Introduction to Clinical Medicine

Introduction to Clinical Medicine occurs in both Years I and II. The course is designed to teach aspects of the doctor-patient relationship, interviewing and diagnosis issues, ethics, professionalism, medical economics, human behavior, sexuality and prevention. During these two years, student will begin to synthesize the principles learned in the pre-clinical courses with the information derived at the patient’s bedside. Building a solid foundation during the course will guarantee a more successful clinical years’ experience.

In Year I, students will meet one afternoon a week in small groups facilitated by one or more faculty members. They will learn how to do a medical interview and discuss issues brought up by the patients they see. Additional days throughout the year will be scheduled to further address topics of importance.

In Year II, students will be scheduled to meet with a physician one afternoon a week to specifically target the acquisition of the skills needed to perform a thorough history and comprehensive physical examination. Additional days throughout the year will be scheduled to further address topics of importance.

I. Goals:

- To provide students an overview of the biologic, social and behavioral elements that affect disease treatment and prevention
- To provide students with an understanding and appreciation of those attributes and responsibilities that are inherent in the doctor–patient relationship including but not limited to: professionalism, humanism, sensitivity, collegiality, collaboration, ethical behavior, respect for others, honesty and integrity, commitment to continuously improve one’s knowledge and ability
- To provide students with the framework, processes, and communication skills necessary to interact with patients and patients’ families, as well as all other professionals involved in the health care environment
- To develop physical examination skills including the use of proper mechanics, and the recognition of normal and abnormal physical findings, including understanding of a core set of clinical exam findings and the disease states with which they are associated.
- To develop the ability to communicate a history and physical both orally and in writing by the use of clear, precise, and concise language.
- To begin to develop the ability to ascertain a differential diagnosis using information gathered from the history and physical.
II. Objectives:
By the end of ICM, students will be able to:

**Altruistic:**
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all professional interactions with patients, families, and colleagues
- Identify major ethical issues facing physicians: boundary issues, confidentiality, substance abuse by physicians, etc.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to patient perspectives and one’s own cultural biases and assumptions that might influence interactions with patients
- Understand the importance of treating patients with compassion, respect and dignity, the factors that lead patients to feel respected, and the effect of these on the course of treatment

**Knowledgeable:**
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the interpersonal and situational dynamics, strategies, and processes of medical encounters that result in effective doctor–patient communication
- Demonstrate knowledge of common topics in primary care
- Demonstrate an understanding of the people of all ages and the methods of inducing change
- Demonstrate an understanding of the spectrum of emotional and behavioral problems, their prevalence in different health care settings and their interaction with physical illness
- Demonstrate an understanding of how a patient’s culture, religion/spirituality, socioeconomic status, gender, and sexual orientation affect the dynamics of the medical interview and outcome

**Skillful:**
- Demonstrate the ability to obtain an accurate medical history that covers all aspects of the history, including issues related to age, gender, culture, socioeconomic status, religion/spirituality and sexual orientation, physical and emotional disability
- Demonstrate proficiency in using a variety of communication skills and strategies to effect meaningful, patient centered communication
- Integrate information about human behavior from the biological, behavioral, and social sciences as it applies to health, illness and treatment across the life span
- Demonstrate the ability to perform a competent and thorough physical examination
- Demonstrate that they have attained the ability to present orally the history and physical examination accurately and concisely
- Demonstrate competency in writing the complete history and physical examination in an appropriate format
Dutiful:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how community resources, culture, economics, education and psychosocial factors affect health and utilization of health care resources
- Demonstrate an understanding of the physician’s social responsibility to provide care to patients who are unable to pay and to advocate for access to health care for members of traditionally underserved populations
- Demonstrate the ability to retrieve, manage, and utilize biomedical information for problem solving and making decisions relevant to the care of individuals and populations
- Demonstrate the ability to identify factors that place individuals at increased risk for developing disease or injury