Seeking Electives at Other Universities

Most medical schools have their electives information and applications online.

The requirements for each school differ, but the majority of Canadian schools will not accept students for Post MF 4 electives (July-August) or for horizontal electives during pre-clerkship.

Many schools require that applications be submitted 4-6 months in advance of the desired elective placement.

Once the student has completed their application form, the section to be completed by "the Dean or Designate" can be completed by the Electives Coordinator.

Some schools require a letter verifying that the student is in good academic standing and that they are covered by malpractice insurance.

These can also be obtained from the Electives Coordinator by completing a "Request for Credentials", found on our website.

Undergrad MD Electives Office

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Undergrad MD Electives Website

www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/mdprog
HORIZONTAL ELECTIVES

Horizontal Electives are part-time, optional electives that DO NOT appear on the student transcript.

Horizontal electives can range from a few hours in a clinic each week, to on-call experiences on weekends. A Horizontal elective must total a minimum of 8 hours. Horizontal electives are completely optional but many students find them a clear complement to their foundation studies or areas that they feel weak or are interested in pursuing in more detail than has occurred in their tutorials.

Should the student choose to undertake a horizontal elective, it must be evaluated by the supervisor based on the objectives submitted on-line at least two weeks prior to the start of the elective. The Student Advisor is not required to sign off on horizontal electives. Failure to file objectives prior to the start of the elective means that malpractice insurance is not in place.

Horizontal electives can be supervised by any member of the health care team, i.e. a paramedic, pharmacist, nurse or physiotherapist. They cannot be supervised by a member of your immediate family.

There are no rules on the amount of horizontal electives students should be pursuing. Although it is not necessary for the student advisor to sign horizontal elective objectives, students are always advised to consult their student advisor for guidance. We recommend that students not make any firm plans for horizontal electives until they have begun the foundation during which they would like to do the elective. This is to allow students to get a clear idea of the time demands of the foundation before taking on too many horizontal experiences.

SUMMARY

- HORIZONTALS NEED NOT BE SUPERVISED BY AN MD, PHD OR MCMASTER FACULTY MEMBER
- IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER CANNOT SUPERVISE THE ELECTIVE
- OBJECTIVES FOR HORIZONTALS ARE SUBMITTED ON-LINE ONLY AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE OF THE START DATE OF ELECTIVE

BLOCK ELECTIVES

Block electives are mandatory full-time elective placements which must be supervised by an MD, PhD, or McMaster Faculty member who is not the student’s Advisor or a member of their immediate family.

The first block is 7 weeks in duration and occurs at the conclusion of Medical Foundation 4. The remaining 17 weeks occur during Clerkship. In clerkship, at least 9 weeks of elective time must be clinical (see additional information re Elective Diversification below).

Block Electives must be at least 2 weeks long (40 hours of academic study per week) with the exception of the reading elective (only 1 week may be designated as a “Reading Elective” throughout the Program) or under special circumstances with permission from the Chair of Electives.

It is permissible to switch noted vacation times during Clerkship block elective times, as long as the required block week requirement is being met.

Otherwise, block elective choices are left to the student’s discretion in consultation with their student advisor. International electives must first be approved by the Electives Chair and then by Risk Management (Wentworth House Room 115). Risk Management forms are downloaded from our website.

Block Electives constitute core curriculum for McMaster medical students. The MD Program is required to know where ALL students are placed at ALL times. The Student Advisor must sign off on all Block Elective objectives forms. Online Elective Objectives must be entered PRIOR to the start of the elective). If the student fails to do this they will receive late notation on their elective file.

Elective Diversification

Electives must be organized so that throughout the student’s course of medical study they have elective experiences in at least three different disciplines (defined below), each of which shall take place for a minimum of two weeks.

Disciplines: Anesthesiology, Community Medicine, Critical Care, Diagnostic Radiology, Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery.

COMPLETING PAPERWORK:

All Electives Forms are found on our website at: www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/mdprog

Objective Forms

Student must complete a Student Objectives/Approval Online Form for ALL electives undertaken.

For Horizontal Electives, student will complete the objectives form on-line. This does not need to be signed by the Student Advisor and a paper copy does not need to be handed in to the Electives Coordinator.

For Block Electives, student will complete and submit the form on-line, print the form from the website, have it reviewed and signed by their Student Advisor and supervisor and will submit this to the Electives Coordinator.

Evaluation Forms

The student must be evaluated by their supervisor using a Summary of Student Performance Form for ALL electives undertaken.

This form should be downloaded from the website, completed by the supervisor and submitted to the MD Program Electives Coordinator.

This evaluation form will be signed by our Electives Chair, copied to both the student and their Student Advisor and filed into their permanent record.