



NEOMED

COLLEGE of
MEDICINE

Exceptional Student Experience: A Curriculum Change Initiative

Q: What do College of Medicine students want in an “exceptional student experience?”

- Patient care with humanistic values
- Clinical competence
- Enhanced NBME (National Board of Medical Examination) performance
- Residency competitiveness
- Residency readiness
- Personal wellness

Q: How will the College prioritize its work to achieve the goal of providing all students an exceptional student experience?

A: As part of the continuous quality improvement process, and guided by our recent accreditation self-study, this curricular change may be one of our largest initiatives, but it will be just one of many initiatives implemented to ensure an exceptional student experience.

Q: What decisions has the curriculum committee made?

A: The Curriculum Management and Assessment Committee (CMAC) has been assessing quantitative and qualitative information — data and student feedback — for several academic years. Recently, CMAC voted to develop an integrated systems-based curriculum, delivered using an active learning platform. They decided to begin with the pre-clinical curriculum, with a launch of the new curriculum in academic year 2020-2021 for the incoming first-year students.

Q: Has the Dean provided her vision to assist the faculty in developing a new curricular model?

The Dean has provided the following principles to guide the faculty in the development of a new curriculum delivery model:

- **CURRICULUM DELIVERY:** Systems and/or themes
- **IN CLASS HOURS:** Should not exceed 24 hours of in class time per week
- **LEARNING SESSIONS:** Participatory and active with preparatory self-directed learning
- **ASSESSMENTS:** Formative, summative and remedative — with intentional Step 1 alignment and evidence of content mastery
- **CONTENT:** Relevant to becoming a physician

Q: What is an integrated, system or theme-based pre-clinical curricular model?

A: This type of curricular model delivers the content of interconnected biological systems in a module or theme, to give students a holistic and integrated view of human health. Examples might include a cardiovascular system module, or a theme called “Staying Alive,” which could integrate cardiovascular, pulmonary and renal systems.

Q: What does active learning mean?

A: Active learning strategies increase student engagement in the learning process, through critical thinking and application of knowledge with problem solving.

Q: What is the College’s current pre-clinical curricular model?

A: Currently, the College curriculum is course-based and discipline-based. Content is taught in distinct subjects or disciplines, such as microbiology or physiology.

Q: If I want to participate in this new curricular initiative, how can I offer my assistance?

A: Everyone can assist by sharing information about this initiative with the broader community. To participate in this initiative please contact Jennifer Lint, jlint@neomed.edu or 330.325.6311.