

Third Year Academic Enrichment Block Requirement Administrative Guidelines Policy

Description:

The third-year curriculum includes a four-week block of time that students can use to broaden and enrich their academic experience by one of the following mechanisms:

- 1) Exposure to disciplines that are not represented in the required third year clerkships and/or address content and skills that are applicable to a wide range of specialties (e.g. neurology, radiology, pathology)
- 2) Engaging in meaningful scholarship under the guidance of a faculty mentor
- 3) Guided remediation of clerkships and step 1 exams

Students meet the Third Year Selective Block requirement by satisfactorily completing a course that they *select* from a pre-approved list of clinical *elective* courses or working with a faculty mentor on a scholarly project or working with OSLEP/Clinical Educators in a structured and guided manner for re-taking clerkship clinical/shelf exam deficiencies or for remediating a USMLE step 1 exam failure.

The scheduling of the four-week selective block is coupled with the four-week Family Medicine Clerkship (total 8 weeks). A total of 12, 4-week selective blocks are available in the third year. The timing of the Selective block – Family Medicine block is determined by the clerkship lottery.

1) Clinical Selective Option

Student choice of a *selective* is self-driven at this stage, although in the future this could become a student-mentor decision based on portfolio data regarding professional development of students across the years

Enrollment in a Departmental Elective is based on the following conditions:

- a. The course is approved by the Committee on Educational Policy using criteria approved by CEP (e.g., objectives and assessment of student performance are appropriate for third year medical students; the course teaches core clinical content and skills that are applicable to a broad range of specialties.)
- b. The course is not an Acting Internship, Ambulatory Acting Internship, or externship

For students enrolling in a Departmental Elective:

- a. Students will be contacted by the Office of Medical Education to rank the available electives in order of preference or to Indicate a Scholarly Option.
- b. Elective assignments will be made based on elective availability and student preference.
- c. Students will be given their elective assignments and the Family Medicine Clerkship Coordinator will use this to build rotation rosters for the 4-week Family Medicine Clerkship.
- d. Elective assignments will be sent to Department Course Coordinators for enrollment into eFlight and scheduling of evaluations in MedHub.
- e. Deferral of the Third Year Selective is only possible with a concurrent deferral of Family Medicine.
 - i. Students will defer 8-weeks into their 4th year
 - ii. Students will not participate in the Primary Care Continuity Clinic
 - iii. Students will complete a full 8-week Family Medicine Clerkship

2) **Scholarly Project Option**

Students will need to identify a mentor who has committed to work with them on a scholarly project during their assigned 4-week block. Students will complete a scholarly project proposal document, which will be signed by both the student and the faculty mentor. The proposal is due 4-weeks prior to the start of the selective month and must include a deliverable product, which will be a component of a Passing Grade. Upon submission of the completed proposal document, and with approval from the Director of Medical Student Research, students will be enrolled in Research Units for the month. In order to fulfill the Third Year Selective requirement, students should commit a minimum of 100 hours over the 4-week period.

Should the student fail to meet the expectations of the faculty mentor and receive a non-passing grade, the mentor would recommend a remediation plan to CSP.

3) **Guided Remediation of Clerkships / Step 1 Examination**

Students can choose to use time for remediation of third year clerkship written examination deficiencies or for Step 1 remediation (under the guidance of OSLER). All remediation will occur with CSP approval, as per current policy and procedures.

For clinical clerkship deficiencies, remediation will be done under the guidance of clinical educators; for written exam, remediation will be guided by OSLER. In the future, this option may be available to students who have been identified (self-identified or by pre-clerkship or clerkship IORs/educators) as needing

additional time to strengthen their clinical skills with more intensive coaching than can be provided in the clerkships.

Enrollment in the Remediation option is based on the following conditions:

- a. CSP approval
- b. Enrollment in MDS 489 is required and will occur after OSLER (if applicable) and CSP approve this request.
- c. Students will be expected to meet on a regular basis with OSLER/Clinical educators (frequency and duration determined by OSLER/Clinical educators/CSP)
- d. A grade will be submitted by OSLER/Clinical educator at the end of the 4-week block

Additional Details:

- 1) Students who are interested in pursuing Family Medicine as a career may choose to opt out of the enrichment experience and enroll in an 8-week Family Medicine Clerkship (if clinical sites are available) with prior approval from the Family Medicine 3rd year IORs
- 2) Students who are unable to complete the Academic enrichment Block in their 3rd will need to defer this to their 4th year. All deferrals will need to be approved by the Committee on Student Promotions. The deferred weeks will be added to the student's fourth year requirements.
- 3) The Third Year Selective Requirement may not apply to students in the Community Health Scholars Programs; specific programs may have their own requirements that the students in these Programs need to familiarize themselves with.