



The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

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Advancement Policy

The Medical College of Georgia 3+ Curriculum is constructed in three phases – Preclerkship, Clerkship, and Advanced Clerkship. For students not in the PGY-1 Pathway there is an additional fourth phase – Enrichment. Additionally students have varying elective requirements based on the Pathway they choose. Because of the built-in flexibility of the curriculum, advancement from one phase to the next is based on completion of the previous phase courses and not on a specific timeline. This policy outlines this advancement. Additionally there are requirements based on the USMLE Step exams which are covered in the USMLE Step Exam Policy.

Preclerkship Phase

The Preclerkship Phase consists of all of the Preclerkship Modules and the Preclerkship PCL Course. Preclerkship courses are taken first and have no prerequisites.

Advancement to Clerkship Phase

The Clerkship Phase consists of the seven core clerkships and the Clerkship PCL Course. Students must successfully pass all of the modules in Preclerkship Phase to advance to the Clerkship Phase and enroll in Clerkship Phase courses.

Advancement to Advanced Clerkship Phase

The Advanced Clerkship Phase consists of the Emergency Medicine Clerkship and the Ambulatory, Critical Care and Sub-I Selectives. Additionally, the Step Prep Course and the Advanced Clerkship PCL Course are part of the Advanced Clerkship Phase. With the exception of the Step Prep Course and the Advanced Clerkship PCL Course, students must successfully pass the Clerkship Phase courses (all seven clerkships and Clerkship PCL) to advance to the Advanced Clerkship Phase. Students are enrolled in the Step Prep and Advanced Clerkship PCL Courses once they have completed the clinical portion of the Clerkship Phase courses but they do not have to have a passing grade in the Clerkship courses to be enrolled in these two courses.

There are two special circumstances where students may take the Emergency Medicine Clerkship prior to passing all of the Clerkship phase courses.

1. Students who are in the PGY-1 pathway and have declared Emergency Medicine as their specialty of choice are enrolled in the EM Clerkship throughout the time that they are taking Clerkship Phase courses.
2. After review by the Curriculum Oversight Committee, campuses are allowed to offer the EM Clerkship during the Clerkship Phase to approved students. Students may be enrolled in this EM Clerkship after the successful completion of at least 1 core clerkships if they have taken and



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passed USMLE Step 1 and have no academic deficiencies. Note that regardless of when the EM rotation is completed, the EM shelf does not have a retake exam.

Advancement to Enrichment Phase

The Enrichment Phase consists of the Enrichment PCL Course as well as the Palliative Care Course and the Integrative Science Selective. There are additional requirements depending on the student's pathway choice. Students may not enroll in the Enrichment PCL Course, the Palliative Care Course, and the Integrative Science Selective until they have successfully completed the Clerkship Phase courses. All other Enrichment Phase courses may be taken at any time after the student has successfully completed the Preclerkship Phase courses.

Electives

Electives are placed into one of three categories – “All Students”, “Clerkship Plus”, and “Enrichment Only.” Electives in the first two categories (All Students and Clerkship Plus) may be scheduled once the student has successfully passed the Preclerkship Phase courses but prior to the successful completion of all Clerkship Phase courses. The specific requirements for these categories are covered in the Clerkship Electives Policy. Electives listed as “Enrichment Only” may not be taken until students have successfully completed all Clerkship Phase courses.