research and core knowledge and skills for research and scholarly activity. Students may choose either a mentored individualized or team-based scholarship project. A capstone project suitable for peer-review is completed in Stage 3.

Clinical Immersion Stage 2 begins in March of the second year and allows flexible time for board study, vacation and electives. The following required clerkships include the number of weeks required: Ambulatory Medicine (4); Inpatient Medicine (6); Ambulatory Pediatrics (4); Inpatient Pediatrics (4); Obstetrics and Gynecology (6); Surgery (6); Psychiatry (6); Family Medicine (4); Neurology (4).

Transformation Stage 3 includes advanced clinical experiences and a transition to residency program. The required advanced offerings include:

Advanced Inpatient Experience (Sub-internship): Students can choose between Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, or Family Medicine. (4 weeks)
Emergency Medicine: (4 weeks) and ***Critical Care:*** Students can choose between Medical Intensive Care Unit, Surgical Intensive Care Unit, or Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. (4 weeks).

Scholarship

Scholarship is a key component of the curriculum woven throughout all stages of MDelta. Stage 1 is defined above. During the summer after Block C in Stage 1, students may pursue scholarly work, which they can continue throughout their time in medical school. A capstone experience is required of all students in Stage 3 which could be fulfilled through bench research, translational research or other scholarly works in global health, advocacy, service, the humanities, health policy, medical education and other areas.

Electives: Students are offered electives across stages 2 and 3 which can be done at our affiliated or at other institutions, or with approval, in global sites.

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 formative clinical skills assessment in preparation for the summative clinical skills assessment in year four using standardized patients with complaints or diagnoses that include each of the major clinical disciplines.

Grading Policy:

Stage 1: 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.

Stage 2: Courses are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Students may receive Honors recognition from departments during Stage 2. Honors may be received in the following disciplines: Family Medicine, Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Neurology or Surgery.

Stage 3: 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, and Advanced Inpatient Experience, 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
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 Stage 3 capstone requirement is waived.

MD/MPH: For students jointly pursuing the Master of Public Health degree, the Stage 3 Capstone requirement is waived.

MD/MBA: For students jointly pursuing the Master of Business Administration degree, the Capstone requirement is 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. Stage 1 of the School of Medicine curriculum is primarily satisfied through curriculum previously completed in dental school. During Stage 1 students take only DoCC D and E (year 2). Students begin full-time study in the School of Medicine during Stage 2. The Stage 3 capstone requirement and community service requirements 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.

Other graduation requirement (not on the transcript):

USMLE: Students must take and pass Step 1, 2CK, and 2CS within 3 attempts each.

Home Weeks: Students have two Home Weeks, where all students return to the medical school. These sessions include key topics i.e. palliative care, giving bad news, decision-making and career development and controversies in genetics.