

### Role changes

Many students are used to being in the top of their class. Medical school requires changes in study habits: students may have difficulty adjusting to an “average” or lower score.

Many are also seen by family members as a “go-to” person, but will not be as available as before to listen or try to help from a distance. Understanding and accepting these changes are important for students and family members alike.

### Student wellness

An essential aspect of becoming a physician is learning to take care of one’s own health and well-being. We can do this by maintaining a healthy work-life balance, recognizing and addressing challenging situations and knowing when to seek support. What we learn to do for ourselves we can teach our patients.

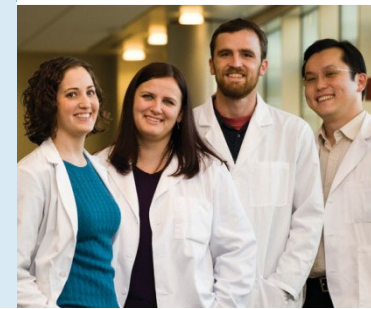
### Student resources

The Office of Student Wellness sponsors seminars throughout the school year. The office can also connect your student to the many on-campus resources available to help them manage stress and improve wellness. Services available to students include:

- Student Health Counseling Services (SHCS)
- Office of Student Learning and Educational Resources (OSLER)
- Office of Student and Resident Diversity (OSRD)
- Office of Student Development
- Peer support
- Fitness center
- Spiritual support



Supporting your medical student



Resources for families



Office Of Student Wellness  
UC Davis School of Medicine  
916-703-WELL

[http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mdprogram/student\\_wellness/index.html](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mdprogram/student_wellness/index.html)



Student Health Counseling Services: 530-752-2349

[medschoolcounseling@ucdavis.edu](mailto:medschoolcounseling@ucdavis.edu)

National Suicide Prevention

Lifeline: 988



# Resources for families



## Overcoming the challenges of medical school

The physical and emotional demands of medical school can be some of the toughest your student has faced to date. Students can experience:

- ⦿ Long hours
- ⦿ Overwhelming workload
- ⦿ Academic pressure or difficulties
- ⦿ Changes in relationships
- ⦿ Loneliness
- ⦿ Financial debt

The challenges of medical school can leave students feeling stressed, irritated, tired, anxious, even depressed, affecting their performance and well-being. You can offer invaluable support to your student by:

**listening • encouraging • understanding**

### Increasing pressure from:



Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
Human Architecture (8 wks)	Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, and Reproduction (9 wks)	Clinical Clerkship 1	Year 4 Clinical Rotations - Step 2	
	Intercession			
Molecular and Cellular Medicine (5 wks)	Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, and Reproduction (9 wks)	Clinical Clerkship 2		
	Intercession			
Pathogens and Host Defense (7 wks)	Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, and Reproduction (9 wks)	Summer Break		
	Skin and Musculo-skeletal Systems (3 wks)	Intercession		
Winter Break	Winter Break	Intercession		Winter Break
Hematology, Cardiology, Pulmonology, and Nephrology (7 weeks)	Brain and Behavior (5 wks)	Clinical Clerkship 4		Year 4 Clinical Rotations - Step 2
		Intercession		
Hematology, Cardiology, Pulmonology, and Nephrology (7 weeks)	Step 1 Study Period (5 wks)	Clinical Clerkship 5		
		Winter Break		
Hematology, Cardiology, Pulmonology, and Nephrology (7 weeks)	Transition to Clerkship	Clinical Clerkship 5		
		Intercession		
Summer Break (8 wks)		Clinical Clerkship 6		
		Intercession		
		Clinical Clerkship 7		

**Medical Student Curriculum.** For a detailed calendar – including dates for instruction, exams and breaks – visit [medschool.ucdavis.edu](http://medschool.ucdavis.edu). Under Education choose M.D. Program, then Curriculum, and select the academic calendar for the current or upcoming year.

common medical student stressors	How you can help
Not being able to take trips home or visit out-of-area family	Ask ahead of time if they can participate in events, instead of expecting them to participate Make it clear that it's okay if they are unable to attend
Academic pressure, no longer feeling "special"	Remind them that they are talented, intelligent and that you love them unconditionally, independent of their grades
Insomnia or sleep deprivation	Encourage them to set regular schedules whenever possible, including breaks and sleep
Long work and study hours, even on weekends	Set aside 15 minutes every day to talk Understand that being too busy to talk is not personal, it's the nature
Lack of exercise	Help them develop an easy exercise routine they can incorporate into their class and study schedules
Unhealthy diet	Make home-cooked meals that can be reheated and eaten over a number of nights Go grocery shopping and fill their refrigerator with healthy snack, beverage and dinner options
Unable to address the medical problems of family members	Understand and accept that they are not the family's doctor
Unable to discuss patient-related issues	Respect patient confidentiality; your student is adhering to federal regulations
Feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or depressed	Remind them again that they are loved and of resources available to them on campus; they only have to call 916-703-XXXX