

Clinical Rotation Scheduling Guidelines

Core rotations are scheduled in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Students entering the clinical portion of the curriculum are required to have an 8-week block scheduled in November unless the student is remediating an exam.
2. Other than vacations and holidays as outlined on the academic calendar, the only guaranteed time off during clinical rotations is protected time for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK studying (Students are permitted a maximum of two 4-week blocks to prepare for Step 1 and Step 2 CK).
3. All core rotations must be taken in the first 12 months of the clinical year in the sequence outlined on the assigned option unless the student is remediating an exam or off cycle due to a leave of absence / dual degree.
4. Students pursuing dual degrees or Medical Research Pathway (MRP) are assigned to their respective core sequences and will complete rotations prior to leaving the School of Medicine.
 - a. Dual degree and MRP students are required to complete all attempted coursework on the academic record prior to leaving to pursue the dual degree or MRP *OR* have a plan for remediation established with the Office of Student Affairs (e.g.: There cannot be a Fail, Deferred or Incomplete grade.)
 - b. Students leaving for the MBA Dual Degree, MD/JD Dual Degree and 5th Year MPH Dual Degree must have completed both STEP 1 and STEP 2 CK prior to starting their LOA .
 - c. Students leaving for other educational and research LOAs should have completed major educational milestones (i.e. STEP 1 and STEP 2) dependent on when their LOA is scheduled as determined by the Office of Student Affairs.
5. Family and Community Medicine must be taken in the first 18 months of the clinical years. This is a state law.
6. Students are encouraged to utilize the 4-week elective block for clinical rotations to allow for more flexibility to complete other requirements later in the curriculum.
7. Surgical Subspecialties (Selectives) will no longer be offered after October 2025.
 - a. Students who have not taken their Selectives by 10/27/25 and are graduating in May 2026 must take any other 4 weeks of clinical electives to fulfill this requirement. Note, the overall elective requirement for May 2026 grads will remain the same.
 - b. Students who have completed Selectives but graduate with the Class of 2027 or beyond may use the selective time toward their clinical elective requirement.
8. The mandatory Emergency Medicine rotation must be taken prior to graduation.
 - a. Emergency Medicine will begin offering the 4-week EM rotation starting Monday, 10/27/25. The 2-week rotation will then no longer be available.
 - b. Students who have not taken their EM rotation by 10/27/25 but are graduating in May 2026 must take the 4-week rotation, but the extra 2 weeks will count toward their overall elective requirement. Note, the overall elective requirement for May 2026 grads will remain the same.
 - c. Students who graduate with Class of 2027 or beyond who have already taken the 2-week EM course before 10/27/25 may use it as a substitute for the 4-week EM course.

- d. The prerequisite for Emergency Medicine is successful completion of both Medicine and Surgery core clerkships.
9. One Sub-Internship is required, and the prerequisite is successful completion of the corresponding core. If the grade is deferred or incomplete in the core associated with the Sub-Internship, the student will not be able to proceed to the Sub-Internship. See [course descriptions](#) for options for the Sub-Internship.
10. The Sub-Internship must be successfully completed before March of the 4th year.
11. MS4s are prohibited from taking any rotations past month 4A ([see scheduling grid](#)).

Elective Rotations are scheduled in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Following the Surgery clerkship is a two-week required course (Service Learning / Narrative Medicine / Wellness experience, directed by Student Affairs).
2. Following the Pediatrics and OBGYN clerkships, there will be a 2-week elective block. It is recommended that students schedule a clinical elective during these blocks.
3. Be advised, NBME exams for the 6-week clerkships (Surgery, Pediatrics, and OBGYN) will occur during the following 2-week elective block. Students should stay in residence, whether or not they choose to use the 2-week block following Pediatrics or OBGYN for an elective rotation.

Guidelines on Rescheduling Mandatory Clinical Courses:

1. Once the clinical schedule is set, any core or required rotations **cannot** be changed except for extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are unexpected occurrences and include but are not limited to circumstances such as illness or death in one's immediate family or specialty specific requirements. Should a student believe they meet one of these criteria, they must submit an online scheduling petition request to the Scheduling Petition Committee. The link to the petition form is:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/schedchangerequestform>
2. Students are prohibited from contacting clinical course directors to request enrollment changes. Individual course directors cannot negotiate and approve clerkship schedule changes.
3. Students will remain in the originally scheduled course until they have received confirmation of the approved change from the Scheduling Petition Committee or the Office of the Registrar.
 - a. Students pursuing dual degrees or research will receive a full schedule during scheduling and future rotations will be removed after the official notice of leave is received from the Office of Student Affairs.

Guidelines for Scheduling Electives:

1. Elective registration occurs via a lottery system. Once lottery assignments are finalized, remaining elective slots are available for open registration. All schedule changes must adhere to the [add/drop guidelines](#) posted in the student handbook.
2. Away rotations must be approved at least six weeks in advance of the start of the rotation, and you must complete a [manual registration process](#) in order to receive credit and to be covered by malpractice insurance for the rotation.
3. Any desired changes outside of the add/drop guidelines will be considered only if extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances are unexpected occurrences and include but are not limited to circumstances such as illness or a family emergency or specialty specific requirements.

Guidelines on Remediating Mandatory Clinical Courses:

The following guidelines have been developed to assist students in the event it becomes necessary to reschedule rotations to remediate due to a deficient grade or leave of absence:

1. Students must seek counsel from the Office of Student Affairs to ensure the remediation plan is viable.
2. Once the plan is determined, the Office of the Registrar will determine if availability exists in the course to accommodate the remediation.
3. Remediation of coursework may not be attempted at any time that a student is scheduled for another rotation or course. Students cannot enroll for two courses simultaneously (e.g.: remediate a clerkship during a scheduled elective course).
4. Depending on the duration, students who take a leave of absence will re-enter the curriculum based on course availability and will likely have a new rotation schedule. In addition, depending on the length of the leave of absence, students may re-enter with different graduation requirements.