M3-4 Curriculum Policy
Educational Program Committee Approved: February 20, 2013
Educational Program Committee Last Revision: September 19, 2018

The curriculum of the School of Medicine should foster the development of graduates who are knowledgeable, skillful, and ethical while providing an opportunity to individualize the student’s experiences based on his/her own unique needs and interests. Electives should broaden and balance the overall educational development of each student, while allowing for career exploration and assuring that students are prepared for graduate medical education and residency training.

Third Year
The third-year curriculum shall consist of 44 required weeks plus 6 weeks that are available for electives. The 44-week curriculum will include seven core clerkships:

- Family Medicine – 6 weeks
- Internal Medicine – 8 weeks
- Neurology – 4 weeks
- Obstetrics and Gynecology – 6 weeks
- Pediatrics – 6 weeks
- Psychiatry – 6 weeks
- Surgery – 8 weeks

Electives:
- There are no required electives in the third year, however, there are 6 weeks in the third-year schedule that can be used for electives or for vacation. Up to 4 of the 6 weeks can be used for career exploration electives; other types of electives can be taken during the remaining 2 weeks that are available.
- The Directed Studies elective can be taken during the third year for 1 week of credit. This would count for 1 elective week of the 6-week elective total.
- No more than 6 elective credit hours during third year can apply toward the fourth-year 22 weeks of required electives described in the next section.

Fourth Year
The fourth-year curriculum shall consist of 34 required weeks and will include the following:

- Acting Internship (Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Surgery, Orthopedics, or Emergency Medicine) – 4 weeks
- Ambulatory Rotation or Longitudinal Ambulatory rotation (Any discipline) – 4 weeks
- Intensive Care rotation (Medical, Surgical, or Pediatrics) – 2 weeks
- Palliative Medicine rotation – 1 week
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Topics in Clinical Medicine (TCM) Course
- Electives – 22 weeks
  - a) Up to 6 weeks of electives available in third year may be used to fulfill part of the fourth-year requirement. The Directed Studies elective can be used during third year to fulfill 1 week of this requirement; students can take the Directed Studies a second time during fourth year for an additional 1 week of elective credit.
  - b) Students may take up to a maximum of 16 weeks of electives at other institutions.
c) 10 to 12 weeks of electives should be planned to include Residency Preparation Track Recommendations. The other 10 to 12 weeks should be used to explore other areas of interest.

i. Students have the responsibility of thoroughly investigating electives and then discussing them with an advisory dean, clerkship or residency program director, faculty mentor, or the Assistant or Associate Dean of Student Affairs who then must approve the student’s schedule. The signed approval form must be returned to the registrar in Student Affairs.

**Relevant LCME Elements**
6.5: Elective Opportunities.

**Policy History**
Approved: February 20, 2013
Revised: April 3, 2013
Revised: June 17, 2015 – Added Obstetrics and Gynecology as an Acting Internship (AI) option.
Revised: February 3, 2016 – Added information regarding Directed Studies electives.
Revised: September 19, 2018 – Changed name of policy from Fourth Year Curriculum Policy to M3-4 Curriculum Policy. Added third year curriculum information, increased number of weeks that can be used for electives to 6 weeks from 4 weeks, and added Orthopedics and Emergency Medicine AI options.