

Required Ambulatory Course Overview

Each student is required to complete one 4-week ambulatory course. All required ambulatory courses, regardless of the offering department/division, must allow students to participate meaningfully in the ambulatory care setting. This course should not be a “shadowing” experience; rather, **students should be given similar responsibilities as an early-year intern or junior resident in the clinic.** Students must be provided with appropriate supervision by faculty physicians, residents, and/or other healthcare professionals for all patient care activities. Listed below are the key features that must be satisfied by any proposed Required Ambulatory Course.

Key Features of the Required Ambulatory Course

- Each student must have the opportunity to:
 1. For assigned patients, complete an appropriately-focused patient encounter. When appropriate, students should:
 - a. Recognize and triage acutely ill patients who need immediate intervention
 - b. Diagnose and treat chronic ambulatory conditions
 - c. Apply preventive principles
 2. Refine clinical skills including history-taking, physical examination, and oral presentation
 3. Develop an independent assessment and plan that:
 - a. Includes a problem list, differential diagnosis, diagnostic plan, and treatment plan
 - b. Incorporates evidence-based medicine principles and current practice guidelines
 4. Maintain comprehensive, timely, and accurate medical records. There is no requirement that the student write a note on each patient he/she sees. The number of progress notes a student should write during a given clinic session should be flexible based on the course and/or clinic. Student notes should be read, and students should receive appropriate formative feedback on their notes during the rotation. Student note-writing should not be a barrier to:
 - a. The number of patient care opportunities available during a clinic session
 - b. Timely student attendance at the next clinic session or a required educational activity
 - c. The preceptor’s ability to close the encounter in a timely fashion
 5. Ensure continuity of care throughout transitions between providers and settings.
 6. Counsel and educate patients and their families to empower them to participate in their care and enable shared decision-making.
 7. Communicate effectively with healthcare team members to coordinate patient care.

- At least 50% of clinical experience should be provided in the ambulatory setting in this course. This percentage would allow flexibility to the course director to encourage learning activities that best prepare students for internship. An example might include providing continuity of care for patients admitted from clinic to the hospital or vice-versa.

- Each student should have the opportunity to participate in educational activities in addition to clinical duties, whether developed specifically for students on this rotation or previously-existing conferences/learning opportunities.