

|  | Clinical and Academic Policy | |
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| | Policy Title | Elective Requirements |
| | Policy Number | OME-900.11 |
| | Department/Office | Office of Medical Education |
| | Effective Date | December 15, 2016 |
| | Last Reviewed | January 12, 2017 |
| | Approved By | Executive Medical Education Committee |
| | Approval Date | October 30, 2025 |
| | Endorsement | Endorsed by WCM-Executive Policy Review Group on September 23, 2025 |

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the elective requirements to graduate for students enrolled in the Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) MD curriculum.

Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled in the MD program, except MD-PhD students, who are exempted from the elective requirement.

Policy

Students are required to complete a minimum of sixteen (16) weeks of electives to graduate with an MD degree. There is a required two-week intramural elective block during the clerkship year. This elective must be a Weill WCMC elective course. Additionally, of the 16 required weeks of elective time, at least four (4) weeks should be outside a student's chosen area of career specialty interest.

Definitions

N/A

Procedure

Clerkship Year Elective Requirements: Elective time during the clerkship year is intended to allow students to explore areas of interest and/or complement clerkship-level knowledge and skills. It is not geared towards advanced clinical skills or to serve as an "audition" course for a career specialty. Unless a student is required to remediate a course during this time, a student must use this academic time to enroll in a WCMC elective course. The elective may be a regularly offered elective (provided all pre-requisites are met) or an independent elective designed with a Weill Cornell Medicine faculty member as the course director.

Elective Requirements based on Area of Career Interest: Students declare their career specialty interest at the end of the third year and must submit a Plan of Study reviewed and approved by their assigned specialty advisor and the Assistant Dean of Academic Advising. For electives, the registrar will compare the sponsoring faculty member's department with the student's declared area of career interest to determine whether the elective falls within the student's career specialty interest.

Compliance with this Policy

Compliance with this policy will be monitored by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in conjunction with the Registrar.

Contact Information

Office of the Registrar: registrar@med.cornell.edu

References

- LCME DCI 6.5

Policy Approval

This policy was endorsed by WCM-Executive Policy Review Group on September 23, 2025.

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Executive Medical Education Committee (EMEC) on October 30, 2025.

Version History

| Date | Author | Revisions |
|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 12/15/2016 | Office of Medical Education | Original date of issue. |
| 01/12/2017 | Office of Medical Education | Phase 2 elective policy for students approved |
| 10/30/2025 | Office of Medical Education | Transfer to new policy template. This policy, "Elective Requirements" combines and replaces the former two policies, "Electives Outside of Career Policy" and "Clerkship Elective Time Policy." Assigned policy number "OME-900.11." Streamlined and organized into the various sections required in the new format. |

Appendix

N/A