



# QUILLEN COLLEGE of MEDICINE

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Policy Name/Number: Senior Year Requirements / MSEC-0121-27

<b>Policy Owner:</b> Ivy Click, EdD / MSEC Chair (2020- )	
<b>Committees, Departments, or Individuals Responsible for Implementation:</b> Beth Anne Fox, MD, MPH / Vice Dean	
<b>Original Approval Date/ By:</b> 1/21/2021 / MSEC	<b>Effective Date:</b> 3/3/2025
<b>Most Recent Revision Date:</b> 6/5/2025	<b>Policy Advisory Committee Review Date:</b> 6/5/2025
<b>Date of Next Review:</b> 6/5/2028 <i>(All policies are reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee every 3 years unless circumstances for an earlier review is identified.)</i>	

### (A) Policy Statement:

The clinical curriculum of the Quillen College of Medicine is designed to enable students to develop the basic competencies required of medical school graduates prepared to begin residency training in any clinical discipline. Through exposure to basic skills of medical/surgical specialties, students will practice the skills, attitudes, and behaviors unique to each discipline and common to the practice of medicine in general. As their skills become more refined, students will take on increased clinical responsibility as sub-interns during the M4 year and will have the opportunity to explore particular fields of interest in a variety of settings through elective and selective experiences.

At the conclusion of their training, students will have a clinical knowledge base appropriate for first year residents, will be well prepared to provide care to patients in both ambulatory and hospital settings, will be skilled in the knowledge acquisition tools required for lifelong learning, and will deal professionally with the ethical, legal, and economic realities of medicine.

### (B) Purpose of Policy:

Define the M4 year curricular requirements in order to meet graduation requirements. All requirements are expected to be completed by the designated spring graduation date. Those completing requirements later than the specified mid-June date will be considered a December graduate and not eligible to participate in the residency matching process.

### (C) Scope of Policy (applies to):

All M4 students upon completion of all M3 curricular requirements.

### (D) Policy Activities:

The M4 year consists of 44 weeks of educational experiences:

- 10 weeks of Selectives
- 28 weeks of Electives
- 2-week Summative OSCE
- 4-week Doctoring 4 course which includes Professional Portfolios and Keystone
- Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination

#### Selective Requirements: 10 weeks

- 4 weeks of Inpatient Sub internship
- 2 weeks of Critical Care
- 4 weeks of Ambulatory Care
- Rural Track students are required to complete the RPCT-Underserved Area Ambulatory Care Selective. This may be accomplished via a QCOM approved option or an individually arranged domestic or international

experience. Individually arranged experiences must meet Ambulatory Care selective requirements for an away experience. Requests for International experiences must be submitted via the identified process for International experiences. (Refer to description of Individually Arranged experiences below).

In order to ensure a well-rounded senior year, no more than two selectives may be performed in the same specialty. Additionally, students may only take one selective in each required category: sub internship, critical care, ambulatory.

To facilitate scheduling across the year, at least one selective must be completed in the fall semester. However, an additional selective may be scheduled during the fall semester depending on the student's schedule and/or selective availability.

A maximum of 2 away electives may be requested to be designated for selective credit if the following criteria are met:

1. The away rotation director attests on the form specific to the selective type requested that the rotation meets the selective criteria and;
2. the request is approved at least 2 weeks prior to the rotation start date; and
3. the rotation will be conducted at an LCME accredited institution.

Note: Emergency Medicine rotations will be designated as critical care selective credit only and not count toward other types of selectives.

A maximum of 20 weeks (selectives and electives combined) of the senior year may be in a single specialty.

#### Elective Requirements: 28 weeks

Students are encouraged to use electives to gain exposure to medical specialties reflecting their career interests and their individual academic interests.

- Up to 16 weeks may be completed as away electives at other institutions;
- a maximum of 20 weeks of home and/or away electives may be within a single specialty, and;
- a minimum of 14 weeks of elective time must be performed in direct patient care settings, i.e. must be an in-person clinical experience – not online or virtual.

#### Types of Electives:

- Quillen home electives
  - Have been preapproved by MSEC by meeting established criteria
  - Are either 2 or 4 weeks in duration
- Away electives at other institutions
  - Up to 16 weeks of experiences may be completed as away rotations, including non-faculty led individually arranged domestic and international experiences.
  - All away elective requests require QCOM approval at least 2 weeks prior to the rotation start date.
  - No requests will receive retroactive approval.
  - Credit toward meeting graduation requirements will not be granted until QCOM receives a completed student assessment form from the experience.
  - It is the student's responsibility to secure return of their assessment form.
  - Requests for more than 16 weeks of away electives must be submitted on the appropriate form by the stated deadline date, including a written justification, to Academic Affairs for consideration by the Senior Electives Committee.
- Individually Arranged Experiences
  - Up to 8 weeks of experiences may be requested (subject to availability).
  - Must be for experiences not already available at Quillen.
  - Can be arranged with QCOM faculty or a community physician.
  - Application must be approved at least 30 days in advance of start date.

- International experience (also considered as an Individually Arranged Experience)
  - Country/location cannot be on U.S. State Department Travel Warning List.
  - Application submitted via ETSU Office of International Programs.
  - Application must be approved 90 days in advance of rotation start date.
  - Permission may be rescinded based on security risks.

#### Doctoring 4 Course

A longitudinal course that runs from the first day to the last day of the M4 academic year. Components include Professional Portfolios and a 4-week Keystone Course.

#### Scheduling Requirements:

- You must schedule at least 4 weeks of experiences in the spring (March-June), 12 weeks in the fall (July1-December), and at least 9 weeks in the spring (Jan-graduation).
- Schedule changes must be requested no later than 14 days prior to a rotation start date.

#### Unscheduled Time

- Unscheduled time is built into the M4 schedule. Off-cycle students will have less unscheduled time.
- Examples of unscheduled time include: Step 2 study time, interviews, flextime for away rotations that do not align with the QCOM calendar, research, and personal use.
- Students are still enrolled during unscheduled time and can be scheduled for activities throughout M4 year where attendance is required and expected by the College of Medicine.

A maximum of 4 weeks of unscheduled time may be scheduled consecutively except during interview season (typically blocks 9, 10, and 11 – subject to change). An exception will be made for those in the MD/MPH program who may need 8 consecutive weeks of unscheduled time to complete their MPH field work. Field work credit is issued by the Department of Public Health and recognized by QCOM as an elective credit toward meeting graduation requirements.