
Calendar Information

NOSM Phase 3 (Year 4) Curriculum Description and Phase 3 (Year 4) Course Descriptions

General Description of Phase 3

Phase 3 (Year 4) is the last year of the undergraduate medical doctor program. A progression of the Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) of Phase 2 (Year 3), students are provided with an in-depth experiential learning in the various specialties and sub-specialties of the practice of medicine. Through seven broad specialty core courses and 12 weeks of elective sub-specialty experiences, students will gain practical experience in women's health, internal medicine, surgery, children's health, mental health, emergency medicine and family medicine. In addition to learning within the NOSM teaching catchment area, electives offer students the opportunity to experience medicine in settings that might be further afield: within Ontario, the rest of Canada or the world.

The focus of Phase 3 is on chronic and complicated in-patient medicine in the medical specialties and provides students with exposure to secondary and tertiary care of patients primarily in the larger communities of Sudbury and Thunder Bay. Other larger tertiary care centres in the North may also be learning sites. Students will observe, participate and care for patients requiring the attention of medical specialists in various disciplines and experience the delivery of a continuum of care which seriously ill patients receive in the North.

The combination of core course rotations and electives will also provide students with important background knowledge which will help them choose a medical practitioner career path and successfully transition to the Postgraduate Medical Education Residency program.

MEDS 5605 Northern and Rural Health

Designed to continue to build upon and expand the knowledge and skills students have acquired to-date. The focus is on the development of knowledge of rural health within and beyond Ontario and demonstration of the knowledge and skills of socially accountable physicians. Students will continue to be required to translate their knowledge concerning rural and northern health into appropriate patient care and demonstrate an on-going commitment to understanding and responding to the health care needs of Aboriginal and Francophone communities and peoples in the North.

MEDS 5625 Personal and Professional Aspects of Medical Practice

Students continue to refine their understanding of professional issues. Topics focus on the historical development of medical specialties, the legal framework for the practice of medicine in Ontario and Canada, ethical issues related to medical errors and patient safety, physician advocacy, and laws and requirements around medical records and practicing medicine in a hospital.

MEDS 5645 Social and Population Health

Students continue to learn about the social and cultural perspectives on individual and population health, community and public health, occupational health and the social determinants of health. Development of critical appraisal skills through background reading and applying evidence-based medicine methods to patient and populations is emphasized. Various relevant epidemiological designs and statistics are introduced, discussed and applied.

MEDS 5665 Foundations of Medicine

Acquiring knowledge about and application of the basic sciences in the context of patient care will continue to be an essential part of student instruction in all settings. Students will be expected to recall, understand, and apply knowledge of the basic sciences learned from the first three years. Review of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, and immunology will be encouraged and assessed. Pathology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, and therapeutics will be the subjects heavily emphasized and assessed.

MEDS 5685 Clinical Skills in Health Care

In-depth experiential learning and exploration of the medical specialties and sub-specialties, research or the human sciences, through a series of core medical and elective rotations. Successful completion of Clinical Skills in Health Care is accomplished by obtaining a mark of Pass throughout all rotations.

MEDS 5710 Internal Medicine

The four week internal medicine clerkship incorporates the objectives of general internal medicine as well as some of the sub-specialties of internal medicine. The content of the internal medicine clerkship builds upon the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients in the in-patient and out-patient setting.

MEDS 5711 Surgery

The four week surgical clerkship is intended to provide the clerk with an understanding of the broad principles of surgery and the basics of many of the individual surgical specialties as a foundation for post graduate training. Learning is focused through objectives and patient encounters in the out-patient and in-patient environment.

MEDS 5712 Family Medicine

The family medicine clerkship requirement can be satisfied in one of two ways: A two-week elective as part of the twelve week elective requirement in which students gain further experience in the specialty of family medicine in the out-patient and appropriate in-patient settings. Students who do not select family medicine as a two-week elective will satisfy this requirement through a series of longitudinal experiences carried out in any of the rotations in Phase 3. The 12 half-day experiences need not be consecutive.

MEDS 5713 Women's Health

The four week women's health rotation provides students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for the diagnosis, treatment and management of the gynaecological patient. Students will participate in the admission, management and follow through of obstetrical cases with a focus on in-patient care.

MEDS 5714 Children's Health

The four week children's health rotation is an experience in which students will have an in depth experience in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for the comprehensive evaluation of pediatric patients from the neonate to the adolescent. Students will have a focused experience in which they will be learning about common

and important pediatric principles as well as common and emergent problems in the hospital, ambulatory and community settings.

MEDS 5715 Mental Health

The four week mental health rotation is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn and acquire skills necessary to take a proper psychiatric case history, to examine psychiatric patients, and to develop management and treatment plans. Students will expand the knowledge they have acquired from experiences in the first three years to better understand the roles of a variety of therapies in the treatment and management of out patient and hospitalized patients and will better understand how mental health issues and psychiatric problems are managed over time.

MEDS 5716 Emergency Medicine

The four week emergency medicine rotation provides an in depth experience for students in the context and milieu of large city hospital-based emergency departments. During this period students expand their knowledge of triage in the emergency setting, will sharpen their history and physical exam skills in wound management and will learn to quickly identify procedures required for extreme emergent situations.

Phase 3 Electives

A total of twelve (12) weeks of approved electives in medical specialties, medical subspecialties or medical research or the human sciences is required in Phase 3. Electives must be a minimum of 2 weeks although 1 week electives may be approved in rare circumstances. All students must take electives in a minimum of three (3) different Canadian Resident Matching Service (CARMS) categories.

Elective experiences are structured educational opportunities that allow medical students to explore the specialties and sub-specialties of medicine as well as explore their career options. Each elective experience includes an identified set of objectives, learning program, faculty supervisor and assessment and evaluation plan approved by the student advisor and the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education.

MEDS 5750 Elective/Medical/Specialty
MEDS 5751 Elective/Surgical/Specialty
MEDS 5752 Elective/Women's Health /Specialty
MEDS 5753 Elective/Children's Health/Specialty
MEDS 5754 Elective/Internal Medicine/Specialty
MEDS 5755 Elective/Mental Health Medicine/Specialty
MEDS 5756 Elective/Family Medicine/Specialty
MEDS 5757 Elective/Research
MEDS 5758 Elective/Human Sciences
MEDS 5759 Elective/Laboratory Medicine/Pathology/Specialty
MEDS 5770 Elective/Diagnostic Imaging/Nuclear Medicine/Specialty
MEDS 5771 Elective/Emergency Medicine
MEDS 5772 Elective/Community Medicine
MEDS 5773 Elective/Anesthesia