



Pre-clerkship Electives Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Policy Contact	Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Responsible	CCC
Accountable	OSA
Consulted	OME, CCC, PCC
Informed	Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Medical Education, and Medical Students

Scope and Purpose

The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) offers electives in the Renaissance curriculum to increase the breadth and depth of medical student preparation for residency, provide opportunities for career exploration, and to explore medical specialties. This policy delineates the requirements for taking electives during the pre-clerkship phase of the MD program.

The policy applies to all medical students enrolled in the pre-clerkship phase of the MD program.

Policy

There is no elective requirement during the pre-clerkship years; however, there are several approved courses students may take for graduation elective credit. Refer to the Renaissance Curriculum Graduation Requirements for further details. Students may participate in only one pre-clerkship elective during the first year, and no more than two total electives during the pre-clerkship phase. Students enrolled in the Academic Enrichment Program will only receive elective credit for AEP if not enrolled in another concurrent elective. Throughout the pre-clerkship phase, students may participate in no more than one longitudinal elective. Pre-clerkship electives cannot be taken during the clinical years for elective credit to meet graduation requirements.

Students must earn a minimum grade of “Pass” in all required medical school coursework to register for, or continue with, pre-clerkship electives during the academic year. Applications for pre-clerkship electives will occur after the end of the Foundations course. First-year students must pass all assessments in Foundations and complete the course with a final course percentage of 78% or greater to apply for pre-clerkship electives.

Once registered in an elective, students must demonstrate an ability to manage the additional workload as measured by academic performance in the core curriculum. Any student who fails two assessments or fails a required course will be withdrawn from the elective. Students who fail a single assessment must meet with OSA to ensure that the student is connected with appropriate resources and to review their academic workload. No partial credit will be awarded to students who are required to withdraw.

To enroll in pre-clerkship electives beginning after first-year courses have ended, students must meet the same requirements as outlined above (for ongoing participation), i.e., they must pass all classes, and have failed no more than one assessment in the first year. Students who have successfully completed the first year are eligible for electives contained entirely within the summer, regardless of performance during the year.

Procedures

1. Students are responsible for monitoring their own eligibility to apply for, and continue in, pre-clerkship electives.
2. Students are obligated to notify the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) if they no longer meet eligibility requirements and withdraw from the course.
3. The Registrar in the Office of Student Affairs regularly audits medical student registration and schedules to ensure compliance with the policy.
4. Any student who no longer meets the eligibility requirements for taking pre-clerkship electives and who fails to notify the OSA will be notified and subsequently withdrawn from the elective course and may receive a Professional Conduct Evaluation.

Exceptions

Dual-degree students who require specific courses as part of their dual-degree program have different requirements for those electives.

A student may request an exception to this policy in the case of extenuating circumstances if a student's overall academic performance is otherwise exemplary. This would require approval by OSA and OME and may be referred to Advancement Committee.

Sanctions

Failure to comply with the school's policy may result in a Professional Conduct Evaluation.

Definitions

Electives: Courses offered in the curriculum that are not required for each student and provide opportunities to explore other topics and areas of interest that are designed to enhance the practice of medicine.

Pre-clerkship phase: The curriculum year(s) before the start of required core clinical clerkships.

Forms

Pre-clerkship Elective Application Form

Related Policies/Procedures

Renaissance Curriculum Graduation Requirements

Withdrawal Policy

Pre-clerkship Electives (OME website)

AEP Policy [pending]

History

Revised: June 2024

Approved: June 21, 2022 (CCC); revision approved May 16, 2023 (CCC)