

MD-PhD Students and Clerkship Requirements

All MD-PhD students have the same number of clerkships requirements as MD students. Beginning with the 2006-07 academic year, all students must have a total of 55 weeks of clerkship requirements. The only difference is that each type of student (MD or MD-PhD) complete those requirements at different times during their medical school enrollment.

MD-PhD students typically only complete 6 months of clerkships (24 weeks) during the 1st semester of their third year and then begin their PhD in the second semester of their third year. After several years in the lab, the student then comes back to complete the remaining third-year requirements (normally in the spring semester), and then begin their 4th year in June in order to graduate the following May. There are no set number of electives must take; electives are optional.

Clerkship Years for MD-PhD Students

The third and fourth years of the regular Medical School curriculum consist of completion of required clinical clerkships, electives and sub internships.

Third Year Required CLERKSHIPS

- **Internal Medicine (12 weeks)**
 - o Medicine I – 4 weeks (Inpatient)
 - o Medicine II – 4 weeks (Inpatient)
 - o Ambulatory Medicine – 4 weeks (Outpatient)*
- **Pediatrics (8 weeks)**
 - o Pediatrics I – 4 weeks (Inpatient)
 - o Pediatrics II – 4 weeks (Outpatient)**
- **Surgery (8 weeks)**
 - o Surgery A – 4 weeks (Inpatient) General Surgery
 - o Surgery B – 2 weeks (Inpatient) Surgery Service + 2 weeks (Inpatient) Anesthesiology

Surgery: SURGERY A, SURGERY B & SURGERY C (Inpatient). The required 12-week Surgery Clerkship Block has been made flexible to accommodate the needs of MD/PhD students. It is run by Dr. Richard Gusberg and Mr. Lee Sylvestre serves as the Clerkship Administrator. The details of the block include:

- 4 weeks of General Surgery and 4 weeks of Surgical Specialties, as well as 2 weeks of Anesthesiology and 2 weeks of Emergency Medicine.
- The clerkship is scheduled with the following start dates: 06/19/2006; 09/11/2006; 01/02/2007; 03/26/2007.
- Students will have an opportunity to complete a preference form for site assignments but will not be guaranteed a specific assignment, nor will they be able to indicate which rotation will be done first; this is determined by the clerkship administrator based on space availability.

- The 4 week General Surgery Core Rotation (Surgery A) can be completed at Y-NHH or V.A.M.C. (Service preferences include: GI surgery, Oncology Surgery, Trauma/Emergency Surgery, or V.A.M.C Surgery).
- The 4 week Surgical Subspecialty rotation (Surgery C) will be completed on a service at Y-NHH. (service preferences include: Pediatric Surgery, Vascular, Endocrine, Cardiothoracic, Transplant, Urology, Plastic Surgery, Otolaryngology – ENT, or Orthopedic Surgery).
- The remaining four weeks (Surgery B) will be divided into two weeks on the Anesthesiology service and two weeks with Emergency Medicine.
- There will be a surgery mentoring program throughout the 12 week block.

The Surgery Clerkship Block may not be done away and must be completed by the end of the third year.

- **Clinical Neuroscience** (4 weeks)
4 weeks (Inpatient)
- **Obstetrics and Gynecology** (6 weeks)
4 weeks (Inpatient)
2 weeks (Outpatient)
- **Psychiatry** (6 weeks)
4 weeks (Inpatient)
2 weeks (Outpatient)

Remaining Required CLERKSHIPS

- **Primary Care** (4 weeks)***
4 weeks (Outpatient)
- **Integrated Clinical Medicine (ICM)** (3 weeks)
ICM is a 3-week course (Only offered in March for 4th years and beyond)

* The ambulatory medicine requirement can be satisfied for MD-PhD students by participation in the West Haven VA Internal Medicine Track

** The Ambulatory Pediatric requirement can be satisfied by the ambulatory pediatric longitudinal experience for MD-PhD students.

***The Primary Care clerkship requirement is met by participation in the Primary Care Clinic.

The Fourth Year consists of the Integrated Clinical Medicine course, the Primary Care Clerkship, clinical electives, Subinternship(s), the residency application process, taking the USMLE Step II exams (clinical knowledge and clinical skills), and completion of the thesis are major activities of the fourth year.

Timing of Reentry: Discussions over the past summer with DGSs of graduate programs have led to the general agreement amongst programs that MD-PhD students will be allowed to resume their final clerkship requirements for the M.D. provided they have written and defended their thesis. They do not necessarily have to have had it submitted to the Graduate School in final form since the fine-tuning can easily be done during breaks in the clerkship. However, we no longer allow MD-PhD students to finish the M.D. without defending their theses since experience has shown that this sequence almost inevitably means the Ph.D. will not be completed.

Mentoring for Reentry into the Final Clerkships: Due to ongoing Internal Medicine and Pediatric Longitudinal Care Clinics for MD-PhD students during the Ph.D. years, clinical reentry into the final 18 months of clinical rotations is now much easier. If students request it, Dr. Nancy Angoff, Dean of Students, will arrange for 4-6 week warm-up periods at the West Haven VAMC or externships with local physicians through our Clinical Enhancement Program.

Clinical Training and Clinical Correlation Seminars for MD-PhD Students During the PhD Years

A unique component of Yale's MD-PhD Program is the availability of longitudinal clinical experiences for students during their Ph.D. years. The purpose of these clerkships is to help students maintain their clinical skills, and potentially to integrate their research work with medicine. Students have found that these clerkships have eased the transition back to the wards following their PhD work. In some cases, these clerkships will count toward a component of some required clinical clerkships.

Electives

Internal Medicine

Ambulatory Component of the Internal Medicine Clerkship: Walter Kernan, MD, Director. The clinical curriculum for the Ambulatory Component of the Internal Medicine Clerkship applies to the MD/PhD students in the VA Longitudinal Clinic Program. This curriculum requires students to interview and examine patients independently and to take responsibility for patient care commensurate with their experience and skill. A minimum of 28 half-day sessions at the VA Clinic will fulfill the clinical requirement for the Ambulatory Component of the Internal Medicine Clerkship (this is the minimum number of General Medicine sessions required of each student in the traditional Ambulatory Component of the Internal Medicine Clerkship). Written documentation from Dr. Gunderson or your preceptor at the VA indicating that you have been accepted to the program and your dates of participation must be submitted to Dr. Kernan's office. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that this documentation is submitted prior to starting work with your preceptor. For full details, see the clerkship website <http://info.med.yale.edu/intmed/education/ambulatory/index.html>.

Once you notify Dr. Kernan of your participation, his office will send you the Student Record Book which contains two skill assessments, three Evidence Based Medicine exercises and three Visit Note Evaluations, as well as a patient encounter log to record the patients that you work with. You must complete each activity and have your preceptor sign off for them.

During or after you have completed your Longitudinal Clinic you must attend all classroom activities of the Ambulatory Component of the Internal Medicine Clerkship during one of the rotations during the academic year. This will assure that you will receive the same core classroom

instruction as the other students who take the traditional Ambulatory Clerkship. You are required to notify our office in writing at least three months in advance of the month which you intend to participate in classroom activities. During the month in which you attend those activities you must fully participate in the activities every Monday and Thursday morning. You should not request a month in which you will be absent on any Monday or Thursday.

****SPECIAL NOTE**** --Any student interested in participating in the VA Longitudinal Clinic must **first notify Susan Larkin, Student Coordinator** in advance so she can give you the necessary materials to complete the course and to get the evaluations done in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the signed documentation (form attached) from their preceptor to confirm acceptance in the Longitudinal Clinic at the VA CT Healthcare System. Questions can also be directed to Dr. Kernan at (203) 688-4545.

Wednesday Evening Clinic at the Primary Care Center of YNHH: The Wednesday Evening Clinic (WEC) provides an opportunity for up to 15 YMS students to provide care to their own group of patients on a longitudinal basis. It was started in the mid-1970s by Yale MD and MD/PhD students. The founding Medical Director was Dr. Morris Dillard who continues to attend weekly with a group of volunteer attendings totaling six full-time faculty and community general internists, a few who are also sub-specialists.

Held every Wednesday night throughout the calendar year, the student-run clinic provides care to a chiefly indigent population, while providing medical students with a group practice in primary care internal medicine. In addition to the "continuity experience," *didactic sessions* take place prior to seeing patients (*always over dinner*), which include Primary Care and Subspecialty Conferences, Case Conferences, and Journal Club. Students have the opportunity to follow their patients through specialty clinics and hospitalizations if they wish.

The majority of the WEC student participants are MD/PhD students in their 4th-8th year. Others are taking an extra year for research, an MPH, an MBA, a JD, or, occasionally, a 4th year student completing the experience for their primary care clerkship. Prerequisites for WEC include 8 weeks of inpatient internal medicine and ambulatory medicine (or the internal medicine track at the VA) and 2 other clerkships, Preferably Ob/Gyn and Psychiatry.

Students must commit to a full calendar year but may remain in the WEC for as long as they wish. A minimum of 36 weeks participation is required to fulfill the Primary Care clerkship requirement. It is currently directed by Dr. Kathleen P. White, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, who also has a private practice in internal medicine and women's health.

Pediatrics

Pediatric Longitudinal Clinic: MD/PhD students have the option of completing the four-week outpatient rotation at a longitudinal clinic at one of the designated sites at Yale-New Haven Hospital for a one-year period. The student must identify one or two subspecialty areas in which they are interested. They should arrange to speak with the Division Chief (or at least a senior member of that division) of that subspecialty and ask to attend that clinic on a weekly basis (minimum of one-half day) for a one-year period. Some students do 6 months of one subspecialty and then 6 months of another. The names and the numbers of the section chiefs and other faculty can be obtained from Tracy Sotere in the Pediatric Education office at 5-6935.

It is preferred that the student do the **inpatient portion of the clerkship before doing the longitudinal experience**, in order to get a least a little bit of basic pediatric knowledge under the belt

first. Classroom activities could include divisional research conferences, morbidity and mortality conferences, journal clubs, etc. That is pertinent and specific to each specialty area.

Other Longitudinal Clinical experiences for MD-PhD Students:

Externships with Local Physicians: Students often make individual arrangements with clinicians in the Women's Health Care Clinic, Yale physicians and local physicians for longitudinal patient care experiences.

Emergency Medicine: Students will be able to set up a longitudinal experience in the emergency room during their PhD years. There is some possibility that this experience could qualify for credit toward the surgical clerkship. Contact our office for further details.

Neurology: Dr. Hal Blumenfeld, Associate Professor of Neurology has offered to help you arrange a longitudinal experience in Neurology – please contact him for details.

HAVEN Free Clinic: MD-PhD students may participate in HAVEN, the student run free clinic, in one of two ways.

1) As a Primary Care Clerkship Student. HAVEN is now a site where MD-PhD students can satisfy the Primary Care Clerkship clinical requirement by attending the clinic as a Senior Clinical Team Member on 12 Saturdays, from 8AM to about 2PM. In addition students are required to complete 12 Primary Care Clerkship Workshops (offered continuously throughout the year) prior to graduation. The 12 Saturday sessions should be completed in blocks at least 4-weeks long. Students also meet periodically with the clerkship director for case presentations and discussions.

2) As a regular Student Volunteer. MD-PhD students may also attend the clinic on an ad hoc basis whenever slots are available. For further information about the HAVEN Free Clinic and to volunteer on an ad hoc basis visit <http://freeclinic.med.yale.edu>. If you are interested in being a Primary Care Clerkship Student at HAVEN please e-mail Jana.Halfon@yale.edu.

Other Clinical Correlation Programs for MD-PhD Students During the PhD Years

Pediatric Seminars for MSTP Students - “From Bed to Bench”: In order to have students in all years think about their careers as physician scientists, and to provide role models among active clinicians who also conduct basic research, we have organized a series of seminars in pediatrics. The purpose of the seminars is to help students begin to understand how interesting questions derived from patients can help them learn more about biologic and pathologic processes. The seminars specifically engage the student group in discussions related to diseases or medical problems that affect infants and children. Students select a faculty preceptor and topic, see a patient with the preceptor, present the patient briefly to the group, and, most importantly, develop questions that arise in the course of learning about the patient. The questions may relate to unanswered issues in this or similar patients, or about related biologic process. They are encouraged to muse over the questions or issues that have not have not been studied, and think about how they might address these questions, which center around a patient’s disease process. The seminars are open to all MD-PhD students and all first year medical students. Sessions are held approximately every 2 weeks from late September until the end of the spring term. Students who sign up for this seminar are expected to participate in at least one presentation during the year.

This series will be organized by Dr. Cliff Bogue, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Dr. Martina Brueckner, Assoc Professor of Cardiology Pediatrics with Dr. James Jamieson. The organizational meeting will be held on September 11th from 2:00-2:30pm in Marigolds.

Information Meetings Concerning Research Residencies: We plan to hold a series of information meetings concerning research residencies specifically set up for MD-PhD graduates who are planning their future careers. These sessions should be especially informative for those of you considering residencies/postdoctoral fellowships after graduation. Sessions held last year included meetings with faculty and residency directors in Pediatrics, Path and Lab Medicine, Psychiatry and Neurology and Dx and Rx Radiology and Dermatology. Schedules will be forthcoming.