School of Medicine

The MD degree is achieved after a four-year course of study. Please visit the School of Medicine website for information about the admissions process: http://medicine.missouri.edu/admissions/

The curriculum at the University of Missouri School of Medicine emphasizes clinical reasoning, self-directed learning, collaborative learning and early clinical experiences. It integrates the basic sciences and clinical reasoning. In years 1 and 2, emphasis is placed on small group learning with some lectures. Courses are not department or discipline based.

During the third year, seven core clerkships are required in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Surgery. It is during these core clerkships that students learn the fundamentals of good patient care and faculty are assessing that students are competent upon completion of the clerkship. These clinical experiences must be under the supervision of Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty or community faculty appointed through the School of Medicine. All students may take up to three core clerkships developed and approved by School of Medicine departments through the University of Missouri School of Medicine Rural Track Clerkship program.

During the fourth year, three one-month clinical selectives, four one-month general electives and a one-month Advanced Biomedical Sciences are required. A minimum of four courses must be taken under the supervision of Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty as follows:

Students must take two of the three required clinical selectives under the supervision of Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty or community faculty appointed through the School of Medicine. One of the required selectives must be a surgical selective, one must be a medical selective and the third can be either a surgical or medical selective. Certain clinical experiences such as the Indian Health Service and designated rural community selectives approved by the department education director are considered under the supervision of Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty and will meet the requirement for one of the two clinical selectives. The third clinical selective may be taken at a site approved by the department, the advisor and the Office of Medical Education. Fourth year Rural Track elective courses approved at designated Rural Track training sites are considered to be under the supervision of Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty.

For more information about the School of Medicine, call (573) 882-9219. http://medicine.missouri.edu

Patient Based Learning

First and Second Years

Years one and two consists of four 9-week blocks. Each block has two components: Basic Science/Patient Based Learning (BSci/PBL) and Introduction to Patient Care (IPC).

BSci/PBL

In this component, students work through one authentic clinical case each week in small groups of students with a faculty facilitator. The facilitator is not a content expert, but rather guides the group as they work through the case seeking a diagnosis and patient care plan. BSci/PBL cases guide learning and the application of basic science concepts in clinical scenarios. A few basic lectures and laboratory experiences teach concepts that supplement the cases. BSci/PBL features about 10 hours of patient-based learning with about 10 hours of traditional teaching such as lectures each week.

IPC

Themes change with each block and focus on clinical skills, including history taking and physical examination, psychosocial issues and increasing the students’ understanding of epidemiology, diagnostic tests and psychopathology. The primary learning strategies also emphasize small-group learning with supporting lectures and laboratory experiences.

ACE (Ambulatory Care Experience)

ACE is required during blocks 2 through 4 of the first year and elective during the second year. During the ACE each student spends half a day twice a month with a role-model faculty or community physician-preceptor.

Advanced Physical Diagnosis (APD)

APD is required during the second year. Students are assigned to a clinician mentor for the entire academic year. Times and frequency of meetings are at the discretion of the faculty member and the students; however, it is recommended that they meet at least twice each month. The emphasis of this APD experience is on history and physical exam skills and clinical reasoning. Successful completion of APD is required for advancing to the core clerkships.

Contemplating Medicine Patients, Self and Society (COMPASS)

This is a longitudinal small group course. Faculty facilitated small group sessions occur throughout all 4 years; addressing topics related to professional formation.

Independent Learning

Two half days each week are protected time for independent or student-directed learning; no faculty-initiated activities may be scheduled.

M1 - Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4

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M2 - Blocks 5, 6, 7, 8

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Clerkships

Year three includes seven clerkships in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery. During these core clerkships, students learn the fundamentals of good patient care, and faculty assesses student competencies. Clerkships must be supervised by Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty or community faculty appointed through the School of Medicine. Students may take up to three clerkships at designated community sites as part of the MU Rural Track Clerkship Program (http://www.muihec.missouri.edu/rural-track.php).

Students have the opportunity to learn about common illnesses and abnormalities in children. Emphasis also is placed on the importance of preventive and developmental aspects of child care. Lectures and case presentations correlate with the clinical experiences.

Family and Community Medicine Clerkship - F_C_MD 6001

Core learning experiences take place in ambulatory clinic settings. Students work with experienced clinicians and senior residents, spending time in University teaching practices and in community-based practices. Students also may spend time seeing patients in emergency room, hospital, nursing home settings and taking call with residents and practicing physicians. A high volume of patients of all ages with a wide range of problems is encountered. Many patients will have undifferentiated problems.

Internal Medicine Clerkship - IN_MED 6002

Students spend eight weeks on the internal medicine inpatient service at University Hospital and Harry S. Truman Veterans Hospital where they learn to care for adult patients with acute and chronic illnesses. Teaching emphasizes the principles of differential diagnosis and problem solving as well as the integration of basic science information into the art of patient care. Students also gain clinical experience in medical interviewing and physical examination.

Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship - OB_GYN 6004

Students rotate on the obstetric service, the gynecology service and the gynecologic oncology service, seeing a broad range of patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings. In addition, they attend lectures and interactive case presentations.

Neurology Clerkship - NEUROL 6003

Students see patients with neurological disorders in the outpatient clinics, in hospital settings, and on consultation services.

Psychiatry Clerkship - PSCHTY 6005

Students see patients with psychiatric disorders in the outpatient clinics, in hospital settings and on consultation services.

Surgery Clerkship - SURGERY 6006

Emphasis is placed on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders requiring surgical intervention. Each student has a faculty mentor-advisor, attends faculty discussion sessions that cover objectives in the required textbooks and takes call under the supervision of surgical residents. Students are assigned patients from all surgical specialties, participate in preoperative examinations and evaluations, assist during surgical procedures and follow the postoperative management process.

Patient-Centered Care Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation (PCC-OSCE)

A PCC-OSCE will be administered at the end of the third year to assess a student’s ability to provide patient-centered care. Successful completion is required for graduation. Describe more here??

Contemplating Medicine Patients, Self and Society (COMPASS)

This is a longitudinal small group course. Faculty facilitated small group sessions occur throughout all 4 years; addressing topics related to professional formation.

Electives

The fourth year consists of three one-month advanced clinical selectives (sub-internships), in the core disciplines, four one-month general electives, and a one-month Advanced Biomedical Sciences (ABS) course. One of the advanced selectives must be in a surgical area and one must be in a medical area. A minimum of four fourth-year courses (including 2 advanced selectives) must be taken under the supervision of Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty.

The fourth year consists of two groups of advanced selectives and general electives.

Advanced Clinical Selectives

Three advanced clinical selectives from the core disciplines of child health, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry and surgery are required. Each selective is four weeks in length. One must be in a surgical area and one must be in a medical area. Advanced clinical selectives build on the knowledge and skills acquired during third-year core clerkships. Students are expected to assume more responsibility for patient care than in the core blocks.

Advanced Basic Science Selectives

Advanced basic science selectives revisit the biomedical sciences in the context of a patient, disease, diagnosis or problem. Four options are available. Students may:

- Search and analyze the literature, integrate and evaluate data, produce a paper or presentation
- Conduct original research with mentors from the basic or clinical sciences
- Attend a series of graduate-level lectures and discussions of current literature
- Function as co-tutors for PBL, attend tutor preparation sessions and write a PBL case

General Electives

Sixteen weeks of general electives are required. Off-site experiences are available but must be approved by the appropriate department.

For more information on fourth year course offerings, please refer to the Senior Rotation Catalog. This catalog contains descriptions of all senior rotations offered at the University of Missouri - Columbia School of Medicine, as well as information concerning enrollment for rotations.

Contemplating Medicine Patients, Self and Society (COMPASS)

This is a longitudinal small group course. Faculty facilitated small group sessions occur throughout all 4 years; addressing topics related to professional formation. Fourth year students complete a required COMPASS capstone assignment.
USMLE

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) (http://www.usmle.org) is a three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States and is sponsored by the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME) (http://www.nbme.org) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) (http://www.fsmb.org). The USMLE assesses a physician’s ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles, and to demonstrate fundamental patient-centered skills that are important in health and disease and that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care.

All medical students are required to take Step 1 at the end of the second year of medical school and must pass it prior to beginning the fourth year.

All medical students are also required to pass Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) prior to graduation.

Step 3 is typically taken after the first year of residency.