

Office of Medical Education
Clinical Training Site & Travel Policy

Training in the clinical setting is an essential part of a medical student’s development. The UC Davis School of Medicine curriculum incorporates clinical experiences across all four years of the curriculum at training sites throughout the Northern California region.

All UCDSOM students receive a transportation budget in their financial aid package in part to cover the cost of transportation to and from these experiences. **Students are responsible for making appropriate travel arrangements** (e.g. driving their own car, ride share, public transportation, etc.) to and from these sites for required clinical experiences. Please note that no site assignment or transportation budget adjustments will be made due to transportation-related concerns. Students are also not allowed to switch clinical site assignments with one another.

Required Pre-Clerkship Clinical Training Experiences

Year	Frequency ¹	Approximate Distance ^{1,2}
Year 1	4-6 half days	Up to 50 miles
Year 2	5-7 half days	Up to 50 miles

¹ Subject to change based on curriculum modifications and site needs

² Students in Rural or REACH may be required to go to sites at a greater distance away for experiences in their program-focused communities.

Year 3

The Year 3 curriculum is primarily within the clinical setting. Students will be assigned to both inpatient and outpatient sites throughout the Northern California region for their core clerkships: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Ob/Gyn, Pediatrics, Primary Care Continuity Clinic, Psychiatry, and Surgery.

Year	Rotations	Frequency	Approximate Distance ^{1,2}
Year 3	6	4-8 weeks per rotation	Up to 50 miles
Year 3	Primary Care Continuity Clinic	18 half days per year	Up to 50 miles

Clerkship Site Assignment Process

When possible, clerkship staff will collect site preference forms in advance of a clerkship rotation. Any special site preference requests must be submitted on the form or to clerkship staff at the time the form is submitted.

- **In order for students’ site preferences to be considered, the site preference form must be turned in ahead of the given deadline.**

Each individual clerkship has its own process for assigning sites. Student site preferences are one of many considerations.

- Other considerations to site assignments that must first be taken into account include, but are not limited to, student Doctoring day (Tuesday/Thursday), balanced block schedules, site preceptor requests and input from the Instructors of Record.

Clerkship staff will assign students to sites using all applicable site and student information and provide the assignments to the students as soon as possible prior to the beginning of the rotation.

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Clerkship Distant Site Assignments

In addition to sites within the greater Sacramento area (within 50 miles from UCDSOM), students may be assigned to a **distant site** (more than 50 miles from UCDSOM). These sites will first be assigned to students who have:

- a. Indicated interest on their preference forms, or
- b. volunteer to go to the site upon a request for volunteers from the clerkship coordinator

If no students volunteer to go to a distant site, students will be assigned based on a lottery. Notification of the need for a lottery will occur at least 4 weeks before the clinical experience is set to begin; the lottery and site assignment process will occur at least 2 weeks before the clinical experience is set to begin.

- i. **Students who have a dependent that requires them to remain in Sacramento may request an exemption from distant site lotteries prior to the start of Year 3.**
 - i. Students must inform the Clinical Curriculum Manager of their request for exemption one week prior to the Year 3 Clerkship Lottery.
 - ii. All exemptions must be approved by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs

All distant site assignments are permanent once the site has been notified

Please note: Failure to provide reliable transportation to a training site will result in a deferral.

Year 4

All required Year 4 curriculum is located at UCDSOM. All other elective coursework outside UCDSOM is not required. Students may choose to go on Away Rotations or electives at other institutions at their own expense. Students may contact the Financial Aid Office if they have additional questions or concerns about expenses related to Year 4.

Process for Site Assignment Appeal

Any student who believes they may be unable to complete their required clinical experience at their assigned site due to hardship must within 1 week of site assignments being posted:

- a. Notify the course coordinator, appropriate curriculum manager*, and IOR
- b. Petition the Associate Dean for Students

If a reassignment is granted, and feasible, an alternative placement will be arranged in a timely manner.

- **Please note:** depending on clinical site availability, a replacement assignment may take several weeks to arrange.
- When site reassignment is not possible, the student must complete the required clinical experience with the originally assigned preceptor.

* For Clinical Experiences A, Clinical Experiences B, or Primary Care Continuity Clinic, please include the Longitudinal Curriculum Manager. For core clerkships, please include the Clinical Curriculum Manager.



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The Office of Medical Education aims to support students and ensure they have what they need to successfully progress through the curriculum. Any student who has concerns regarding their financial aid package is encouraged to reach out to the Financial Aid Office or the Associate Dean for Students.