

Foundations of Clinical Medicine (FCM) Course: Seattle

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The Foundations of Clinical Medicine (FCM) Course is a comprehensive clinical skills program with four integrated and complementary elements. It begins with the Immersion block, which introduces students to medical school and to clinical medicine, extends through the Foundations Phase, and culminates in the Transition to Clerkships.

The four integrated elements of FCM are:

Immersion: FCM starts with intensive initial clinical skills training including fundamentals of doctor-patient communication and medical interviewing; the content and structure of the medical database; basic physical exam; introduction to professionalism and the culture of medicine. The Immersion is two weeks in Seattle and longer at some regional sites.

Hospital Tutorials: Students work consistently with a faculty mentor and small group of peer students throughout their first 18 months. They have opportunities to practice the comprehensive history and physical examination with hospitalized patients and are observed by their College mentors who provide immediate formative feedback on their skills. During the second half of each tutorial morning, College mentors return to see each patient with the group of students, to demonstrate interviewing and exam techniques at the bedside. Students perform oral case presentations and complete written histories and physicals for each patient, which are also reviewed by the mentor. Students have their Hospital Tutorial morning on either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in alternate weeks.

Clinical Skills Workshops: Students learn core communication, physical exam, clinical reasoning, reflection, and teamwork skills in hands-on, interactive small group sessions aligned with the content of the Foundations blocks. They also cover other areas relevant to patient care, including communication skills and interview techniques, behavioral medicine, chronic care, interprofessional healthcare and other areas. Students have Clinical Skills Workshops every other Wednesday afternoon.

Primary Care Practicum (PCP): Starting in January, students will work in the same primary care physician's office for the majority of the Foundations Phase in a longitudinal experience emphasizing outpatient clinical skills, patient relationships and continuity, chronic care, and teamwork. In the clinic, students will have the opportunity to apply many of the skills they learned in Clinical Skills Workshops and Hospital Tutorials. Students have their PCP on alternate Wednesdays and spend most or all of the day in their PCP setting.

Disability accommodations for FCM

Students requesting a disability accommodation for FCM can contact Disability Resource Services (DRS) directly by contacting Valerie Hamilton (vah2@uw.edu) or <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs>, as soon as possible prior to the start of immersion/orientation so that appropriate accommodations can be made available in a timely fashion to allow the student to participate fully immersion/orientation. Accommodations cannot be guaranteed until a DRS evaluation has been completed and appropriate accommodations determined. You can also reach out to Dr. Raye Maestas, Interim Associate Dean of Students if you have any questions.