

## Structure of Year 3 and Year 4 Curriculum Dartmouth Medical School

- For the academic year starting in June 2009, the structure of Year 3 has been changed and will be made up of seven 7 week blocks, which allows all students the opportunity for one or more electives in Year 3. Students will take the following six clerkships during Year 3: Inpatient Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, OB-GYN/Women's Health, and Family Medicine.
- - Year 3 at Dartmouth Medical School begins with a required three-day ICE/Introduction to year 3 which runs from Monday, June 22nd through Wednesday, June 24th. This session covers both clinical and administrative topics required prior to the start of clerkships. The clerkships will begin on Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.
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- The 7 week clerkships will start on a Thursday and end on a Wednesday seven weeks later. The Thursday start allows clerkship orientation and activities such as simulation exercises to occur prior to travel to more distant sites. At the end of the block students will come together at Dartmouth for end-of-clerkship exams, presentations, feedback and class meetings.
- In the remaining 7 week block (the Elective block) one or two electives can be done, or the Neurology or Geriatrics and Ambulatory Medicine clerkship can be completed. One or more weeks of vacation are also encouraged during the Elective block. For most third year students the Elective block will be in December or later. Clerkships are scheduled through a lottery system which takes place during April of Year 2.
- Year 3 electives may be done in any discipline where the departmental prerequisites have been met and where there is capacity. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for electives after the clerkship lottery in April of Year 2.
- On occasion students may have to delay a clerkship into Year 4, though with the new 7 x 7 curriculum structure this should be uncommon. If it does occur, the Medicine and Surgery clerkships need to be completed by the end of August for inclusion of those evaluations on the Dean's letter. Pediatrics, OB-GYN/Women's Health, Family Medicine and Psychiatry need to be completed by the end of the clerkship block ending in November of Year 4.
- A course called "Interdisciplinary Clinical Exercises (ICE)" includes topics not uniformly covered in any specific clerkship. OSCE's (see below) are also part of this course. These sessions will be held during the orientation to Year 3, during a two day period early in Thanksgiving week and over a few days at the end of Year 3. Students are required to attend all ICE sessions. The course is Pass-Fail, and carries 1 week of credit on the transcript. There will be periodic assessments of knowledge, which take the form of self-study web-based quizzes to be done after certain ICE topics. All requirements of the ICE course must be completed by June 30 after the end of Year 3. A more detailed description of this course can be found later in this handbook.
- OSCE sessions occur twice a year during the evening after Block 3 in November and at the end of Year 3 in June. Each student will do a total of two OSCE's over the course of Year 3 as well as one or two skill stations. Students are assigned to one of 7-8 different OSCE cases depending on the clerkships completed over the previous clerkship blocks. Feedback goes to students on areas of strength and

weakness, and to clerkship directors so they can see how well their clerkships are covering necessary skills. OSCE performance is assessed on a Pass-Fail basis.

- A student needs to pass both the knowledge portion (see above) and the skills (OSCE) portion in order to pass the ICE course. In the rare situation when a student fails either portion of this course, the Assistant Dean for Clinical Education will develop a pathway for remediation that should be completed early in Year 4.
  
- Other requirements for the Year 3-4 continuum include:
  - a) Geriatric & Ambulatory Medicine (GAM) (4 weeks)
  - b) Neurology (4 weeks)
  - c) Subinternship (4 weeks)
  - d) Electives (16-28 weeks)
  - e) A minimum of two weeks of a surgery oriented "selective" which may include rotations in the ICU (not the CCU), the ED, anesthesia or specialties.
  - f) Year 4 coursework (Clinical Pharmacology, Health Society and the Physician, Advanced Medical Sciences, ACLS/PALS). This is done in February-March of Year 4.
  
- GAM is a 4 week required clerkship with orientation on the Monday that the clerkship begins. GAM must be completed by May of Year 4.
  
- Neurology is a 4 week required clerkship with orientation on the Monday that the clerkship begins. GAM must be completed by May of Year 4.
  
- The subinternship must be at least 4 weeks in length and is done in Year 4. Specific information on subinternship requirements are on the DMS web site.