



**DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

Medical Scholars Program

Overview

The goal of the University of Mississippi Medical Center Medical Scholars Program is to provide an elective, faculty-supervised experience in a clinical department within the School of Medicine. Registration for the program occurs in the M1 or M2 years. Students will participate in a variety of prescribed research and clinical activities during at least three years of medical school. Students will keep a journal of their experiences, and they will participate in biannual evaluations (formative, final) with their faculty advisor. Students may also choose to take senior electives under the direction of a sponsoring clinical department. Those participating in the Medical Scholars program will be recognized in special awards given by their departments, and their participation will be included in the Dean's letter for residency applications.

Eligibility

First or second year students in good academic standing may apply by obtaining the recommendation of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Students are assigned to faculty advisors in one of the divisions within the Department of Surgery. A participant may change division once each year (in May) with the written concurrence of both old and new divisional faculty advisors and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Activities performed under the Norman C. Nelson Summer Research Fellowship may be counted as part of a student's participation in the Medical Scholars program.

Completion Requirements

M1 or M2 students may enroll in the program with the concurrence of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and a departmental faculty advisor (enrollment forms and two signatures required).

Medical students who volunteer for the program must continue to attend their regularly scheduled classes and maintain good academic standing while participating in the program.

A student must keep a log of hours devoted to the program. Biannual evaluations (formative, final) of the student's progress and performance are required to be filed (January 1, May 1) with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs by the faculty advisor.

Academic credit for participation in the program may be obtained by completion of a senior elective block in the student's chosen department. No academic credit will be offered for participation in the program other than by the student enrolling in a specific senior block. In such senior electives, credit can be granted only for course activities that are performed during the senior year.

Students will be allowed to withdraw from the program with no prejudice, by writing a letter to their faculty advisor through the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Surgery Medical Scholars Program



The Surgery Medical Scholars Program will allow students to initiate concentrated studies in specific areas of surgery. Both clinical and research experiences can be acquired. A student, in consultation with a faculty advisor, will develop a course of study that will be reviewed for approval by the Surgery Medical Scholars Program Directors. Programs in the divisions of General Surgery

(including Trauma/Critical Care), Plastic Surgery, Urology, Vascular Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Pediatric Surgery are available.

M1 Year Activities: During the M1 year participants in the Medical Scholars program will be involved in non-credit, clinical or laboratory tutorials for two hours weekly in their selected divisions. These activities will not involve medical school credit, and they will take place at a time and place that does not interfere with the activities required of all M1s.

M1 - M2 Summer Activities: During the summer between the M1 and M2 years, a Medical Scholars Program participant will be involved in a ten week clinical or laboratory clerkship funded by a Norman C. Nelson Summer Research Fellowship or the Department of Surgery. These clerkships will not involve medical school credit.



M2 Year Activities: During the M2 year, students will again be involved in non-credit clinical or laboratory tutorials for two hours per week in their selected divisions. This M2 experience will be the last point of entry for students into the Surgery Medical Scholars Program. Students may change divisions within the program through the end of the M2 year. These clerkships will not involve medical school credit, and they will take place at a time and place that does not interfere with activities required of all M2s.

M3 Year Activities: During the M3 year students will be offered the opportunity to participate in non-credit tutorials and selected faculty advisor-based surgical experiences. Tutorials and/or faculty advisor based experiences will not involve medical school credit and will take place at a time and place that does not interfere with activities required of all M3s. All M3 medical students will take a total of 12 weeks of surgery. M3 Surgery Medical Scholars Program participants will take two three-week rotations on general surgery and six weeks of other surgical specialties. Surgery Medical Scholars Program



participants may elect to take up to four of these six weeks in a single surgical specialty, and they will receive priority in selecting their remaining two week surgical specialty rotations. M3 students not participating in the Surgery Medical Scholars Program will take two three-week rotations in General Surgery and three two-week rotations in other surgical specialties.

M4 Year Activities: During their senior year Surgery Medical Scholars Program participants will be encouraged to take special topics in clinical surgery, research, or other special course offerings that will be developed for the Surgery Medical Scholars Program participants. Academic credit can be granted only for activities performed during the senior year,

Objectives and Methods: Each student will develop a course of study that will be submitted and evaluated by the program coordinators and the faculty advisor.

Student eligibility: Acceptance and continued participation in the Surgery Medical Scholars Program is contingent upon students maintaining good academic standing. Only first or second year students in good academic standing may apply to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and a departmental faculty advisor (enrollment forms and two signatures required) for participation in the program. Students must provide the Department of Surgery with a letter stating their motivation and their ability to follow through with a project. Positions will be available for five students per class, although additional candidates will be considered for participation on a case-by-case basis. Students are expected to apply no later than the start of the second year of medical school training as long as positions for that class are available.



Time Commitment: The student will keep a log of hours devoted to the program. The student will meet with the supervising faculty member on a monthly basis to report hours and progress toward goals. Time commitments should not interfere with other curricular responsibilities.

Process: The student will identify an interest in this program by contacting the Office of Performance Assessment at 601-815-1226. That office will arrange a meeting with a director of the program. If a student's proposal is meritorious, the student will be matched with a faculty advisor. The student and the faculty advisor will develop the specific course.

Credit: Students wishing to receive academic credit for work related to the Surgery Medical Scholars Program must enter the program as outlined above. Credit can be given only for work done during the senior year. No academic credit will be given for work done in the first three years of medical school. Program participants will be recognized by the department and may list their participation in the program on their CVs.

Orientation: Students beginning the elective at the start of the academic year will be oriented by the Department of Surgery as a group. Individual arrangements will be made for those who begin the elective during the year. Orientation will include an overview of the Surgery Medical Scholars Program. The Department will provide a syllabus and a list of recommended reading. Orientation, recommended activities, and readings will not conflict with required curricular activities.

Evaluation: All evaluations will be done by the faculty advisor and reviewed by the director of the program who will provide student encouragement and feedback.

Faculty Advisor: Any member of the Department of Surgery may serve as a faculty advisor.

Coordinators: The Surgery Education Office and the program directors. The program directors are Drs. William Lineaweaver and John Schimmel.

Additional Information: Visit the Surgery website at surgery.umc.edu.