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 188 students in the Class of 2014 and 94 took away/unlisted electives.
  - 66 students took 1 away elective
  - 24 students took 2 away electives
  - 3 students took 3 away electives
  - 1 student took 4 away electives

  21 students took 1 global health elective
More Things To Consider

Q: Can I afford to take away electives?

A: The **expense** of taking away electives may limit the number that you actually do.

*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).

The majority of students who took Global Health electives in 2014 went abroad during the months of February and April.

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 simply add an Away Elective course number (888-M4D886, 888-M4D887, 888-M4D888 or 888-M4D889) to your **Lottery Selections List** for the 4-week block of dates you plan to be away (e.g. 9/28 – 10/25/15). You will place the away elective course number(s) at the end of your list and will **NOT** list any other MCW courses on your schedule for that 4-week block.

If the away elective course dates overlap with MCW dates, you will schedule VACATION time around either side of these dates in order to enroll in the elective. The example below shows how your schedule will look in OASIS. You will actually have 1 week of vacation from 9/28 – 10/4/15, take the away elective for the dates of 10/5 – 10/30/15 and your remaining 3 weeks of vacation for the dates of 10/31 – 11/22/15. You will be able to report to your next MCW course on 11/23/15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>09/28/2015 - 10/25/2015</td>
<td>888-M4D886</td>
<td>Away Elective</td>
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<td>350-M49241</td>
<td>Pediatric Cardiology</td>
<td>University of Utah</td>
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<td>10/26/2015 - 11/22/2015</td>
<td>777-M4D777</td>
<td>Vacation</td>
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</table>
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

  (You will utilize this URL to view host institution information until March 2. This is when you will receive authorizations and be able to log into VSAS using your own account.)

• 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/

• Global Health
  If you are hoping to take a Global Health elective, you may contact Tifany Frazer, MPH (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 Global Health) and submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

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

• Global Health approval forms go through an additional screening by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and require his/her signature of approval.

• All of the approval forms contain explicit processing instructions. These forms will be available on-line on March 2 on the Office of the Registrar website at: http://www.mcw.edu/Medical-School/Current-Students/Registrar/Fourth-Year-Schedule.htm

• VSAS “authorizations” will be issued on March 2. Please watch your e-mail this day as we will be sending a notification to the entire class.
WHAT ITEMS WILL PROGRAMS ASK ME TO PROVIDE?

Some, none or all of the following items may be requested:

– *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* (For VSAS, the Registrar’s Office can only verify the date your VA background check was cleared. If written verification is requested, contact Dave Silva at the VA Medical Center for the documentation. His e-mail is David.Silva3@va.gov)
– *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 sends letter to psindberg@mcw.edu to be uploaded into VSAS or mailed with your application materials)
– *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

Patricia A. Sindberg
Program Coordinator for Fourth-Year and Visiting Medical Students