

F or the Student

Curriculum

The primary objective of the curriculum is to assist the student in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the competent practice of medicine. The College has a student-centered, integrated curriculum aimed at optimal learning. This includes not only normal and abnormal structure and function of the human body, but a wide variety of other objectives, such as the social determinants of health, strong team work skills, and health care quality improvement.

In the first two years, the curriculum provides the student with a broad overview of human systems in health and disease. The freshman year begins with 3 modules focusing on foundational science; this is followed by modules organized by major organ system throughout the remainder of the freshman and sophomore years. In addition, a Practice of Medicine course runs throughout the first two years. The grading in the first two years is honors/pass/fail to encourage the primary emphasis to be on learning rather than on grades or points in courses.

The junior year clerkships provide training in the primary specialties of medical practice. Students apply scientific principles to the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of human disease. Students, under supervision, assist clinical teams in the care of patients in a variety of practice settings. The practical, hands-on learning is supplemented by seminars, conferences, and clinical rounds. In July, 2016, the College will begin offering a series of electives in the junior year to allow students an earlier opportunity to explore their career specialty interests.

The senior year is mostly elective in order to provide each student the opportunity to choose a program best suited to his or her individual needs. There are a large number of electives each student can choose from in a 33 week course of study in the senior year. Research may be taken as an elective. Off campus studies, including at other medical schools and international, may be elected. The degree, Doctor of Medicine, is conferred upon graduating seniors.



Summary of Hours in the Curriculum for the 2015-2016 Academic Year

FIRST YEAR

Course	Clock Hours	Semester Hours	Course	Clock Hours	Semester Hours
Human Structure	160	7.0	Brain and Behavior	162	9.0
Molecules to Cells	120	7.0	Practice of Medicine 1	181	10
Disease and Defense	81	4.0	Hematology	60	3.0

Total: 687.5 hours, 36 semester hours

SECOND YEAR

Course	Clock Hours	Semester Hours	Course	Clock Hours	Semester Hours
Cardiology	63	3.0	Musculoskeletal/Skin	56	3.0
Endocrine/Reproduction	76	4.0	Practice of Medicine 2	146	8.0
GI/Nutrition	67	4.0	Medicine across the Generations	58	3.0
Hematology	60	3.0	Pulmonary	95	5.0
Renal	45	2.0			

Total: 632 clock hours, 33.5 semester hours

THIRD YEAR

Course	Clock Hours	Semester Hours	Course	Clock Hours	Semester Hours
Medicine	320.0	8.0	Psychiatry	240.0	6.0
Surgery	320.0	8.0	Pediatrics	320.0	8.0
Obstetrics/Gynecology	240.0	6.0	Surgical Sub-Specialties	160.0	4.0
Neuro/Ophth	160.0	4.0	Family Medicine	160.0	4.0

Total: 1920 clock hours, 48 semester hours

FOURTH YEAR

Minimum: 1320 clock hours, 33 semester hours.

A four-week Acting Internship, 4 weeks of Geriatrics and a one-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 Dean's office.

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.

The UAMS Northwest campus in Fayetteville, Arkansas, started in 2008 as the first regional medical campus for UAMS, has allowed the UAMS College of Medicine to expand class sizes and provide an opportunity for community based education for a group of students. Students selected to train at the northwest campus complete the first two years of medical school in Little Rock and then complete their M3 and M4 years on the NW campus. The curriculum at UAMS Northwest is longitudinally integrated where clinical subjects are scheduled together in a semester rather than in block fashion. Training is accomplished in community based medical facilities and private practices where students work directly and more one-on-one with physicians in practice in the Northwest Arkansas area. Although in two geographically different sites, student services available on the main campus are available at the NW campus. Both sites are under the direction of the same Clerkship Directors and share the same goals and objectives, evaluation systems, and expected outcomes. Through the active use of interactive video networks, the two campuses are linked for many common educational experiences. At the current time, the number of students assigned to the NW campus each year is between 14 and 18. Selection for the northwest campus begins shortly before the M1 year begins with an open enrollment for volunteers. At the end of the open enrollment period, a lottery system can be used to either fill the list to the minimum number or reduce the list to the maximum number, whichever may be necessary.

Because it is the policy of the College of Medicine that a certain number of sophomore students will be required to transfer to the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at the conclusion of their sophomore year for their third and fourth years of medical school, it is, therefore, further our policy that we will increase the sophomore financial aid budgets of those students transferring to the NW campus to include a reasonable amount for moving expenses. The exact amount will be determined by the Student Financial Services office after considering typical moving costs in the community.

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

With a few exceptions, which will be made known to students before courses and clerkships begin, grades assigned in the M1 and M2 year will be Honors/Pass/Fail. Grades in the M3 year are traditional "A" (outstanding achievement), "B" (very good achievement), "C" (satisfactory achievement), "D" (poor achievement, less than satisfactory and is considered in the College of Medicine to be a marginal performance), "F" (unsatisfactory achievement and failure in a course). Grades in the M4 year are Pass/Fail. A grade of "I" (Incomplete) indicates that some portion of the course work has not yet been completed.

Laptop Computer Requirement

A laptop computer is essential for study in the College of Medicine at UAMS and all enrolled students are required to have a computer that meets or exceeds the minimum standards listed below. Students will use their laptop computers extensively during their studies for tasks such as: accessing the campus learning management system, taking online examinations, access to virtual microscopy and other study materials, reading online textbooks, etc. Many of our courses have extensive online study materials which students will need to have ready access.

Laptop minimum requirements:

PC BASED COMPUTERS:

Intel Core 2 Duo processor 2.0 GHz or higher

2 GB RAM required, 4 GB recommended

Windows 7 or 8

120 GB or larger hard drive

1024x768 resolution or higher

Wifi 802.11 a/g/n (or faster)

Mac based computers:

Intel Core 2 Duo processor or higher

2 GB RAM required, 4 GB recommended

OS X 10.6 through 10.10

120 GB or larger hard drive

1024x768 resolution or higher

WiFi 802.11 a/g/n (or faster)

The exam software that we use will not work with virtual operating systems and will not work on tablet computers (including those tablets that run Windows). If you want to learn more about the exam software we use for in house exams, it is called Examsoft and their website is www.examsoft.com. Look under “exam taker” and there is information and a video tutorial.

Recommended software:

Microsoft Office (Both Word and Powerpoint files are often posted as study aids, Microsoft Access and Excel are not needed)

Adobe Reader (PDF files are often posted as study aids - free download)

If you have a laptop computer that meets these minimum requirements, you do not have to purchase a new computer to begin medical school. If you have a computer you've bought in the past 2 or 3 years which meets these requirements, it will be likely to be fine. If you do not have a laptop, we include a laptop in the cost of attendance for financial aid purposes.

Tablet computers (Apple, Android, etc), netbook computers, and e-readers may be useful devices for study, but will not meet the minimum computer requirements for testing and other purposes.

It is your responsibility to maintain your computer. Therefore, you might want to consider an extended warranty to cover the computer while a student. The library provides students with technical assistance with their laptops and other mobile electronic devices. Nicholas Larsen is available in the Student Success Center (SSC) in the library to help local and distant students on various technology issues that range from connecting to the wireless network to troubleshooting possible hard drive issues. Nicholas is available on the 3rd floor of the Library Sunday through Thursday, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. If you are off campus and need assistance, please call 501-526-6003 or email nglarsen@uams.edu.

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 and behavioral 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, physician’s 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. UAMS 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 35 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 medical student room located on the first floor of the Central Building adjacent to the Dean's Office for the College of Medicine. 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.