



Central Wisconsin Integrated Clerkship (CWIC)

MCW-Central Wisconsin's Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship?

Longitudinal integrated clerkships (LICs) have the following common core elements:

- Medical students participate in the comprehensive care of patients over time
- Medical students have continuing learning relationships with these patient's clinicians
- Medical students meet, through these experiences, the majority of the year's core clinical competencies across multiple disciplines simultaneously.

Does a Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship take the place of the basic science curriculum?

No, the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship takes place during the clinical curriculum, and does not involve the basic science curriculum. Due to the calendar efficient curriculum (134 weeks instead of 152 weeks), students at MCW-Central Wisconsin will experience clinical clerkships sooner than on the Milwaukee campus, but students on all campuses receive the same basic science curriculum.

What are the key design principles of a CWIC?

- Students receive a comparable educational experience
- Students accomplish the same objectives, are assessed using the same methods
- Longitudinal integrated Clerkships are competency-based, not time-based
- Students achieve enhanced continuity with patients and faculty over time
- Longitudinal clerkships encourage time for clinical integration and reflection
- Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships offer increased flexibility and individualization
- Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships are learner focused, using adult learning models
- Ability to integrate short sessions and "just in time" learning
- Enhance workplace learning opportunities

How does CWIC differ from a Traditional Block Rotation Clerkship?

Traditional Block Rotation Clerkships are typically discipline or specialty specific, occur singly and are time limited. The student experience is closely tied to the inpatient population available during that time interval. There is often little integration or continuity of patients or faculty between blocks.

Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships integrate students with faculty and patients over time and across disciplines and specialties. Students are assigned longitudinally to patients from outpatient practices in several disciplines simultaneously. LICs are competency or objective based rather than time based.

Is MCW the first to adopt a Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship?

No. Medical Schools from the US, Canada, Australia and Europe have utilized Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships, in some cases for decades. See www.clicmeded.com for a listing of schools utilizing LICs.

What are the outcomes from Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships?

A body of literature going back to the 1990's indicates comparable to improved measures for LIC students.

- comparable outcomes for students from LICs on standardized testing and surgical skills
- improved knowledge retention beyond M3 year
- improved patient-centeredness, and patient evaluations
- better developed clinical communication and data gathering
- less burnout and improved empathy
- graduates more likely to enter primary care fields and rural practice

Why is MCW-Central Wisconsin developing CWIC?

- A new campus provides opportunity to differentiate MCW's curriculum
- A Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship meets needs of MCW-Central Wisconsin educational partners, and creates an additional option for MCW, and students
- A Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship increases learning flexibility
- Longitudinal Integrated Curricula utilize additional adult learning and workplace learning models
- The large geographic area covered by the MCW-Central Wisconsin campus is less amenable to moving students around on block rotations than placing them in longitudinal experiences

Where can I find more information on Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships?

- The Consortium of Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships www.clicmeded.com