Curriculum

The primary objective of the curriculum is to provide the student a learning framework to obtain the information and attitudes necessary for the provision of health care to our society and in the process become life-long scholars of medicine. This begins with a thorough knowledge of the normal structure and function of the body and progresses to an understanding of the changes in the body and mind which lead to illness.

During the first two years, the student is primarily concerned with the basic biomedical sciences. To give these studies more meaning, provision is made for direct contact of students with patients from the onset of the freshman year. An exciting development in the College of Medicine's curriculum for the first two years was put into place for the fall of 2005. The sophomore curriculum was totally integrated in a systems-based approach so that all courses run the entire length of the year and the material taught in them is linked together. The freshman year was similarly configured in the fall of 2007.

The junior year courses (clerkships) provide training in most of the basic problems with which patients present themselves. Students learn to apply scientific principles to the examination, diagnosis and treatment of human disease. Seminars, conferences and clinical rounds with members of the teaching staff are important in giving the student a rounded perspective of human illness.

The senior year program is mostly elective in order to provide each student the opportunity to choose a program best suited to his or her individual needs. Each department makes available to the student a spectrum of general and special programs from which the student selects a minimum of 36 weeks of study, with the advice and approval of a Faculty Advisor. Research may be taken as an elective. Off-campus studies (local, elsewhere in the United States and in other countries) may be elected with the prior approval of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Elective work need not be confined to the senior year, but may be carried out for no credit whenever possible during prior academic years with the consent of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The degree, Doctor of Medicine, is conferred upon graduating seniors.

Summary of Hours in the Curriculum for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Clock Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Clock Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross Anatomy</td>
<td>197.5</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microanatomy</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total: 697.0 hours, 34.0 semester hours**
SECOND YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Clock Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Clock Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Medical Ethics</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasitology</td>
<td>106.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Intro to Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>112.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathophysiology</td>
<td>125.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 605.5 clock hours, 33.5 semester hours

THIRD YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Clock Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Clock Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>320.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>240.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>320.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>320.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics/Gynecology</td>
<td>240.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Surgical Sub-Specialties</td>
<td>160.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatrics</td>
<td>160.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>160.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1920 clock hours, 48 semester hours

FOURTH YEAR

Minimum: 1440 clock hours, 36 semester hours.

A four-week Primary Care Selective, a four-week Acting Internship, a four-week Specialty rotation and a four-week, end-of-the-year summary course are required.

The College of Medicine at UAMS, reserves the right to change any provisions, offerings or requirements at any time within the student's period of study. During the time between the printing of this announcement and the administration of the courses noted above, the exact make up of the curriculum, as well as the contact time for courses in the curriculum will almost certainly change due to faculty decisions. When this occurs, semester hours will also change. This is important, since the semester hours are used to calculate grade point averages. Exact information concerning the curriculum as well as the semester hours can be obtained immediately before any semester begins by contacting the College of Medicine Registrar or the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Off-Campus Experience

The majority of students in the College of Medicine will be assigned to mandatory rotations requiring them to live away from Little Rock for between four to twelve weeks and sometimes longer, depending on individual circumstances and faculty decisions regarding curriculum. These off-campus experiences usually take place in the third and fourth year of the curriculum.

Starting with the class admitted in the fall of 2009 (the class of 2013), a certain number of students will complete their first two years of medical school instruction in Little Rock and then transfer to Fayetteville, Arkansas, to finish their third and fourth years. The curriculum in Fayetteville will be designed to be more primary care oriented, for those students interested in that type of practice, and it is now envisioned that the instruction will be more one-on-one. All students services available in Little Rock (such as student mental health), will be available to the students in Fayetteville. Many lectures will be accomplished with interactive televideo and the course and clerkship expectations and experiences, as well as patient types and numbers, will be the same at both locations. Depending on the total number of students in the class, the size of the group assigned to Fayetteville will be anywhere from 15 to 50 from each class. As much as possible, the groups going to Fayetteville will be made up of volunteers, but if there are not enough volunteers, assignment to Fayetteville for the clinical years (the M3 and M4 year) will be made by lottery. A lottery system will also be used if more students wish to go to Fayetteville than can be accommodated.
**Honor System**

All academic work in the College of Medicine is conducted under an honor system. Representative members of each class comprise the Honor Council and are responsible for insuring that all students understand the Honor Code and participate in maintaining its standards.

**Medical Student Research**

Recognizing the role of research as a part of scholarly accomplishment, opportunities exist for selected students to gain experience in this type of endeavor. Individual arrangements are made with a faculty member by mutual agreement. The research program may continue throughout the academic year and into the summer vacation months if desirable and feasible. Additionally, it is possible to participate in research projects as part of senior electives.

**Grading System**

The vast majority of courses held during the first three years of the curriculum use a letter grade system – A, B, C, D and F. An “A” represents outstanding achievement; a “B” represents very good achievement; a “C” represents satisfactory achievement; a “D” represents poor achievement, less than satisfactory and is considered in the College of Medicine to be a marginal academic performance; an “F” represents unsatisfactory achievement and failure in a course. An “I” or “incomplete” indicates that some portion of the course work has not been completed. Elective courses during the senior year and a few select courses during the first three years are graded as ‘Pass’ or ‘Fail.’

**Personal Computers**

The UAMS College of Medicine does not require students to purchase a personal laptop computer, but one is certainly recommended. Most students now use laptops in lectures, labs, etc. While the type you purchase is up to you, you should be aware that the National Board of Medical Examiners has recently started making tests available through wireless connections to student laptops and the college will probably be using this service soon. Therefore, if you do purchase a laptop, it should have Wi-Fi capability.

**Promotions**

The requirements and standards for promotion and graduation applied by the Promotions Committee of the College of Medicine are contained in a document, the Academic Requirements for the Promotion of Medical Students. Each student is provided with a copy of this document in the Student Handbook and additional copies are available on request from the Office of the Dean. In addition to the usual forms of scholastic achievement, the Committee considers the ethical, behavioral and attitudinal characteristics of students as a part of total academic performance. Satisfactory performance for promotion at each level and for graduation at the end of the senior year requires that each student demonstrate not only an adequate knowledge of medical subjects, but also the skills and personal attributes necessary to become a physician. These include honesty, compassion, a demonstration of responsibility and the ability to relate satisfactorily with other individuals (patients, peers, faculty and members of other professions). The Promotions Committee is charged to recommend remedial work as necessary for individual students or dismissal from the college if circumstances warrant such action.

**Withdrawal from School**

A student may withdraw from school by submitting a formal application to the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for permission to do so. If approved and all financial obligations to the College have been met, the withdrawal will be granted. If withdrawal from school occurs between the midpoint of a given course and its completion, a passing or failing grade will be recorded (i.e., WP, or WF). Prior to the midpoint of the course, only the withdrawal (W) will be noted. A student who withdraws without approval will receive failures (F's) in all uncompleted courses. Withdrawals are permanent. Re-entry into the College of Medicine following a withdrawal would require readmission by the Admissions Committee.
Dismissal from School

A recommendation to the Dean of the College of Medicine that a student be dismissed from the College of Medicine may occur in several ways:

A. Dismissal of a student may be recommended by the Promotions Committee if a student's performance does not meet the minimal requirements prescribed by the Academic Requirements for the Promotion of Medical Students or other minimum requirements as determined by the faculty.

B. Dismissal of a student may be recommended by the Promotions Committee based upon documented information of improper attitudes and/or behavior. The landmark case in this regard is the Horowitz case which involved a medical student at the University of Missouri, Board of Curators of the University of Missouri vs. Horowitz, 98 U.S. Supreme Court (1978).

C. Dismissal may be recommended by the Promotions Committee when the Honor Council, as a result of a trial conducted according to the constitutional procedures of the Honor System, has found a student guilty of social, moral, or professional misconduct. The student participates in the trial and knows in advance that the recommendation will be made.

D. Under certain circumstances, when an Academic Standard calls for an action of dismissal, or when a motion is passed by a Student Promotions Committee calling for an action of dismissal, the action may be applied administratively without the need for a Student Promotions Committee meeting unless one is specifically requested by the affected student or the Administration feels a Promotions Committee meeting is warranted.

Any student whose dismissal has been recommended by the Promotions Committee or through administrative mechanisms will be informed of the fact, in writing, by the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Drug Testing and Criminal Background Checks

A critical part of medical education involves learning experiences in hospitals and other health care facilities. Use of these facilities in training is essential and students must be able to complete their assigned rotations. Many hospitals and health care facilities have policies requiring drug testing and/or criminal background checks for employees, students and volunteers. Facilities that provide instruction to College of Medicine students may have, or may adopt in the future, drug testing and/or criminal background check policies. Some facilities provide that students who test positive for drugs, or who have certain types of information in their criminal background checks, are ineligible to work in that facility.

Because the use of these health care facilities is a part of the curriculum and essential to medical education, students should be prepared to comply with the policies and procedures at any facility where they engage in rotations or learning experiences. Student may not request facility assignments in an effort to avoid criminal background checks or drug screening requirements. Students may not refuse to participate in training in these facilities because they do not want to submit to drug testing/criminal background checks. Students who fail to attend assigned training or who are terminated from training in these facilities because they violate the drug testing or drug use policies of the facilities, or are found to have objectionable information in their criminal background checks, will be unable to complete the college requirements for graduation and will be subject to dismissal from the College of Medicine on academic grounds.

In addition to the criminal background checks noted above, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), performs routine criminal background checks on all accepted students and alternates on the Alternate List, providing results to UAMS College of Medicine. A detailed explanation is provided in the section “For the Applicant” under “Criminal Background Checks.”

Policy on Appearance/Dress

The College of Medicine does not have a dress code of its own. We believe it is enough to point out that students in our College are in a professional school to become physicians, and the need for appropriate dress and appearance should be self-evident. However, in order to train students to become physicians, it is necessary to assign them to various clinical sites, such as hospitals, physicians' offices, clinics, etc. These health care facilities may have dress codes or policies on appropriate appearance (such as the prohibition of certain types of tattoos, piercings, clothing, etc).
Because the use of these health care facilities is a part of the curriculum and essential to medical education, students should be prepared to comply with the policies and procedures at any facility where they engage in rotations or learning experiences. Students may not request facility assignments in an effort to avoid such dress/appearance policies. Students may not refuse to participate in training in these facilities because they do not want to comply with the facility's dress/appearance policies. Students who fail to attend assigned training or who are terminated from training in these facilities because they violate dress/appearance policies will be unable to complete the college requirements for graduation and will be subject to dismissal from the College of Medicine on academic grounds.

Limit on Years in Medical School

Understanding the rigors of the practice of medicine and acknowledging that the practice of medicine requires an individual to understand the material presented in medical school as an integrated whole, rather than in isolated blocks of information, the College of Medicine faculty feels that one of the requirements for the M.D. degree is the ability to assimilate the material and skills presented within a reasonable period of time. Therefore, a student, once enrolled as a freshman medical student, must graduate from the College of Medicine with the M.D. degree by the spring graduation ceremony concluding the seventh year following the initial enrollment. This “clock” is not stopped for any reason, including leaves of absence, failure to pass internal examination requirements, repeat years required by the Promotions Committee, or additional time required for USMLE testing. The only exception is that the clock will stop during the time a student officially enrolled in the M.D./Ph.D. program is out of the College of Medicine pursuing the Ph.D. portion of their degree. A student who has not completed all degree requirements within the time frame noted above will be dismissed.

Student Grievance Procedure

A student having a complaint concerning terms and conditions of their student status with UAMS may present this matter to and discuss it with, the person in charge of that part of the university where the issue arises (e.g. Course Director, Department Chair, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dorm Director, etc.). Such presentation and discussion shall be entirely informal. The person in charge shall attempt to resolve the complaint. A complaint may, but need not, become a grievance. Academic, disciplinary, administration action, and grievance procedures are all discussed in detail in the Student Handbook, a copy of which all students receive. A copy can be obtained at any time from the Office of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

In addition, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences fully supports, both in spirit and practice, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Executive Order 11246, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Sections 503 and 504), Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, ethnic origin, disability and/or disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era. Student complaints concerning any policy, procedure or practice prohibited by these acts should be addressed to Richard P. Wheeler, M.D., Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Medicine Dean’s Office (501-686-5348) for assistance in addressing such concerns. The College has established a special grievance procedure for any student who alleges the existence of any policy, procedure, or practice prohibited by these laws. This grievance procedure is included as an appendix at the back of this bulletin.

Transcripts

Transcripts and other items submitted by (or in behalf of) an applicant or student, become a permanent part of that person’s records at the College of Medicine. Release of this information, as well as other academic and directory information, to the student or others, is regulated by the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974” as amended, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g and the regulations of the Department of Education, codified in Part 99 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations. A copy of the University of Arkansas Policy Concerning Student Educational Records is available from the office of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Transcripts of a student’s scholastic record in medical school can be made and released only upon the written authorization of the student, or as stipulated in the policy noted above.
Privacy of Student Records

The College of Medicine insures students’ access to their official academic and disciplinary records and prohibits release of personally identifiable information, other than directory information, from those without their permission except as specified by law. Complaints regarding alleged violations of students’ rights with regard to privacy of records or access thereto should be sent directly to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office, Department of Health and Human Services, 330 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Student Governance

The Student Council of the College of Medicine consists of two elected representatives from each of the four classes. The objectives of the Council include the encouragement of social interchange among students and the promotion of good will among students, faculty and administration.

The Associated Student Government (ASG) encompasses all students in good standing in the five colleges of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The Council of the ASG includes two medical students elected as representatives from each of the four classes. The ASG schedules campus wide social events and serves as a communication link between the students and the administration.

Parents Club

The College of Medicine Parents Club was established in 1976 for the sole purpose to “improve the quality of lifestyle of medical students.” Over the last 34 years, the Parents Club has contributed thousands of dollars to benefit their sons and daughters during their four years of medical school education. The Parents Club’s annual fundraising activities provides free photocopying in the student room in the Dean’s office and the refurbishing of medical student lounges at UAMS and the Arkansas Children’s Hospital. The Parents Club contributed $50,000.00 to furnish the new medical student room located on the first floor of the hospital adjacent to the Dean’s Office for the College of Medicine. The Grand Opening of the new medical student room was May 21, 2010. The Parents Club also provides financial subsidies for monthly health spa fees; financial support for the Student Advocacy Council; awarding of several scholarships; financial support for Senior Week for the graduating class; and many other worthwhile projects to support the medical students.