

CURRICULUM

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS

The goals of the curriculum are to:

- Develop self-directed learners who will continuously develop as caring physicians during graduate training and practice.
- Enable students to acquire a strong foundation in the basic and clinical sciences and in those aspects of the humanities, social, and behavioral sciences that are relevant to medicine.
- Foster the development of the skills necessary for the competent practice of medicine throughout their professional career.
- Help the student in developing an appreciation and understanding of the diverse values that are brought by health care professionals, patients, family, and society to the practice of medicine.
- Utilize methods in the curriculum that will be flexible in meeting the needs of the individual student. This curriculum will include a variety of learning strategies and formats.

OBJECTIVES

To attain the Doctor of Medicine degree, the Creighton graduate must:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of basic biologic processes pertaining to the understanding of disease.
- Demonstrate knowledge of pathophysiology of common and important health problems.
- Demonstrate the ability to use scientific principles in the diagnosis and management of disease.
- Demonstrate knowledge of therapeutic principles for common health problems including drug therapy, rehabilitation, and community support services.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to identify persons at risk for common and important health problems.
- Demonstrate the ability to:
 - conduct a medical interview and obtain a medical history
 - carry out an appropriate physical examination
 - develop a differential diagnosis
 - utilize appropriate diagnostic and laboratory procedures to confirm the diagnosis
 - develop a treatment plan
 - record the information in a concise and organized manner
- Be able to recognize and initially manage the life-threatening conditions for which immediate intervention is necessary for the well-being of the patient.
- Demonstrate the importance of preventive medicine in improving the health status of society and reducing health care costs. Encourage a healthy lifestyle by word and example.
- Identify and propose solutions to moral, ethical, and legal problems of medical practice.

- Demonstrate an ability to communicate with patients and family members in a clear and sensitive manner recognizing the consequences of illness as a process that unfolds within a societal and cultural context.
- Function as a competent member of the health care team, demonstrating cooperation, initiative, and appropriate leadership skills.
- Demonstrate skills of lifelong learning and practice self-education by selecting appropriate learning resources to enhance one's personal progress and performance.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically assess the medical literature and the research methods used to investigate the management of health problems.
- Demonstrate effective use and management of information to include the ability to use computers for data analysis and information retrieval.
- Demonstrate the effective use of educational principles to educate patients, families, and fellow health professionals about health care problems.

The School of Medicine requires successful completion of four years of study before the *Doctor of Medicine* is awarded. All components of each of these four years must be completed before the student can be awarded the degree of *Doctor of Medicine*. The curriculum of these four years does change from time to time, based on student and faculty input, however, the basic concept of developing outstanding practitioners of medicine remains stable.

The educational program is divided into four components:

Component I – The First Year

The goal of the first year is to provide a strong foundation in biomedical science in order to prepare students for the detailed basic science content that occurs within the clinically-oriented system courses in the second year. Students also will be introduced to ethical and behavioral science principles and will learn the fundamentals of physical assessment and interviewing techniques, and the concepts of neuroscience.

Component II – The Second Year

The second year provides the opportunity to continue to learn basic science in depth integrated with introductory aspects of clinical medicine. The second year is organized around a series of organ system-based courses, each presented by a multidisciplinary team of faculty members. Within each course, normal physiology and histology of the system are presented in conjunction with the pathology of common diseases and medical and pharmacologic approaches to diagnosis and treatment. Each course uses a variety of formats, including case presentations, lectures, small group discussions, laboratory sessions, computer-aided instruction, and independent study. Other courses develop clinical skills and address the psychosocial aspects of medicine. In the Behavioral Medicine courses, students are exposed to psychiatry, health policy, public health, cultural competency, and behavioral science.

Component III – The Third Year

Component III is comprised of the core clinical clerkships. Students are scheduled into one of six groups that rotate through clerkships in:

- Ambulatory Primary Care clerkship (8 weeks), an integrated approach to ambulatory primary care drawn from the departments of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine.
- Inpatient Medicine (8 weeks)
- Psychiatry (8 weeks)
- Surgery (8 weeks)
- Pediatrics (8 weeks)
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (8 Weeks)

Students must also satisfy the following additional requirements:

- attend all Junior orientation sessions
- attend DCM 301, Dimensions of Clinical Medicine) which covers various clinically important topics (i.e., evidence-based medicine, sexuality, cultural competence, professionalism, alternative medicine, Spirituality and End of life care, clinical skills, and medical ethics) and is presented on the fourth Friday of each clerkship.
- become certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support during Component III

Take the Junior Clinical Competency Examination. Those students who do not pass the Junior Clinical Competency Examination must take and pass Advanced Physical Diagnosis (IDC 480) in their senior year to satisfy this requirement and to be eligible to take the USMLE Step 2 CS.

Component IV – The Fourth Year

The fourth year prepares students for residency and provides a chance to explore their own interests in specialized areas of medical practice. In the fourth year, each student selects at least 36 weeks of courses which must include:

- One surgical selective (4 weeks)
- One critical care selective (4 weeks)
- One primary care selective or 2nd critical care selective (4 weeks)
- an additional 14 weeks of clinical electives
- an additional 10 weeks of clinical or non-clinical electives

During the fourth year a student must take Step 2CK and Step 2CS of the USMLE prior to graduation.

SYNOPSIS OF COURSES AND UNITS OF INSTRUCTION

Course	Sem. Hrs.
IDC 101	Molecular and Cell Biology.....9
IDC 103	Anatomy6
IDC 105	Principles of Pharmacology 1
IDC 107	Principles of Microbiology 1
IDC 109	Host Defense.....3
IDC 111	Neuroscience.....7
IDC 135	Ethical and Legal Topics in Clinical Medicine.....3
IDC 136	Interviewing and Physical Exam4
IDC 138	Evidence Based Medicine.....1
IDC 140	Behavioral Medicine I3
	<u>38</u>
IDC 201	Cardiovascular System4
IDC 203	Respiratory System3
IDC 205	Renal/Urinary System.....3
IDC 207	Hematology/Oncology3
IDC 209	Gastrointestinal System3
IDC 211	Muscular/Skeletal/Integument2
IDC 216	Endocrine/ Reproductive System4
IDC 233	Infectious Disease4
IDC 243	Behavioral Medicine II3
IDC 244	Behavioral Medicine III.....3
IDC 279	Case Studies in Medicine.....2
IDC 290	Applied Clinical Skills.....3
	<u>40</u>
IDC 301	Ambulatory Primary Care Clerkship8
MED 301	Inpatient Medicine Clerkship8
SUR 301	Surgery Clerkship8
PED 301	Pediatrics Clerkship8
OBG 301	Ob/Gyn Clerkship8
PBS 301	Psychiatry Clerkship.....8
DCM 301	Dimensions of Clinical Medicine1
	<u>49</u>
	Critical Care Selectives/Sub-internship.....8
	Surgery Selective4
	Electives..... <u>24</u>
	<u>36</u>
	Total: 163