

Longitudinal Clerkship (LC) Experience:

Description

The MSTP (M.D.-Ph.D.) program has a required Longitudinal Clerkship Experience (LCE) that is completed during the Ph.D. portion of the training program. The two primary purposes of the LCE are to provide MSTP students with 1) clinical experience in direct patient care to further develop their communication, physical examination and clinical reasoning skills and 2) an opportunity to work in clinical settings with physician-scientists.

For each LCE completed (see details below), students will be awarded two (2) medical school elective credits which apply to the graduation requirements for the M.D. degree.

Longitudinal Clerkships are clerkships generally conducted in the ambulatory/outpatient setting on a weekly or biweekly basis. These clerkships are completed by MSTP students during the graduate phase of training. The MSTP (M.D.-Ph.D.) student, in consultation with his/her faculty preceptor, will identify 2-3 clinical knowledge areas and/or clinical skills in which the student will gain proficiency by the end of the LCE.

LCE Learning Objectives

1. Improve patient interviewing, physical examination and clinical reasoning skills.
2. Gain understanding of and experience in continuity of care relationships.
3. Gain exposure to career options by preferentially working with faculty preceptors who have direct experience and insight into the life of the physician-scientist.
4. Experience mentorship with the preceptor on balancing clinical and research activities.
5. Receive general career guidance from the faculty preceptor that complements other MSTP career counseling programs and opportunities.

Requirements

1. All students must complete a **minimum of two (2) Longitudinal Clerkship Experiences** *before the end* of their third year of graduate training (G3).
2. At least one of the LCEs must involve direct patient care and must be completed in an ambulatory, patient care-oriented setting.
3. LCEs must consist of either half-day or full-day clinics on a weekly or biweekly basis.
4. Students must complete a cumulative minimum of ten (10) full days of clinic time for credit.
5. LCEs must be completed in a longitudinal fashion and must each be completed over a period of no longer than twenty-four (24) weeks.
6. Attend at least three (3) **Longitudinal Rounds Sessions** (see below) during each LCE.

Longitudinal Rounds (LR): Longitudinal Rounds are interactive seminars during which MSTP students synthesize LCE clinical encounters into succinct patient presentations and discuss a variety of relevant diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. LR sessions will be held monthly and students must attend a minimum of three (3) LR sessions and present at least one (1) patient encounter during the course of each LCE.

LR Learning Objectives

1. Refine oral presentation skills and synthesis of patient histories and physical examinations.
2. Gain exposure to a broad range of medical sub-specialties via sharing of LCE experiences among students.
3. Improve differential diagnosis, assessment/plan, and team-based medical decision making skills in a wide variety of clinical disciplines.
4. Develop skills in the incorporation of relevant technology (e.g. eRecord review of lab values) into patient presentations, and review HIPPA regulations of patient privacy with respect to electronic patient information.

Guidelines

No more than one (1) Longitudinal Clerkship Experience may be completed per semester, and no more than two (2) Longitudinal Clerkships may be completed per academic year. No more than eight (8) total weeks of clinical elective credit may be earned for Longitudinal Clerkship Experiences. Students must register for the LCE **before** beginning as retroactive credit will not be given per medical school policy. Students who begin a

longitudinal clerkship but fail to complete it within the allotted time (24 weeks as noted above) will be assigned a grade of “Withdraw” or “Withdraw Fail” by their preceptor. The grade will be noted on the student’s medical school transcript in accordance with medical school policy and no credit, including partial credit will be given. Students are expected to complete all appropriate evaluations of the LCE.

Accepted Longitudinal Clerkship Experiences include:

- Ambulatory, clinical specialties (e.g., medicine, medicine subspecialties, neurology, psychiatry)
- Ambulatory, clinical component of a procedural or surgical specialty (e.g., OB/GYN, radiation oncology)
- Diagnostic specialties (e.g., pathology, radiology)

Enrollment

Graduate-phase MSTP students can enroll in LCs in MedSIS via the following link:

medsis.urmc.rochester.edu

Within the “Academics” tab, select “Add/Drop Requests”

Indicate the appropriate academic year, and select “New Request”

Request Action: “Add”

Course title: PHDCLK

Select the appropriate institution, dates, and preceptor from the drop down menus.

Note: All clinical electives completed in graduate school, regardless of format, must be approved by the student’s Advisory Dean. Deviations from the policy stated above require advanced approval by both the student’s advisory dean and graduate advisor.

Evaluation

To receive credit for the clerkship, students must complete evaluations for *both* the medical school *and* for the MSTP. While the medical school evaluation provides valuable feedback to the preceptor, the MSTP evaluation will be used exclusively for internal purposes, for the benefit of the program and other MSTP students.