REQUIRED THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

THIRD YEAR REQUIRED COURSES:

MEDICINE (MED 305) 10 credits

The purpose of the medicine clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need to evaluate and provide supervised care for adult hospitalized patients. Focus is on the inpatient history and physical examinations, clinical reasoning, and comprehensive study during rounds, consultations, conferences, standardized patient exercises, and seminars. This is a required 8 week clerkship for third year medical students. All students spend four weeks at The George Washington University Hospital and an additional four weeks at either Inova Fairfax Hospital or the Washington DC Veterans Administration Hospital.

PRIMARY CARE (MED 301) 10 credits

The purpose of the primary care clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors students need to evaluate and care for outpatients with growing independence, guided by careful and consistent supervision and feedback from attending physicians in primary care office practices. This is a required clerkship for third year medical students comprised of a 4 week block and a longitudinal component (half day every other week throughout the third year). In the longitudinal component there is an emphasis on continuity of student-clinician relationships and student-patient relationships over the course of the clerkship year.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY (OBGYN 303) 8 credits

The purpose of the OB-GYN clerkship is to introduce medical students to the basic principles of women’s health care including the diagnosis and management of common medical and surgical obstetric and gynecologic conditions that occur in a woman’s lifespan. Students develop basic skills related to the female reproductive system. This is a required 6 week clerkship for third year medical students. Participation in all obstetrical and gynecological clinics, labor and delivery, daily departmental conferences, and ward rounds. All students spend two weeks at The George Washington University Hospital and an additional four weeks at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, Alexandria Hospital or Holy Cross Hospital.

PEDIATRICS (PED 303) 10 credits

The purpose of the pediatrics clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need to evaluate and care for infants, children, and adolescents in supervised inpatient, outpatient, and nursery settings. The scope includes pediatric health maintenance and the care of pediatrics inpatients and outpatient with acute and chronic illness. This is a required 8 week clerkship for third year medical students. Students participate as part of interprofessional inpatient teams, outpatient offices, and in the well baby nursery, under supervision. The clerkship is comprised of a four week inpatient experience at Children’s National Health System or Holy Cross Hospital and four weeks of an outpatient clinical experience including one week in the newborn nursery. There is a focus on clinical reasoning, professionalism, reflection, and family centered care.
PSYCHIATRY (PSYC 302) 8 credits

The purpose of the psychiatry clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and care for patients with psychiatric conditions in inpatient and outpatient settings, under supervision. This is a required 6 week clerkship for third year medical students focusing on the supervised examination, diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric patients at George Washington University Hospital, St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Children’s National Health System, Washington DC VA Medical Center, Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Psychiatric Institute of Medicine, and INOVA Fairfax Hospital. There are case conferences, seminars on psychiatric referral, psychiatric drugs, and community resources, standardize patient experiences, and an emphasis on psychiatry in primary care practice.

SURGERY (SURG 303) 10 credits

The purpose of the surgery clerkship is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and care for patients with surgical conditions in inpatient and outpatient settings, under supervision. Required 8 week clerkship for third year medical students comprised of 6 weeks on general surgical teams at The George Washington University Hospital, Shady Grove Hospital or Children’s National Health System and 2 weeks in one of the surgical subspecialties including orthopedics, urology, plastic surgery or otolaryngology.

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE (IDIS 230/231) 4 credits

The purpose of the required longitudinal Practice of Medicine third year course is to reinforce the psychosocial, behavioral, and ethical objectives introduced in the preclinical years by incorporating the real life experiences encountered by students during their clinical clerkships. POM 3 covers topics focus on challenging situations encountered on clinic clerkships including professionalism, the learning environment, cultural barriers, conflicts of interest, burnout, quality/safety, the business aspects of medicine and health care policy. POMIII occurs in five day long workshops at approximately the midpoint of each clerkship. Sessions occur in large group, clerkship groups, and small continuity groups. Teaching methods include lecture, panel discussion, small group discussion and experiential learning. POM III also includes a scholarly project to be completed before graduation.

FOURTH YEAR REQUIRED COURSES:

ANESTHESIA (ANES 302) Introduction to Anesthesiology (3 Credits)

The purpose of the required 2 week rotation is to provide an introduction to the specialty of anesthesiology including anesthetic preoperative evaluation and the preoperative physiologic effects of anesthetic agents, IV placement and airway management, and various modalities for treating postoperative pain. The anesthesia course requirement can also be met through a 4 week experience (ANES 380 for 5 credits).

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IV (IDIS 240/241) 5 Credits

The purpose of this 4 week capstone course is to provide senior students with the opportunity to enhance skills necessary to be successful interns and to develop specialty specific competencies. There is a mix of case-based conferences and simulation including clinical skills such as case-based admission order writing, critical care simulation, and ultrasound guided IV in a simulated setting. During this
intensive capstone experience students refine many technical skills and the clinical competencies are reinforced. Students are grouped by future specialty for much of this course, receiving direct mentorship from faculty physicians in their specialty, as they prepare to transition to residency.

FOURTH YEAR SELECTIVES:

EMERGENCY MEDICINE (EMED 302) 5 credits

The purpose of the Emergency Medicine course is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and provide supervised care for patients in the emergency department with a focus on rapid assessment, triage, plan for stabilization, treatment, and disposition, communication, and professionalism. During this required 4 week rotation students take approximately 14 clinical shifts (day, evening, and night shifts) at the GW Emergency Department and the Washington DC VA Medical Center Emergency Department. These are high acuity and high volume departments. Students function at an acting intern level with responsibility for patient care under the direct supervision of the faculty and trainees of the Department of Emergency Medicine. This course provides a wound care lab, stimulation sessions, student lectures, required readings and departmental teaching conferences. The Emergency Medicine graduation requirement can alternatively be met through Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PED 405) which focuses on similar clinical skills in a pediatric setting.

NEUROSCIENCE (NEUR 380) 5 credits

The purpose of this required 4 week course is to facilitate the development of the clinical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviors that students need in order to evaluate and provide supervised care for patients with neurological conditions such as transient alterations of neurological function, changes in mental status, weakness, headache, numbness or paresthesias, and neurologic emergencies. Students will focus on honing neurological examination and localization skills, and learn to diagnose and treat patients with neurological disorders in a supervised setting at their assigned site. The course also provides a lumbar puncture simulation session, required reading, student didactic sessions and departmental teaching conferences. The Neuroscience graduation requirement can be fulfilled by rotating with adult neurology, pediatric neurology, adult neurosurgery or pediatric neurosurgery.

ACTING INTERNSHIP: All students are required to successfully complete a 4-week Acting Internship in Medicine or Pediatrics or Surgery or Critical Care Medicine, with each course described as follows:

MEDICINE ACTING INTERNSHIP (MED 332, 333, 334) 5 credits

The purpose of the Acting Internship in medicine is to provide a structured clinical experience in the expansive field of internal medicine and sub-specialty areas necessary for the care of the hospitalized patient. It is designed to be a well-supervised educational experience that augments the cognitive and technical clinical skills attained during the third year medicine clerkship. The student will function as an acting intern and will conduct patient evaluations, engage in supervised order-entry and prescription writing, retrieve evidence to advance patient care, perform patient handovers, and collaborate as an integral member of an inter-professional team. In addition to self-directed learning, regular focused student didactics, intern conferences and bedside teaching during ward rounds are organized to provide
a well-rounded educational experience. Students can opt for this 4 week selective at The George Washington University Hospital, the Washington DC VAMC Hospital or INOVA Fairfax Hospital.

**PEDIATRIC ACTING INTERNSHIP (PEDS 361, 362, 364, 365, 366) 5 credits**

The purpose of this 4 week Acting Internship in pediatrics is to improve and build upon those cognitive and clinical skills attained during the third year pediatric clerkship with a focus on inpatient pediatrics as part of a resident and hospitalist attending team. There is an emphasis on clinical reasoning, communication, evidenced-based assessment and plans, self-directed learning, and professionalism. There is an overnight call experience during 1 week on the resident night float team.

**SURGERY ACTING INTERNSHIP (SURG 400, 380, 382) 5 credits**

The purpose of this 4 week Acting Internship in general surgery is to improve and build upon those cognitive and technical clinical skills already attained during the third year surgical clerkship with a focus on the comprehensive care of the traumatically injured patient (SURG 400), complex gastrointestinal, oncologic and hepatobiliary diseases (SURG 380), or complex colorectal and laparoscopic surgery (SURG382). Significant time is spent in the operating room, ICU, and wards. Students receive individual attention from attending and senior residents with a focus on independent learning and management of ward and ICU patients and taking a role in teaching and mentored supervision of third year medical students.

**CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE ACTING INTERNSHIP (Anes 384 Intensive Care Unit) 5 credits**

The purpose of the Acting Internship in critical care medicine is to provide a multidisciplinary experience in the critical care of surgical and medical patients, supervised by critical care attendings and fellows. The student as acting intern improve and build upon those cognitive and technical clinical skills already attained during the third year clerkships and learns how to evaluate and initiate treatment of the critically ill adult, including airway and ventilator management, resuscitation of shock, hemodynamic evaluation and interpretation, cardiovascular support, renal replacement therapy, nutritional support, use of blood component therapy, peri-operative management, and additional procedural skills. Night call is five times per month. Teaching occurs at the bedside, as well as through didactics, daily x-ray rounds, and other collaborative teaching exercises.