
POLICY NAME: Elective Rotations

Responsible Party: Office of Medical Education

Applies To CMED: Faculty Students Residents Staff Administration

Approval Date: 1/29/2020 Curriculum Committee

Policy Procedure

POLICY:

Elective clerkships (*intramural and extramural*) afford students exposure to a breadth of medical specialties and sub-specialties and an opportunity to further their education and experience in these areas. They also play an important role in the residency selection process for medical students. To this end, the College of Medicine will provide the opportunity for students to complete clinical and non-clinical elective clerkships, subject to the following:

1. All students are required to complete 28 weeks of elective clerkships, with at least 24 weeks of 900 level electives.
2. Not more than 8 weeks of elective rotations with a focus in any one particular or identical specialty or sub-specialty area will count toward the 28-week requirement.
3. Students are required to take at least 4 weeks of patient care electives in both the medical and the surgical disciplines.
4. Elective clerkships are scheduled in the curriculum for 4 weeks. However, if availability exists, students may take a 2-week intramural elective and a 2-week vacation block, or use a 2-week intramural elective to fill a gap in their schedule before or after an off-cycle rotation at another institution that does not match CMU's block schedule. A maximum of 4 two-week electives will be allowed.
5. Not more than twelve (12) weeks of extramural elective rotations will count toward the 28-week requirement. All extramural electives must be approved by the Associate Dean/Clinical Education and offered through an LCME-accredited medical school or ACGME accredited residency program. Extramural research electives will count toward the maximum of 12 weeks of allowed credit.
6. All extramural domestic electives must be approved by the Office of Medical Education at least 30 days in advance of the start date.
7. Students interested in taking clinical electives at international sites should discuss this with the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible, as considerable preparation is required. All extramural international electives must be vetted and approved by the

the Associate Dean/Student Affairs, and Associate Dean/Clinical Education at least 60 days in advance of start date. International electives are also subject to approval by the CMU Office of Study Abroad.

8. Research electives can be taken in 4-week blocks, but may take place consecutively in cases where there is time available such as for the year 1 and 2 students (e.g. 2x 4 weeks over the summer period). Only 4 weeks of research credit will count toward the 28-week elective requirement.
9. Electives designated “Non-Patient Care” are available in the CMU Student Electives Catalog. Up to 8 weeks of non-patient care electives may count toward the 28-week elective requirement.
10. The College of Medicine understands that students fulfilling military obligations may be required to complete military electives during Year 3. In specific cases, exceptions may be granted by the Associate Dean/Clinical Education to accommodate military obligations.

DEFINITIONS:

Elective Clerkship: The third and fourth year of the curriculum is divided into 4 week blocks. One block during 3rd year is available for a Year 3 elective. Additionally, electives may be taken in any block during Year 4. Electives may focus on patient care at the level of a year 3-4 student, or on research related to topics of clinical relevance (e.g. epidemiology, clinical trial, translational science). Electives are chosen at the discretion of the student, under the guidance of their faculty advisor, based on their needs and interests. Pre-requisites for desired elective must be completed prior to enrollment.

Intramural Elective Clerkship: An elective approved by the CMED Curriculum Committee offered at the student’s home campus or a CMED clinical teaching affiliate site.

Extramural Domestic Elective Clerkship: An elective offered by an LCME-accredited medical school or ACGME accredited residency outside of CMED. All extramural domestic electives must be approved by the Associate Dean/Clinical Education or designee at least 30 days in advance of start date.

Extramural International Elective Clerkship: An elective conducted outside of the United States and Canada. All international electives must be vetted and approved by the Associate Dean/Student Affairs and Associate Dean/Clinical Education at least 60 days in advance of the start date. In addition, all international electives are subject to the approval of CMU Office of Study Abroad.

Research Elective Clerkship: An elective with focus on a particular research project with a CMED faculty mentor or faculty appointed community educator. This research may be related to topics of clinical relevance (e.g. epidemiology, review of literature, clinical trial) or topics of basic and applied science (e.g. bench research).

Non-Patient Care Elective: An elective, generally administrative, where students are not directly caring for patients in a clinical setting. These electives are designated accordingly in the CMU Student Electives Catalog.

The College of Medicine reserves the right to make exceptions, modify or eliminate this policy and or its content. This document supersedes all previous policies, procedures or guidelines relative to this subject.

Policy History	
1/24/2012	Initial approval by Faculty Executive Committee
1/21/2014	Approval by Curriculum Committee
11/18/2015	Revised and approved by Curriculum Committee
1/20/2016	Revised and approved by Curriculum Committee
5/24/2017	Revised and approved by Curriculum Committee
8/16/2017	Revised and approved by Curriculum Committee
1/29/2020	Revised and approved by Curriculum Committee