

REQUIRED THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

THIRD YEAR REQUIRED COURSES: “Fundamentals of Clinical Practice” curricular phase

INTERNAL MEDICINE (MED 305) 10 credits

The purpose of the medicine clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need to evaluate and provide supervised care for adult hospitalized patients. Focus is on the inpatient history and physical examinations, clinical reasoning, and comprehensive study during rounds, consultations, conferences, standardized patient exercises, and seminars. This is a required 8 week clerkship for third year medical students. All students spend 4 weeks at The George Washington University Hospital or the Washington DC Veterans Administration Hospital and an additional 4 weeks at United Medical Center, Anne Arundel Medical Center, or Sinai Hospital.

PRIMARY CARE (MED 301)

The purpose of the primary care clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors students need to evaluate and care for outpatients with growing independence, guided by careful and consistent supervision and feedback from attending physicians in primary care office practices. This is a required clerkship for third year medical students comprised of a 4 week block and a longitudinal component (half day every other week throughout the third year). In the longitudinal primary care clinic (LPCC) portion there is an emphasis on continuity of student-clinician relationships and student-patient relationships over the course of the clerkship year.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY (OB&G 303) 8 credits

The purpose of the OB-GYN clerkship is to introduce medical students to the basic principles of women’s health care including the diagnosis and management of common medical and surgical obstetric and gynecologic conditions that occur in a woman’s lifespan. Students develop basic skills related to the female reproductive system. This is a required 6 week clerkship for third year medical students with participation in all obstetrical and gynecological clinics, labor and delivery, daily departmental conferences, and ward rounds. Students are placed at The George Washington University Hospital and at Alexandria Hospital or Holy Cross Hospital.

PEDIATRICS (PED 303) 10 credits

The purpose of the pediatrics clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need to evaluate and care for infants, children, and adolescents in supervised inpatient, outpatient, and nursery settings. The scope includes pediatric health maintenance and the care of pediatrics inpatients and outpatient with acute and chronic illness. This is a required 8 week clerkship for third year medical students. Students participate as part of interprofessional inpatient teams, outpatient offices, and in the well baby nursery, under supervision. The clerkship is comprised of a 4 week inpatient experience at Children’s National (or 2 weeks at Children’s National’s Mary Washington site) and 3 weeks of an outpatient clinical experience and 1 week in the newborn nursery at GW or Holy Cross Hospital. There is a focus on clinical reasoning, professionalism, reflection, and family centered care.

PSYCHIATRY (PCHI 302) 8 credits

The purpose of the psychiatry clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and care for patients with psychiatric conditions in inpatient and outpatient settings, under supervision. This is a required 6 week clerkship for third year medical students focusing on the supervised examination, diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric patients at George Washington University Hospital, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Children's National Hospital, Washington DC Veterans Administration, Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Psychiatric Institute of Medicine, and Inova Fairfax Hospital. There are case conferences, seminars on psychiatric referral, psychiatric drugs, and community resources, standardize patient experiences, and an emphasis on psychiatry in primary care practice.

SURGERY (SURG 303) 10 credits

The purpose of the surgery clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and care for patients with surgical conditions in inpatient and outpatient settings, under supervision. Required 8 week clerkship for third year medical students comprised of two 4 week experiences on general surgical teams at The George Washington University Hospital or Children's National or Washington DC Veterans Administration or Sinai Hospital including general surgery, minimally invasive, bariatric, foregut, hepatobiliary and pancreas, surgical oncology, trauma, acute care surgery, cardiothoracic, transplant, vascular, colon and rectal, breast, and/or pediatric.

Intersessions III and IV (IDIS 333/334) 2 credits each

The purpose of the Intersession III and IV courses is to bring students who have been separated on different rotations and at different locations together to explore further clinical and thematic issues applicable across specialty fields, solidifying existing knowledge and integrating new content. In addition, the Intersession III course provides opportunities for Clinical Public Health activities as well as reconnecting with your Clinical Skills and Reasoning and Professional Development learning communities, including activities related to continued professional development. Finally, the Intersession III and IV weeks will include a symposium called Frontiers in Science and Medicine where students revisit basic science principles by examining current critical clinical and public health issues and hot topics with leading experts from GW and the nation. The Intersession IV week also helps prepare students for the transitions to the next curricular phase, "Transitions to Advanced Clinical Practice."

FOURTH YEAR REQUIRED COURSES: “Transitions to Advanced Clinical Practice” curricular phase

NEUROSCIENCE (NEUR 380) 5 credits - *in the third or fourth year*

The purpose of this required 4 week course is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and provide supervised care for patients with neurological conditions such as transient alterations of neurological function, changes in mental status, weakness, headache, numbness or paresthesias, and neurologic emergencies. Students will focus on honing neurological examination and localization skills, and learn to diagnose and treat patients with neurological disorders in a supervised setting at their assigned site. The course also provides a lumbar puncture simulation session, required reading, student didactic sessions and departmental teaching conferences. The Neuroscience graduation requirement can be fulfilled by rotating with adult neurology, pediatric neurology, adult neurosurgery or pediatric neurosurgery. This course may be taken in the third year or fourth year.

Introduction to Anesthesiology (ANES 302) 3 Credits - *in the third or fourth year*

The purpose of the required 2 week rotation is to provide an introduction to the specialty of anesthesiology including anesthetic preoperative evaluation and the preoperative physiologic effects of anesthetic agents, IV placement and airway management, and various modalities for treating post-operative pain. The anesthesia course requirement can also be met through a 4 week experience (ANES 380 for 5 credits).

TRANSITIONS TO RESIDENCY (IDIS 240/241) 5 Credits

The purpose of this 4 week capstone course is to provide senior students with the opportunity to enhance skills necessary to transition to being successful interns and to develop specialty specific competencies. There is a mix of case-based conferences and simulation including clinical skills such as case-based admission order writing, critical care simulation, and ultrasound guided IV in a simulated setting. During this intensive transitions experience students refine many technical skills and the clinical competencies are reinforced. Students are grouped by future specialty for much of this course, receiving direct mentorship from faculty physicians in their specialty, as they prepare to transition to residency.

FOURTH YEAR SELECTIVES:

EMERGENCY MEDICINE (EMED 302) or PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE (PED 405) 5 credits

The purpose of the Emergency Medicine course is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and provide supervised care for patients in the emergency department with a focus on rapid assessment, triage, plan for stabilization, treatment, and disposition, communication, and professionalism. During this required 4 week rotation students take approximately 14 clinical shifts (day, evening, and night shifts) at the GW Emergency Department and the Washington DC Veterans Administration Emergency Department or the United Medical Center. These are high acuity, high volume departments. Students function at an acting intern level with responsibility for patient care under the direct supervision of the faculty and trainees. This course provides a wound care lab, stimulation sessions, student lectures, required readings and departmental teaching conferences. The Emergency Medicine graduation requirement can alternatively be met through Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PED 405) which focuses on similar clinical skills in a pediatric setting at Children’s National Hospital.

ACTING INTERNSHIP (AI): All students are required to successfully complete a 4-week AI in Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Critical Care Medicine, or Family Medicine, as follows:

MEDICINE ACTING INTERNSHIP (MED 332, 333, 334) 5 credits

The purpose of the Acting Internship in medicine is to provide a structured clinical experience in the expansive field of internal medicine and sub-specialty areas necessary for the care of the hospitalized patient. It is designed to be a well-supervised educational experience that augments the cognitive and technical clinical skills attained during the third year medicine clerkship. The student will function as an acting intern and will conduct patient evaluations, engage in supervised order-entry and prescription writing, retrieve evidence to advance patient care, perform patient handovers, and collaborate as an integral member of an inter-professional team. In addition to self-directed learning, regular focused student didactics, intern conferences and bedside teaching during ward rounds are organized to provide a well-rounded educational experience. Students can opt for this 4 week selective at The George Washington University Hospital or the Washington DC VA Medical Center.

PEDIATRIC ACTING INTERNSHIP (PEDS 361, 362, 364, 365, 366) 5 credits

The purpose of this 4 week Acting Internship in pediatrics is to improve and build upon those cognitive and clinical skills attained during the third year pediatric clerkship with a focus on inpatient pediatrics as part of a resident and hospitalist attending team. There is an emphasis on clinical reasoning, communication, evidenced-based assessment and plans, self-directed learning, and professionalism. There is an overnight call experience during 1 week on the resident night float team.

SURGERY ACTING INTERNSHIP (SURG 380, 382, 383, 388, or 400) 5 credits

The purpose of this 4 week Acting Internship in general surgery is to improve and build upon those cognitive and technical clinical skills already attained during the third year surgical clerkship with a focus on the comprehensive care of the general and oncological patient (SURG 380), colorectal and thoracic (SURG 382), general, Minimally Invasive, and Breast (Surg 383), vascular and transplant (SURG 388), and comprehensive care of the traumatically injured patient (SURG 400). Significant time is spent in the operating room, ICU, and wards. Students receive individual attention from attending and senior residents with a focus on independent learning and management of ward and ICU patients and taking a role in teaching and mentored supervision of third year medical students.

CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE ACTING INTERNSHIP (ANES 384 Intensive Care Unit) 5 credits

The purpose of the Acting Internship in critical care medicine is to provide a multidisciplinary experience in the critical care of surgical and medical patients, supervised by critical care attendings and fellows. The student as AI improves and build upon those cognitive and technical clinical skills already attained during the third year clerkships and learns how to evaluate and initiate treatment of the critically ill adult, including airway and ventilator management, resuscitation of shock, hemodynamic evaluation and interpretation, cardiovascular support, renal replacement therapy, nutritional support, use of blood component therapy, peri-operative management, and additional procedural skills. Night call is 5 times per month. Teaching occurs at the bedside, as well as through didactics, daily x-ray rounds, and other collaborative teaching exercises.

Family Medicine – (IDIS 390) Extramural. Should be predominantly inpatient.

See course syllabi and the [course catalog](#) for additional details and for elective course descriptions.