



The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

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Approved by: COC
Category: Electives

Elective & Selective Credit Policy

This policy outlines which courses will satisfy the selective and elective requirements within the MCG 3+ Curriculum. Courses which do not fulfill these requirements for any reason may still be taken time permitting and will be reported on the transcript even though they do not count toward degree progress.

A. Definitions:

- a. **Selective** – course category required for graduation with a specific list of 4 weeks courses that fulfill the requirement – Sub-Internship, Critical Care, Ambulatory
- b. **Elective** – course category required for graduation with multiple different course options to fulfill the requirement
- c. **Course Categories**
 - i. *Clinical* – any course that involves direct patient interaction or interaction with clinical teams involved in the delivery of care – example: Cardiology Clinic (direct patient interaction) or Radiology (clinical team involved in delivery of care)
 - ii. *Non-Clinical* – courses that do not fit into the above category – example – History of Medicine
 - iii. *Research* – research-based elective
 - iv. *Off-Campus* – any elective that does not occur on one of the MCG campuses or at an MCG affiliated site
 - v. *International* – any elective that occurs outside of the United States.

B. Required Courses

a. **Selectives**

- i. All students must complete a Sub-Internship, Critical Care, and Ambulatory selective (see electives bulletin for list of courses which fulfill each selective)
- ii. These courses all must be completed on campus with the exception of military students who may take either Critical Care or Sub-Internship off campus during one of their required military rotations. If they choose to count an off campus course as their Sub-I or Critical Care it should be registered as an MCG Sub-I or Critical Care course and cannot be counted towards elective requirements.
- iii. These courses must be taken after the completion of the Clerkship Phase and USMLE Step 1.
- iv. Multiple Selectives – students may take more than one selective course. Any additional selective not needed to fulfill a requirement will count towards graduation *elective* requirements. Students are guaranteed one of selective in the



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M4 lottery, but opportunities for additional selectives may be limited by availability and the student's declared department/s.

b. Scholarly Project

- i. Residency Prep Pathway: Students must complete at least four weeks of Scholarly Project. They may complete up to twelve weeks and the additional time will count as elective weeks
 - ii. Advanced Research Pathway: All students in the Advanced Research Pathway, regardless of class year, must complete twelve weeks of Scholarly Project
 - iii. Scholarly Project courses
- c. **Final Semester Requirement:** Students in the Class of 2030 and beyond must take at least one clinical course (EM Clerkship, Ambulatory Selective, Critical Care Selective, Sub-I Selective, or Clinical elective) during the semester in which they plan to graduate. Exceptions to this requirement may be made on a case by case basis for students who are off-track.

C. Elective Credit Policies

- a. **Core Elective Requirement:** All students must complete six weeks of electives (see elective bulletin for list of electives). These may be clinical or non-clinical.
- b. **Enrichment Elective Requirement:** Starting with the Class of 2028 students in the Residency Prep Pathway must complete an additional twenty weeks of electives. Four of these weeks must be clinical.
- c. **Off-Campus Electives** – Students may count up to twelve weeks of off-campus (away) electives towards graduation elective requirements (general electives or clinical elective requirements). Students may take off-campus electives that are sponsored by different MCG departments. Off-campus electives are registered under an MCG course number that corresponds to an MCG department and must be approved by that department as well as the Associate/Assistant Dean for Curriculum.
- d. **International Electives** – students may count up to four weeks of international elective time towards graduation elective requirements. The international elective counts as four weeks of the students' allotted twelve weeks total off-campus elective time. Except for specific recurring international electives, international electives are registered as MEDI 5007- International Medicine- regardless of sponsoring department or faculty involvement. Students must apply through the Curriculum Office, the Global Health Director and Study Abroad Office, and must obtain approval from all three offices to earn credit for the international elective.
- e. **Research Electives** – In addition to the Scholarly Project students may count one four-week research elective towards graduation elective requirements. The subject of the research elective must be *different* than that of the student's required scholarly project.
- f. **Repeating Courses** – With the exception of off-campus electives and a few selected courses, students may not repeat a course with the same course number and receive credit a second time without special permission from the department and from the Assistant



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Dean for Enrichment Curriculum or the Associate Dean for Curriculum. If permission is granted, the expectation is that the student experience will be sufficiently different on each of the two courses such that they are in effect two different courses.

- g. Online Courses** – Students may take an online asynchronous elective at the same time as they are taking an in-person course or another online course. Not counting semester long courses such as PCL, Palliative Care, and Integrative Science Selective, no more than two courses may be scheduled to run concurrently in any given block and at least one of those two must be an online asynchronous course. Students may not be scheduled in two in-person courses that run concurrently. In the circumstance described above where two are scheduled at the same time, students may not be excused from one course to complete work in the other course. Note that it is expected that students in the Dual Degree Pathway may have some overlap of scheduled in-person medical courses and courses in their second degree.