

Clinical Elective Diversification Policy

Office of Accountability:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	MD Program
Approver:	MD Curriculum & Program Committee
Scope:	Compliance with this policy extends to all medical students.

OVERVIEW

Electives are an important and mandatory component of the MD Program. They provide opportunities for medical students to explore medical domains in a more in-depth fashion than may be permitted in the core clerkship. Medical electives allow students to develop their own specific interests and expertise, as well as sample disciplines for possible career choices and postgraduate training programs.

PURPOSE

Clinical electives permit medical students to gain exposure to and deepen their understanding of medical specialties reflecting their career interests, and also provide opportunities for medical students to pursue individual academic interests. This policy is related to the MD Program's overall [Electives Policy](#).

POLICY

1. RESPONSIBILITY

- a. University of Alberta medical students request local electives through MedSIS and visiting electives through the AFMC Portal.
- b. The Coordinator, Electives & Selectives monitors the quality of student elective experiences.

2. ELECTIVE DIVERSIFICATION

- a. Students are strongly encouraged to use electives to pursue a broad range of interests in addition to their chosen specialty. As a result, the University of Alberta MD Program will subscribe to the national initiative to limit the maximum number of clerkship electives in one CARMS entry-level discipline to 8 weeks. An entry-level discipline is an Entry Route in the PGY-1 (R1) match. Each of these entry-level disciplines leads to specialty certification with either the RCPSC or the CCFP. This elective diversification policy extends to any clinical elective, including international electives and exchanges.

- b. Electives in subspecialties that are part of a PGY-3 (R3) match (e.g. Pediatrics or Internal Medicine subspecialties) are counted as separate disciplines to a maximum of 8 weeks in GIM and/or Pediatrics. These do not count towards the eight week cap in general Pediatrics and/or Internal Medicine.
- c. One clinical research elective of two weeks can be approved by the Coordinator, Electives and Selectives and count towards the electives requirement.
- d. Clinical electives must be a minimum of two weeks duration.

3. ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES

a. CaRMS Direct Entry Disciplines

Anatomical Pathology	Anesthesiology
Anesthesiology- Clinical Investigator Program	Cardiac Surgery
Dermatology	Diagnostic Radiology
Diagnostic Radiology - Clinician Investigator Program	Emergency Medicine
Family Medicine	Family Medicine – Integrated Emergency Medicine
General Pathology	General Surgery
Hematological Pathology	Internal Medicine
Laboratory Medicine	Medical Biochemistry
Medical Genetics	Medical Microbiology
Neurology	Neurology – Pediatrics
Neuropathology	Neurosurgery
Nuclear Medicine	Obstetrics & Gynecology
Ophthalmology	Orthopedic Surgery
Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery	Pediatrics
Pediatrics - Clinician Investigator Program	Pediatrics – MD/PhD Stream
Physical & Rehabilitative Medicine	Plastic Surgery
Plastic Surgery - Clinician Investigator Program	Psychiatry
Psychiatry - Research Track	Public Health & Preventive Medicine
Public Health & Preventive Medicine + Family Medicine	Radiation Oncology
Urology	Vascular Surgery

DEFINITIONS

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use.



Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS)	The Canadian Resident Matching Service provides an electronic application service and a computer match for entry into postgraduate medical training throughout Canada.
Entry Level Discipline	An entry route in the PGY 1 (R1) CaRMS Match leading to certification with CCFP or RCPSC.

RELATED LINKS

[Canadian Resident Matching Service \(CaRMS\)](#)

[Education - Undergraduate Students, Electives, & MD Graduates](#) (AFMC Electives Diversification)

APPROVAL HISTORY

APPROVER	STATUS	DATE
MD Program Committee	Approved	25 July 2013
Kent Stobart, associate dean, MD Program	Added CaRMS to <i>Related Links</i>	26 February 2014
MD Curriculum & Program Committee (MDCPC)	Approved (updates to bring it in line with the AFMC national electives diversification policy)	10 February 2022
MD Curriculum & Program Committee (MDCPC)	Approved Reviewed as part of a quality improvement process with an eye to updates that bring the policy in line with current processes and other electives policies.	16 November 2023