

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SENIOR REQUIREMENTS AND ELECTIVES

### Fourth-Year Students are Required to Take

- 1 month of Advanced Patient Care (students will choose from list of options to fulfill this requirement)
- 1 month of Critical Care (sites to be arranged through Course Coordinator AFTER initial scheduling)
- 1 month of Ambulatory Medicine (either INTM 4000 or FAPR 4000)
- Transition to Residency in March 2009 – details to be announced but all MS IV students must be at UT-Houston in March for this required month
- Jurisprudence and Technical Skills
- 5 elective months
- USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills (required to take but not required to pass)
- USMLE Step 1 (if you did not pass it on first attempt, you must take it again; passing second attempt is not required for graduation.)

### Planning the Senior Year

Students are urged to take advantage of the guidance and expertise of the faculty in the preparation of their elective schedule. Electives should be used effectively to prepare for future professional goals and to expose you to clinical areas you might not encounter in your residency training program. It is critical as early as possible in the third year to identify clinical departments that represent your clinical interests. It cannot be overemphasized that these departments can be very useful in helping you:

- Narrow your choice of residency training programs
- Obtain residencies by making contacts and providing recommendation letters.

### Extramural (Away) Electives

*Note: Two-week electives "away" are not approved for credit.*

The same care should be exercised in the selection of extramural electives. Again, the appropriate clinical department would be most helpful in recommending the kinds and locations of extramural electives that make the most sense for you.

A website of elective information for other U.S. Medical Schools is located at:

<http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/electives/start.htm>

"Away" electives at U.S. medical schools do NOT require the specific approval of the Office of Student Affairs. "Away" electives at hospitals, with private physicians, or outside the U.S. do REQUIRE approval from Student Affairs. The preceptor must submit on the "Special Project" form a description of the experience, including the criteria for evaluation of the student's performance. Forms may be obtained from the Office of Student Affairs (MSB G.400) or on the web. (NOTE: This form is also used to obtain approval for special project electives arranged with UT-HMS faculty.)

Special Project electives and AWAB, AWAC and AWAD electives for which you have not submitted a Special Project form to the Office of Student Affairs — properly filled out, prior to the start of the elective — will not receive elective credit. Special project forms should be submitted at least sixty (60) days in advance of the start of the elective. A copy of the approved form, signed by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, will be placed in your mailbox. Approval may be withheld pending your submission of further information, so make sure that the proposal is approved before you start your month.

Regardless of the kind of extramural experience, only three (3) month periods may be taken extramurally without special permission from the Associate or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

### Malpractice Insurance

Malpractice insurance requirements have been met by students of The University of Texas-Houston Medical School, and malpractice insurance is in effect on approved extramural electives. You are covered under The University of Texas System Professional Medical Liability Self-Insurance Plan with standard limits for medical students set at \$25,000 per claim and \$75,000 as the annual aggregate. Some institutions may require more malpractice coverage than our standard limits. However, it is possible to purchase increased limits to meet needs of up to \$1,000,000 per claim and \$3,000,000 aggregate. For more information, contact Steve Jones in the Office of Student Affairs.

### Time Off During the Fourth Year

Holidays: July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving day and Friday following Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, January 1, Match Day and Memorial Day.

The School's policy regarding **time off for interviewing for residency programs** (not for general use!) allows a maximum of five days from an elective and a maximum of two days from the required course TO BE GRANTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURSE DIRECTOR. Students wishing to be excused for any days must obtain clearance from the course director in advance. **Students missing any days should be prepared to make up time and work missed.**

### Special Projects

See "How to Arrange a Special Project or Ad Hoc Elective" in the "How to Use This Catalog" section.

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