AWAY/UNLISTED ELECTIVES
Why do students take away electives?

• They may be applying for a very competitive specialty.

• They might want to see the world before settling into residency (or getting married or having children).

• To fulfill active duty time for the military.

• They might be from a large city and want to see if they would fit well in a rural program.

• They might want to go home!
Things To Consider

Q: How many away electives may I take?

A: Fourth-year students may take up to 4 away/unlisted electives. (There could be a limitation to this if you have had any academic difficulty in your M1 – M3 years).

Some Statistics

• Approximately half of the fourth-year class take away electives every year. This is not a surprise since half of the class is from out-of-state!

• There were 196 students in the Class of 2013 and 93 took away/unlisted electives.
  – 69 students took 1 away elective
  – 19 students took 2 away electives
  – 5 students took 3 away electives
  – 0 students took 4 away electives

  19 students took 1 international health elective
More Things To Consider

Q: Can I afford to take away electives?

A: The expense of doing away electives can also limit the number that you take.

Some examples of expenses:

• application fees or tuition
• car rental or airline tickets
• housing in two locations
• immunizations, travel insurance or fees for drug screening

Talk to Financial Aid!
Q: When is the best time to take away electives?

A: Most students who have military obligations or wish to take an elective elsewhere in their chosen specialty, will do so early in the year (July – October).

Students planning International Health electives generally go abroad during the months of January and February.

Others who intend to leave the Milwaukee area and spend the majority of their year in their home state will incorporate away electives with vacation.
Away Electives VS MCW Schedule

Q: How will I work these electives into my MCW schedule?

A: You will merely add an Away Elective course number for the month(s) you plan to be away. You will place them at the end of your lottery selections list and you will NOT list any other MCW courses on your schedule for those months.

If the away elective begins in the middle of a month and concludes in the middle of the following month, you must schedule VACATION time around either side of these dates in order to enroll in the elective.
Where do I find information about away electives?

- **VSAS (Visiting Student Application Service)**
  
  This is an on-line application that is similar to AMCAS. Utilize the URL below to see if the institution you’re interested in going to uses VSAS.
  
  https://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/vsas/119290/article_for_host_institutions.html

- **Non-VSAS**
  
  The institutions that do not use VSAS can be researched through the AAMC’s Extramural Electives Compendium found at:
  
  https://services.aamc.org/eec/students/

- **International Health**
  
  If you are hoping to take an International Health elective, you may contact Tiffany Frazer, MPH ([tfrazer@mcw.edu](mailto:tfrazer@mcw.edu)), Program Manager, Global Health Program, Medical College of Wisconsin for some information.
MCW Approval for Away Electives

• For each away elective for which you apply, there is a corresponding MCW Away Elective Approval Form that must be processed (VSAS, Non-VSAS and International Health) and submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

• Each form requires your Clinical Advisor’s signature of approval and a course description.

• International Health applications go through an additional screening by Dr. Richard Holloway and require his signature of approval.

• These forms will be available on-line on March 3 on the Office of the Registrar website at http://www.mcw.edu/medicalschool/registrar/fourthyearsched.htm

• All of the forms mentioned above will provide explicit instructions.

• VSAS “authorizations” will be sent to the entire class on March 3.
WHAT ITEMS WILL PROGRAMS ASK ME TO PROVIDE?

Some, none or all of the following items:

– Professional Photograph (you provide)
– Curriculum Vitae (you provide)
– Official Transcript (Registrar’s Office)
– Immunization Forms/Mask Fit Test (Occupational Health)
– Proof of Criminal Background Check (Registrar’s Office or VA Medical Center)
– Dean’s Good Standing Letter/OSHA Safety Measures/HIPAA/Malpractice Coverage (Registrar’s Office)
– Basic Life Support/CPR Certification (you provide)
– Health Insurance Card (you provide)
– USMLE Step 1 Scores (you provide)
– Letter of Recommendation from MCW Faculty Member (Faculty Member)
– Drug Testing (Occupational Health)
– Visa or Passport (you provide)
– Application or Tuition Fees (you provide)
Questions?

• Contact the Office of the Registrar
• (414) 955-8733
• acadreg@mcw.edu

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