Title: **Requirements for Graduation**	
Relevant LCME Element(s): 9.9 Student Advancement and Appeal Process	Last approved: **2/5/25**

I. PURPOSE

Outlines requirements medical students must complete before graduation.

II. PERSONS AFFECTED:

Medical students

III. POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Feinberg students are expected to complete the medical school curriculum within 6 years of matriculation. Approved joint degree programs that enhance a student's medical education are encouraged, and will not count towards the 6-year limit. Appeals for exceptions to the 6-year rule must be made to the Student Promotions Committee.

The MD degree will be conferred by Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine to persons who have met the following requirements as determined by the faculty:

- Satisfactorily completed all competency and coursework requirements
- Achieved passing scores on the National Board of Medical Examiners USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK
- Paid all tuition and fees in full
- Returned all materials/school property
- Attended the mandatory Exit Interview for medical school borrowers

The Feinberg School Commencement is held each year in mid- to late May. Students who anticipate graduation must file a petition for graduation in December of the previous calendar year. That petition will be acted upon by the Feinberg Student Promotions Committee, and the list of eligible students sent to the Executive Committee of the Faculty for final school approval, then to the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University for conferral of the degree.

Phase 1a (M1) requirements

Students must satisfactorily complete the requirements for each module and receive a passing grade for each block listed below before proceeding to Phase 1b (M2).

Block 1
Foundations 1
Foundations 2
Foundations 3

Block 2
Cardiovascular-Blood
Pulmonary
Renal

Block 3
Musculoskeletal
Dermatology

ECMH
12 site visits

Other: Synthesis and Application Modules I (3 days) and II (1 week)

Phase 1b (M2) Requirements

Students must satisfactorily complete the requirements for each module and receive a passing grade for each block listed below before proceeding to Phase 2 (M3). They must also take the Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE) and take and pass USMLE Step 1.

Block 4
Head & Neck
Neuroscience
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Block 5
Gastrointestinal
Endocrinology

Block 6
Reproduction/Genitourinary
Hematology/Oncology

ECMH
12 site visits

Other
Phase 1b Synthesis and Application Module (1 week), Phase 1 portfolio review

USMLE Step 1 Knowledge Consolidation
Upon completion of Phase 1b, all students are enrolled in the Step 1 Knowledge Consolidation Module for 6 weeks. Students who have not taken Step 1 by the end of this period will be required to enroll in the Advanced Knowledge Consolidation Module for up to 6 additional weeks. Students who have not successfully passed Step 1 will also be required to enroll in the Advanced Knowledge Consolidation Module for up to 6 weeks. Any student who has not yet sat for Step 1 by the end of the Advanced Knowledge Consolidation Module will be placed on a leave of absence.

Phases 2 and 3 Requirements

Required Core Clerkships
(38 weeks + ECMH visits)

- Required core clerkships include:
    1. Surgery (8 weeks)
    2. Medicine (8 weeks)
    3. Pediatrics (6 weeks)
    4. Ob-Gyn (6 weeks)
    5. Psych (4 weeks)
    6. Neuro (4 weeks)
    7. Phase 2 Education-Centered Medical Home*
        a. Integrated Primary Care Block (2 weeks)
        b. Longitudinal Primary Care Clinic (14 visits)

USMLE Step 2CK Knowledge Consolidation
Upon completion of all Phase 2 core clerkships, students will select a 4-week academic block to enroll in the Step 2CK Knowledge Consolidation Module. Students who have not taken Step 2CK upon completion of the 4 weeks will be required to enroll in the Advanced Knowledge Consolidation Module for up to 6 additional weeks. Students who have not successfully passed Step 2CK will also be required to enroll in the Advanced Knowledge Consolidation Module for up to 6 weeks. Students who are not ready to sit for Step 2CK by the end of the Advanced Knowledge Consolidation Module must meet with the Assistant Dean of Learning and Academic Support to discuss additional support plans. Any student who has not yet sat for Step 2CK by the end of August of Phase 3/M4 year will be placed on a leave of absence. Students with extenuating circumstances or who are not applying for residency after graduation may petition the Associate Dean for Student Affairs for an adjustment to this requirement if needed.

Required Advanced Clerkships
(14 weeks + ECMH visits)

- Required advanced clerkships must be completed by the end of Block 24 (except for the Capstone which may be completed during Block 25). Required Advanced Clerkships may be taken when pre-requisites are met and spots are available.
- Required advanced clerkships include:
    1. Sub-Internship (4 weeks) May be taken in Medicine, Surgery, Peds, ObGyn
        (Pre-Requisites: Med, Surg, Peds, ObGyn, Neuro, Psych)
    2. Critical Care Medicine (4 weeks) May be taken in Adult or Pediatric ICU
        (Pre-Requisites for Adult CCM: Med, Surg, Neuro; for Pediatric CCM: Med, Surg, Neuro, Peds)
    3. Emergency Medicine (4 weeks)
        (Pre-Requisites: Med, Surg, ObGyn, Neuro, Psych)
    4. PMR (2 weeks)
        (Pre-Requisites: Med, Neuro, Psych, Phase 2 ECMH)
    5. Phase 3 Education-Centered Medical Home (13 visits)*

**MSTP students should refer to the ECMH Requirements for MSTP Students policy for information on how some Phase 2/3 requirements can be met during the PhD years.*

Capstone
(2 weeks)
Offered during block 24/25 only

Electives

Number of weeks required:

- Traditional MD students – 20 weeks
- MSTP students – 4 weeks
- Dual-degree students (MD/MBA, MD/MPH, MD/MA) – 16 weeks

- 4-week electives (Internal and External) may have pre-requisites, which are listed on Oasis.
- 2-week selectives taken for Credit/No Credit only. Selective credit cannot be granted for a 2-week introductory elective which would be redundant to a 4-week elective already completed.
- No more than 3 blocks of elective time (total 12 weeks - which counts toward the graduation requirement) may be in the same discipline or sub-specialty. One 2-week selective in the same discipline or sub-specialty may also count towards the graduation requirement provided it was taken prior to the 3 blocks of elective time.
- Total elective credit for research (AOSC-related and non-AOSC) must not exceed 12 weeks. Students may do up to one month of research in 2-week blocks (i.e., a total of two, non-contiguous two-week blocks is allowed). All other research electives must be taken in at least one-month blocks. Flex time can always be used to conduct research (including one week at a time).
- Students participating in the Research Intensive Scholarly Emphasis (RISE) program and other independent study research years will receive 4 weeks towards the maximum of 12 weeks of research elective credit towards graduation.
- Up to three, 2-week selectives may count toward the elective graduation requirement, but no more than two selectives may be taken in any one Phase (either Phase 2 or Phase 3).
- All students, regardless of dual degree status, must complete a minimum of one 4-week clinical elective to graduate

[+] *requires approval of AoSC Director and faculty research advisor*

SAMs/Intro to Phases
(4; 1 week each)
Students must participate in Intro to Phases 2 and 3 and SAM VI. The Phase 3 Career Development week allows for independent, self-directed learning.

IC2/3
The entire class will convene (virtually or in person) one Friday afternoon, once per month, to explore and integrate content from various elements/threads across disciplines.

Teaching Selective
In the Teaching Selective, students must participate in mentorship, feedback, small group teaching, and clinical teaching experiences to prepare them for residency. Students can teach first- and second-year medical students in clinical skills, PBL, PTTP or anatomy. Individualized medical education opportunities may also be permitted with approval.

Other
Readiness for Residency Portfolio Review

Area of Scholarly Concentration (AOSC)

Each Feinberg student must complete an approved AOSC project before graduating. Exceptions include dual-degree students (MSTP, MPH, MA only) and any student who has received an AOSC waiver for

academic reasons from the Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education or Director of Medical Student Research.

IV. REVISION HISTORY

2/5/2024: Provided details on Step 2 CK Knowledge Consolidation Module Requirement. Stipulated that a RISE/research year may count for 4 weeks of research elective credit.
11/6/2024: Added requirement to enroll in Advanced Knowledge Consolidation module if certain conditions are met. Linked to policy on ECMH Requirements for MSTP Students.
12/6/2023: Clarified rule about elective credit taken in the same discipline or sub-specialty.
7/14/2023: Added requirement to take the Phase 2 Knowledge Consolidation Module.
9/7/2022: Increased number of 2-week selectives that may count towards elective requirement from two to three.
3/2/2022: Added requirement to take the CBSE and complete the Phase 1 Knowledge Consolidation Module.
11/3/2021: Revised Phase 1a ECMH visit requirements; added 4-week clinical elective requirement.
6/30/2021: Revised to remove COVID-19 addendums.
1/29/2021: Revised to remove USMLE Step 2 CS requirement.
9/2/2020: Revised to cap number of virtual electives allowed to count towards graduation.
6/3//2020: Revised to modify graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 due to COVID-19.
4/1/2020: Revised to modify graduation requirements for the Class of 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

V. APPROVING BODY:

Curriculum Committee