

Dear Class of 2022:

We're excited to welcome you to campus in August!

Prior to your arrival, there are five curricular items we'd like you to be aware of and complete as indicated prior to starting the academic year:

- 1) Complete the four cell biology learning modules
- 2) Complete Incoming Class of 2022 survey (clinical placement, language, etc)
- 3) Complete a 3-item questionnaire for Introduction to the Profession Week
- 4) Consider what personal computer device and software you might want to use for digital content management.
- 5) Read *Better* by Atul Gawande

Some of these items are very time-sensitive. The description and instructions for each item are included in the attachment to this email (and archived on the admitted student [website](#)). Please also check the admitted students' [website](#) to complete all other admission requirements.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns. If you're on campus before August, please stop by the Augusta Webster Office of Medical Education ([AWOME](#)) to say hello.

See you August 1 for Arrival Week!

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Module Leader, Introduction to the Profession

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Attachment

1. Cell Biology Learning Modules. In order to ensure that everyone is on equal footing as the academic year begins, we would like you to complete 4 learning modules that cover Proteins, Enzymes, Lipids & Membranes, and Carbohydrates. For some of you with background in this area, the modules will be an easy review. For others, the modules will be essential in helping you to "hit the ground running." Your mastery of this fundamental material will help you as you progress through the Foundations module. Most lecturers will assume that you have this basic fund of knowledge, although there will be some

planned redundancy of information when necessary. Several questions testing your knowledge of this material will appear on the first Foundations exam in the Fall.

Each module consists of a learning guide, on-line videos and a quiz (which must be passed with 70% correct responses- you may retake it as many times as necessary). It will take about 4 hours to complete all 4 modules (total amount of video content is 155 minutes). These on-line modules must be completed prior to **Monday, August 13th**. They can be accessed by signing into the [Canvas Course Management System](#) and clicking on Pre-Matriculation Modules – Class of 2022. You will need an active NU NetID and password to access the modules. If you have any difficulty, please contact the Phase 1a SM coordinator, [Rebecca Honsaker](#). Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

2. Incoming Class of 2022 survey. Early clinical exposure and clinical skill development is a hallmark of your education at Feinberg. Each student is placed into a longitudinal clinical practice environment for Phase 1 (the first two years) in order to practice clinical skills under the supervision of a faculty member while caring for patients. Students placed in the Individual Preceptorship (IP) will work alongside a faculty member one-on-one and see patients in that faculty member's practice, which may be located on- or off-campus. Students placed in an Education-Centered Medical Home (ECMH) will work with peers from all four classes to care for a panel of patients under the supervision of a faculty member. ECMH practice settings include on-campus practices as well as community-based health clinics. Students in the ECMH program continue through Phase 2 and 3. Students initially placed in the IP may have the opportunity to transfer to an ECMH after year 1. Please follow [this link](#) and complete the brief survey by **August 1** to indicate whether you have a preference for IP or ECMH placement. If demand for either is exceeded, we will run a lottery to ensure everyone has an equal chance for participation. If you have questions about clinical placement, don't hesitate to reach out to our faculty leaders in Clinical Medicine, Drs. [Jen Bierman](#), [Dan Evans](#) or [Heather Heiman](#) or consult the Clinical Medicine page on the Feinberg [website](#).

This survey also asks you for permission to release information to your "big sib", your preference concerning potential dual degree programs and language proficiency.

3. Expectations of medical school survey. One of the first sessions of *Introduction to the Profession* week will be a session where all of you will share your own expectations (and hopes and worries) about medical school with each other as a group. These will be anonymized so the class can get a sense of what everyone is thinking about as you enter medical school. Please complete this [brief survey](#) by **August 1**.

4. Digital Content. Like many other medical schools, in order to be environmentally responsible and to align our curriculum with the demands of paperless clinical practice, Feinberg has redesigned our curriculum management systems to ensure easy access to all curricular materials in a digital format (including documents, slides and videos). If you prefer to annotate slides and take notes via handwriting rather than typing, you should consider a tablet or computer that supports the use of a digital pen. Students should explore software to help them annotate, organize and archive their notes and curricular materials. All Northwestern students can download Microsoft [OneNote](#) for free and obtain a free [Microsoft365 account](#) for cloud storage from Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) by following the embedded links. *Evernote* is another popular program for note-taking, and for annotating/storing/organizing curricular content. Both programs work on Mac and Windows platforms. Here are links to [two articles](#) which compare the two programs and YouTube has many med-school specific videos on how to use both [Evernote](#) and [Onenote](#). There will be an orientation to digital content

during Arrival Week as well as workshops and drop-in hours to assist students. Students will also be using their own devices to take computer-based exams. Please see the computer requirements on the admitted students' [website](#).

5. **Better, by Atul Gawande.** One of the themes of the first week of medical school (*Introduction to the Profession*) is how we in medicine need to always be working to improve our care of individual patients and the systems in which we work. The book *Better* by Atul Gawande describes this improvement framework and will be part of *Introduction to the Profession*. Please read *Better* before *Introduction to the Profession* begins.

A message from the students regarding this reading assignment:

Hello incoming M1s,

First of all, let us introduce ourselves. We are students at Feinberg, and we want to officially welcome and congratulate you on beginning your medical careers. It really has been an awesome experience for us so far, and we are excited for you to join the Feinberg community. It feels like yesterday that we were in your shoes, excited to start first year and also unsure about what would come next. We just wanted to write a quick letter to all of you to share our perspective on *Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance* by Atul Gawande.

The first real learning objective (you'll get the joke later) of medical school is to read *Better* by Atul Gawande. During the *Introduction to the Profession* week, there are sessions in which you will discuss *Better* and examine themes from the book in more detail. *Better* isn't homework in the traditional sense; you won't be graded on your reading comprehension or tested on your understanding.

While it will certainly be helpful to read *Better* to get the most out of *Introduction to the Profession* week, the value to us from reading *Better* has extended far beyond the first week of school. Atul Gawande provides valuable perspectives and reflections that we have used in our clinical experiences throughout our entire M1 year.

Reading *Better* is purely to your benefit as you start your own self-guided medical education. While we have only just completed our first year of medical school, we have already found incredible value in reading *Better*.

A quote that has really resonated with me throughout my M1 year as I began my clinical experiences was 'The third requirement for success is ingenuity- thinking anew.' I saw the importance of ingenuity in medical care throughout my first year, in ECMH, the classroom, and shadowing opportunities that I had. Each patient is different and the medical field is constantly evolving- this quote from Atul Gawande was incredibly relevant as I witnessed medical care this past year. - Melissa

*I am a large fan of Dr. Gawande's work, and his ability to communicate the realities of medicine continues to inspire me. One of my favorite pieces of advice from *Better* is "Ask an unscripted question." I chose medicine because I love to work and listen to people's stories. By asking non-medical questions I have met some of the most amazing people: TV-show writers, major executives, veterans from several wars, mothers, fathers, and so many more. Everyone has a*

unique story, and I have found that my most meaningful connections stem from these unscripted questions. - Maggie

My favorite aspect of Better is how Atul Gawande illustrates the large scope of how much of life is encompassed within medicine, from vaccinations to war surgery to lethal injections. I was constantly surprised by how realistic the viewpoint was while remaining optimistic and encouraging. I think that is best encompassed when Dr. Gawande says "arriving at meaningful solutions is an inevitably slow and difficult process. Nonetheless... better is possible". - Jacob

Feinberg Students, Class of 2021

Lia Benes

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