

# ELECTIVES & SUB-INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

MEFAM - Family & Community Medicine

Department Electives Lead Officer: Anjali Aggarwal, MD

[aaggarwa@bcm.edu](mailto:aaggarwa@bcm.edu)

713.392.2620

## COURSE TYPE: (A) PRECLINICAL

MEFAM-407	Preclinical: Introduction to Care of the Underserved (Aggarwal)
MEFAM-408A	Preclinical: Medical Spanish – Introduction (Franco)
MEFAM-408B	Preclinical: Medical Spanish – Advanced (Franco)
MEFAM-409	Preclinical: Longitudinal Community Medicine and Primary Care (Aggarwal)
MEFAM-423	Preclinical: History of Medicine (Khan & Spooner)
MEFAM-428	Preclinical: Compassion and the Art of Medicine (Bhattarai)
MEFAM-447	Preclinical: Refugee and Immigrant Medicine (Joshi)
MEFAM-602	Preclinical: The Healer's Art (Blumenreich)
MEFAM-603	Environmental Health: What Every Physician Should Know (Symanski)
MEFAM-604	Longitudinal Community Care Practices and Service (Juneja)
MEFAM-605	Care of the Homeless (Clark)

## COURSE TYPE: (B) NON-CLINICAL

MEFAM-523	Non-Clinical Research: Health Services Research (Gonzalez)
MEFAM-530	Non-Clinical Advanced: Underserved Care Clinic (Aggarwal)
MEFAM-535	Non-Clinical Research: Community Project in Underserved Care (Aggarwal)

## COURSE TYPE: (C) CLINICAL

MEFAM-200	Clinical: Procedures in Primary Care (Rode)
MEFAM-201	Clinical: 2 WEEKS – Addiction Medicine (Kowalchuk)
MEFAM-504	Clinical: Preceptorship in Family Medicine (Sarkar)
MEFAM-511	Clinical: Care of the Underserved at Northwest Health Center (TBA)
MEFAM-515	Clinical: Required Sub-Internship in Family Medicine at BTGH (Nguyen)

**PLEASE SEE [ACADEMIC CALENDAR](#) FOR DATES.**

*Preclinical*  
**INTRODUCTION  
TO CARE OF THE  
UNDERSERVED**

MEFAM-407 (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Anjali Aggarwal, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term 1: Open to MS1 and MS2

Enrollment: CAMS Portal system; Due one week before and one week after the start of the elective.

Days/Time: Didactic Schedule - Thursdays  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Dates: Refer to Blackboard

Location: BCM Main Campus/Virtual Zoom Sessions

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 50/10

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(66); 2022(57); 2021(49)

Credits: 0.5

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail

Students must have a 70 or higher to pass the course.  
Attendance/Participation: 80% (5 points for attendance and 5 points for participation). May miss one class without penalty. Short reflection paper: 20%. Discuss knowledge/ thoughts/attitudes before the course and how they changed based on the instruction.

Important Information: Material on Blackboard

*Preclinical*  
**MEDICAL SPANISH  
- INTRODUCTORY -**

MEFAM-408A (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Anayatzy Franco, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term 1: MS1 and MS2 students

Enrollment: CAMS Portal system; Due one week before and one week after the start of the elective.

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Location: BCM Main Campus/Virtual Zoom Sessions

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 20/3

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(20); 2022(10); 2021(43); 2020(N/A); 2019(N/A); 2018(16); 2017(14)

Credits: 0.75

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail

Students must pass both the final oral exam and demonstrate satisfactory classroom participation to pass the course. Classroom Participation-90%. 7.5 points per attendance, and 7.5 points per participation (May miss one class without penalty.) Oral final exam-10%. 10 points - able to obtain full H&P in Spanish. Students must have 70 points or higher to pass the course.

Important Information: Material on Blackboard

*Preclinical*  
**MEDICAL SPANISH  
- ADVANCED -**

MEFAM-408B (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Anayatzy Franco, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term 2: Open for MS1 and MS2

Enrollment: CAMS Portal system; Due one week before and one week after the start of the elective.

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Location: BCM Main Campus/Virtual Zoom Sessions

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 20/1; International students - No;  
Visiting students - No

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(7); 2022(11); 2021(N/A);  
2020(N/A); 2019(N/A); 2018(10); 2017(10)

Credits: 0.75

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail

Classroom participation (90%); 7.5 points per attendance and 7.5 points per participation (May miss one class without penalty); Final oral exam (10%: Pass/Fail); Able to obtain full H&P, state the verbiage needed to perform an exam, and explain treatment in Spanish.

Student must pass both the final oral exam as well as demonstrate satisfactory classroom attendance/participation to pass the course. Students must have 70 points or higher to pass the course.

Important Information: Material on Blackboard

*Preclinical*  
**LONGITUDINAL  
COMMUNITY MEDICINE  
& PRIMARY CARE**

MEFAM-409 (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Anjali Aggarwal, MD**

Co-Director: **Stephanie Nguyen, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: MS2-1 & 2

Enrollment: CAMS Portal system; Due one week before and one week after the start of the elective.

Days/Time: Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Community Event Dates: Refer to Blackboard

Location: BCM Main Campus/Virtual Zoom Sessions

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 10/1

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(8); 2022(10);  
2021(12); 2020(9)

Credits: 1.5

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Community experience (4 total): 10 pts each for a maximum of 40 pts. 20% of grade based on graded paper. The paper must be completed and submitted to pass the course (20 pts).



*Preclinical*  
**HISTORY OF  
MEDICINE**

MEFAM-423 (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Fareed Khan, MD**

Co-Director: **Kiara Spooner, DrPH, MPH**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 4 & 5/MS1

Enrollment: CAMS Portal System; Due one week before and one week after the start of elective.

Days/Time: Tuesdays 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Location: Zoom only

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 100/1

International students - NO; Visiting students - YES

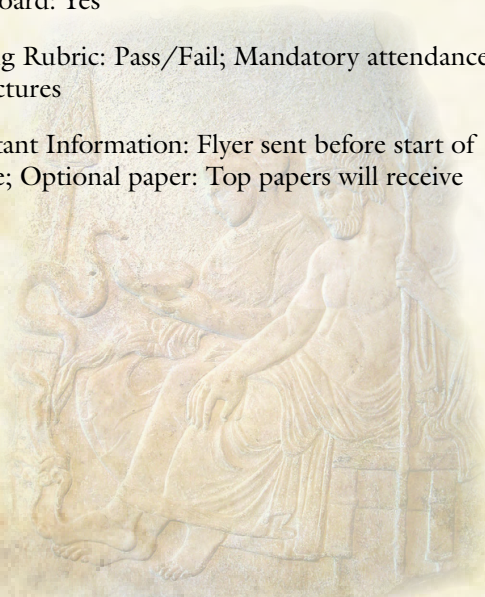
Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(N/A); 2022(29); 2021(115); 2020(96); 2019(81); 2018(112); 2017(84)

Credits: 0.5

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail; Mandatory attendance for 7 of 9 lectures

Important Information: Flyer sent before start of elective; Optional paper: Top papers will receive



*Preclinical*  
**COMPASSION AND  
THE ART OF MEDICINE**

MEFAM-428 (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Sanjana Bhattarai, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 1/MS1; 1/MS2 (Start in Term 1/End in Term 2)

Enrollment: CAMS Portal System; Due one week before and one week after the start of elective.

Days/Time: Fridays 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 200/15

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

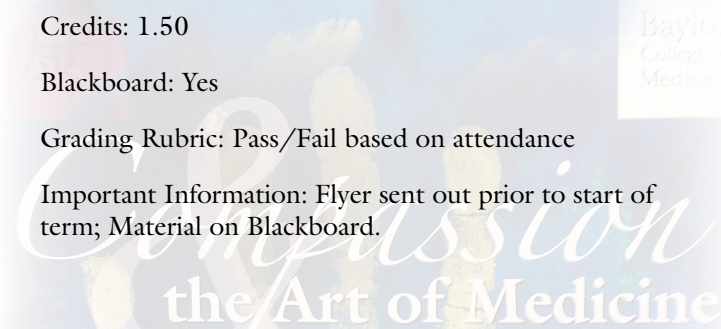
Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(N/A); 2022(8); 2021(14); 2020(63); 2019(62); 2018(67); 2017(94)

Credits: 1.50

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail based on attendance

Important Information: Flyer sent out prior to start of term; Material on Blackboard.



*Preclinical*  
**REFUGEE AND  
IMMIGRANT MEDICINE**

MEFAM-447 (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Bharat Joshi, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: MS1 Term 3

Enrollment: CAMS Portal system; Due one week before and one week after the start of the elective.

Days/Time: Fridays 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 45/5

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(47); 2022(N/A); 2021(0); 2020(43); 2019(16)

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Paper + attendance at 80% of classes

Faculty Approval: No

*Preclinical*  
**THE HEALER'S ART**

MEFAM-602

Elective Director: **Joy Blumenreich, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 3/MS1

Enrollment: CAMS Portal System; Due one week before and one week after the start of elective.

Days/Time: Tuesdays 6:00 - 9:15 PM

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Location: Refer to Blackboard

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 40/15

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(19); 2022(41); 2021(70); 2020(38); 2019(21); 2018(27)

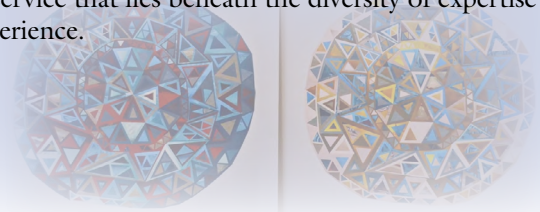
Credits: 1

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail based on attendance; Student must attend first session to participate and can miss only one of the five sessions

Faculty Approval: No

Important Information: Identify, strengthen, and cultivate the human dimensions of the practice of medicine; Learn and trust the power of listening and presence to heal others; Recognize and experience the impact of skills and feedback listening generously and compassionately; Identify effective and ineffective behavioral responses to loss and grief; Articulate and strengthen a personal commitment to medicine as their life's work; Experience practicing physicians sharing their experiences of loss, grief, mystery, and awe in practicing medicine; Witness the unity of commitment to service that lies beneath the diversity of expertise and experience.



*Preclinical*  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH:  
WHAT EVERY PHYSICIAN  
SHOULD KNOW**

MEFAM-603

Elective Director: **Elaine Symanski, PhD**

Contact: Yhari Queen Jones  
[yhari.jones@bcm.edu](mailto:yhari.jones@bcm.edu)  
713.798.2328  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 4 & 5/Open to MS1

Enrollment: CAMS Portal System; Due one week before and one week after the start of elective.

Days/Time: Fridays 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Dates and Topics: March 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15 (optional), 22, 29; May 6

Location: Refer to Blackboard

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 20/5

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

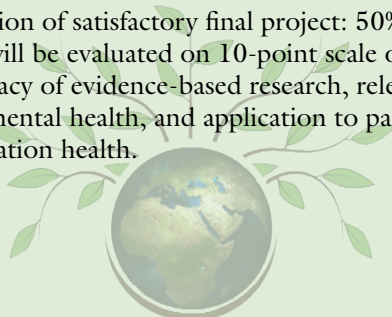
Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(N/A); 2022(10)

Credits: 0.5

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Course will be graded Pass/Fail based on two components:

1. Attendance: 50% (including participation in small and large group discussions, including case histories)
2. Completion of satisfactory final project: 50%. Final project will be evaluated on 10-point scale on the basis of adequacy of evidence-based research, relevance to environmental health, and application to patient and/or population health.



*Preclinical*  
**LONGITUDINAL  
COMMUNITY CARE  
PRACTICES AND SERVICE**

MEFAM-604 (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Malvika Juneja, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 1-5/Open to MS1

Enrollment: CAMS Portal system; Due one week before and one week after the start of the elective.

Days/Time/Schedule: Refer to Blackboard

Location: Refer to Blackboard

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 5/35

Enrollment of prior sessions: New elective

Credits: 2.25

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: This course will be graded on a Pass/Fail (>70% = Pass) basis.

- Attendance at didactic sessions (5 pts each) = 40 pts (40%)
- Attendance and participation at reflection sessions (4 pts each) = 16 pts (16%)
- Completion of 8 site visits, 3 hrs each (5 pts per visit) = 40 pts (40%)
- Scholarly Activity/Final Deliverable (4 pts) = 4 pts (4%)

50% of the grade will be based on community service (30%), reflection session participation (16%) and submission of a scholarly activity (4%). These are the minimum mandatory requirements to pass.

Important Information: Materials on Blackboard



*Preclinical*  
**CARE OF THE  
HOMELESS**

MEFAM-605 (Houston & Temple)

Elective Director: **Dana Clark, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term 2: Open for MS1 and MS2

Enrollment: CAMS Portal system; Due one week before and one week after the start of the elective.

Days/Time: Tuesdays 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Schedule: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 28

Location: Virtual

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 8/40

Enrollment of prior sessions: New elective

Credits: 0.5

Blackboard: No

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail

Attendance/Participation (70%):

- 10 points per class attended
- May miss one class without penalty

Short Reflective Project (30%):

- 20 points - project demonstrates an understanding of topics covered in class
- 5 points - project was created with care and attention to detail
- 5 points - timely submission of project
- Assignments turned in more than 5 days after the deadline will not be credited.

*Non-clinical Research*  
**HEALTH SERVICES  
RESEARCH**

MEFAM-523

Elective Director: **Sandra Gonzalez, MSSW, PhD**

Contact: **Anjali Aggarwal, MD**  
[aaggarwa@bcm.edu](mailto:aaggarwa@bcm.edu)  
713.392.2620  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: Offered 12 months

Enrollment: Paper form must be submitted at least 4 weeks before start date of elective; Approval by Course Director. Form with goals & objectives completed is required, along with Dean's signatures (Registrar will obtain Dean's signature).

Lectures/Days: Monday through Friday

Weekends - NO; Night calls - NO

A schedule for the 4-week rotation will be given at the start of elective

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Report to 3701 Kirby Drive, Suite 600 at 9:00 AM

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 4/1

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(0); 2022(0); 2021(2); 2020(1); 2019(1); 2018(3)

Credits: 4

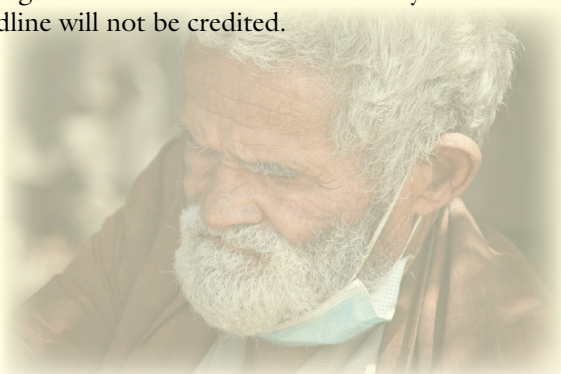
Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail

Faculty Approval: Yes

Faculty: Zoorob/Gonzalez/Grigoryan/Levine

Important Information: Create/revise projects; Continued longitudinal sessions until manuscript publication.



*Non-clinical Research*  
**COMMUNITY PROJECT  
IN UNDERSERVED CARE**

MEFAM-535

Elective Director: **Anjali Aggarwal, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 1A/MS3

Enrollment: Paper form must be submitted to Registrar's office.

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Location: Zoom sessions/BCM Main Campus

Maximum/Minimum: 30/5

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(30); 2022(33); 2021(26); 2020(17); 2019(19); 2018(9); 2017(12)

Credits: 1

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Pass/Fail

Faculty Approval: Yes

Important Information: This elective serves as a requirement to complete Care of the Underserved pathway requirements. In this elective, students will work as a group to design and conduct a community project to benefit a segment of the underserved population.

*Non-clinical Advanced*  
**UNDERSERVED CARE  
CLINIC**

MEFAM-530

Elective Director: **Anjali Aggarwal, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Enrollment: Paper form must be submitted to Registrar's office 4 weeks prior to start date; Faculty signatures required.

Days/Time: Monday through Friday  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Weekends - NO; Night calls - NO

Location: HOMES Clinic/Other

Prerequisite: N/A

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(1); 2022(0); 2021(1); 2020(1); 2019(1); 2018(1); 2017(1)

Credits: 0.5

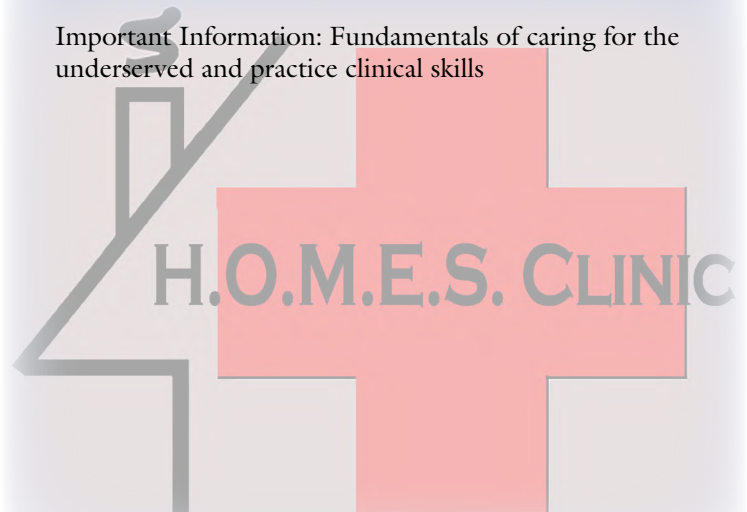
Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Evaluations by preceptors due within 2 weeks of course completion

Faculty Approval: Yes

Faculty: Aggarwal/Clark/Shepherd/Blumenreich/Eswaran/Pillow

Important Information: Fundamentals of caring for the underserved and practice clinical skills





*Clinical*  
**PROCEDURES  
IN PRIMARY CARE**

MEFAM-200

Elective Director: **Rashmi Rode, MD**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 2 weeks

Enrollment: Registration begins 2.5 months in advance through Elective Portal System. Can add up to 4 weeks before term begins. Drop up to 6 weeks before start of elective. Requires permission of Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Lectures/Days: Monday through Friday

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Please see details on the course schedule

Dates and Topics: Refer to Blackboard

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(10); 2022(7);  
2021(9)

Credits: 2

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Clinical performance; Evaluation by preceptors

Faculty Approval: No

Faculty: Atkinson/Franco/Abdalla/Danek/Levison/  
Nijjar/Rode

*Clinical*  
**ADDICTION MEDICINE**

MEFAM-201 (2 weeks)

Elective Director: **Alicia Kowalchuk, DO**

Contact: Bridget Angel, MS  
[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)  
713.798.6590  
832.787.1307 (f)

Term: 2 weeks

Enrollment: Registration begins 2.5 months in advance through Elective Portal System. Can add up to 4 weeks before term begins. Drop up to 6 weeks before start of elective. Requires permission of Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Days/Time: Monday-Friday, 8-hour days

Night Call: Yes (1)

Weekends: Yes (1 weekend day)

Location: BTH, VAMC

Prerequisite: N/A

Maximum/Minimum: 1

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(12); 2022(8);  
2021(8)

Credits: 2.0

Blackboard: Yes

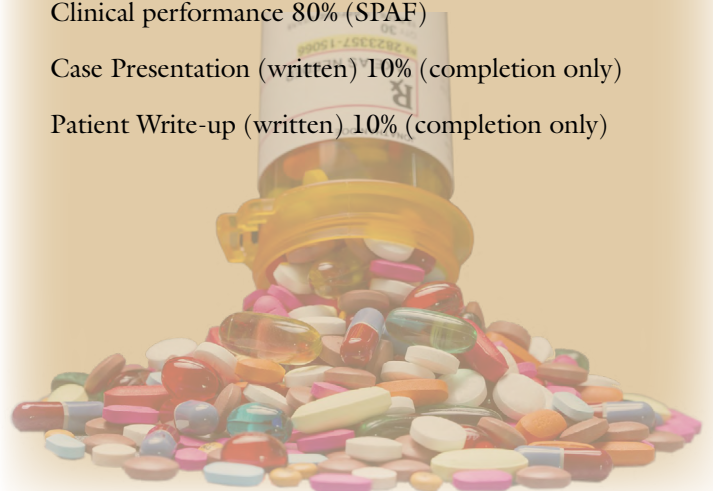
Grading Rubric: H, HP, P, MP, F Narrative Evaluation

Evaluation Information:

Clinical performance 80% (SPAF)

Case Presentation (written) 10% (completion only)

Patient Write-up (written) 10% (completion only)



*Clinical*  
**PRECEPTORSHIP  
IN FAMILY MEDICINE**

MEFAM-504

Elective Director: **Arindam Sarkar, MD**

[arindam.sarkar@bcm.edu](mailto:arindam.sarkar@bcm.edu)

Contact: **Bridget Angel, MS**

713.798.6590

832.787.1307 (f)

Enrollment: Registration begins 2.5 months in advance through Elective Portal System. Can add up to 4 weeks before term begins. Drop up to 6 weeks before start of elective. Need permission of Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Lectures/Days: Generally Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Possibly some weekday evening hours

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Assigned to Family Physician's office

Prerequisite: Family Medicine & Medicine Core Clerkships; No visiting or international students

Maximum/Minimum: 0/1

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(1); 2022(1); 2021(3); 2020(0); 2019(2); 2018(1); 2017(1)

Credits: 4

Blackboard: No

Grading Rubric: Clinical performance by Preceptor (100%)

Faculty Approval: Yes

Important Information: Additional experience in Family Medicine



*Clinical*  
**CARE OF  
THE UNDERSERVED**

MEFAM-511

Elective Director: **TBA**

Contact: **Bridget Angel, MS**

[bridget.angel@bcm.edu](mailto:bridget.angel@bcm.edu)

713.798.6590

832.787.1307 (f)

Enrollment: Registration begins 2.5 months in advance through Elective Portal System. Can add up to 4 weeks before term begins. Drop up to 6 weeks before start of elective. Need permission of Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Lectures/Days: Monday through Friday

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Weekends - NO; Night calls - NO

Location: Northwest Health Center, 1100 West 34th Street

Prerequisite: Medicine, Pediatrics, or Family and Community Medicine

Maximum/Minimum: 0/1

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(2); 2022(2); 2021(4); 2020(4); 2019(10); 2018(5); 2017(2)

Credits: 4

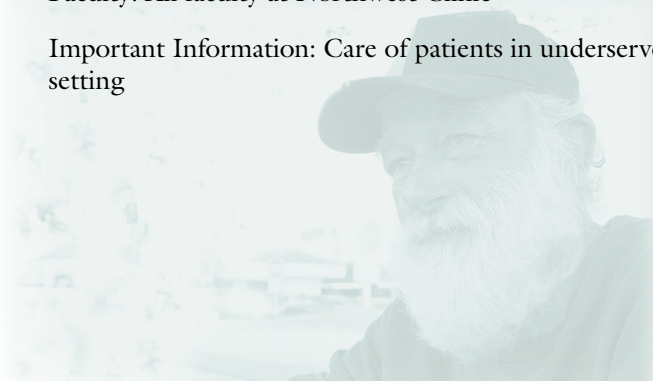
Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: H, HP, P, MP, F Narrative Evaluation

Faculty Approval: Yes

Faculty: All faculty at Northwest Clinic

Important Information: Care of patients in underserved setting



*Clinical*  
**REQUIRED SUB-  
INTERNSHIP  
IN FAMILY MEDICINE  
(BEN TAUB)**

MEFAM-515

Elective Director: **Stephanie Nguyen, MD**

[stephanie.nguyen2@bcm.edu](mailto:stephanie.nguyen2@bcm.edu)

713.798.6590

832.787.1307 (f)

Term: MS3/MS4; Offered all 12 months

Enrollment: Registration begins 2.5 months in advance through Elective Portal System. Can add up to 4 weeks before term begins. Drop up to 6 weeks before start of elective. Need permission of Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Lectures/Days: 5-6 per week - Monday through Friday

8-10 hrs/day; Weekends - YES; Night calls - YES

Location: Ben Taub General Hospital; Report BTGH at 8:00 AM; Spectralink: Call resident-713.873.9507

Prerequisite: Family Medicine & Medicine core clerkships

Maximum/Minimum: 0/1

International students - NO; Visiting students - NO

Enrollment of prior sessions: 2023(8); 2022(9); 2021(10); 2020(7); 2019(9); 2018(10); 2017(3)

Credits: 4

Blackboard: Yes

Grading Rubric: Clinical evaluation by preceptors (90%) and Professionalism (10%); Evaluate Composite grade; Sub-internship professionalism rubric

Faculty Approval: No

Faculty: All inpatient and Ob faculty

Important Information: Family Medicine inpatient & obstetric care