

## Component IV - Fourth Year

The fourth year prepares students for residency and provides a chance to explore their own interests in specialized areas of medical practice. Each student must complete at least 40 weeks of courses that include 12 weeks of required coursework and 26 weeks of elective coursework.

At the beginning of the fourth-year students are required to:

- Take the USMLE Step 2 CK exam between completion of the Step 2 Review Course and July 1.

### Required Coursework (40 weeks)

- Clinical Electives: Minimum 28 weeks that must include the following:
  - CU SOM Critical Care Selective: 4 weeks One Required CU SOM 4-week critical care selective
  - CU SOM Sub-Internship or a Critical Care Selective: 4 weeks One Required CU SOM 4-week sub-internship selective or a second CU SOM 4-week critical care selective
  - The remaining 20 weeks of required clinical electives may include:
    - Up to 12 weeks of extramural electives
    - No more than three essentially identical electives
- One 4-week capstone selective
- The remaining 8 weeks may include clinical and/or non-clinical electives.

Students are required to complete 40 credit hours in the Component IV year but are allowed to take up to 4 additional elective hours for credit for a maximum of 44 credit hours. If a student elects to take an additional 4 elective hours for credit, the student may take either a clinical or a non-clinical elective, including a fourth essentially identical elective. No additional for-credit courses will be allowed beyond the 44 credit-hour limit.

Students must be enrolled in a for-credit course to be covered under the University's malpractice insurance policy.

### Component IV Course Groups

**Critical Care Selectives** provide students with experience in caring for inpatients with life-threatening illnesses. Critical Care Selectives may require overnight and weekend call.

**Sub-internships (Sub-Is)** provide the student with experience and preparation for PGY-1 level medical care. Sub-Is are available in Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery, Psychiatry, and Neurology. When students are enrolled in a Sub-I, regardless of department, they should act in all capacities as an intern, albeit with a smaller number of patients and greater supervision. The experience may include inpatient and/or outpatient medical care and may include call if possible.

**Extramural Electives** are clinical electives completed at approved LCME-accredited medical schools, ACGME-accredited residency programs, and/or military hospitals/clinics subject to limitations recommended by the Coalition for Physician Accountability.

**Non-clinical Electives** are optional electives. Students may complete a maximum of 8 weeks of non-clinical electives that count toward their 40 weeks of required coursework. Additional non-clinical electives can be taken, but do not fulfill coursework requirements.

**Essentially Identical Electives:** Generally, students are not allowed to successfully complete a course more than once. The only exception is that students can complete three of the same M4 clinical electives if one is a CU course and the other two are extramural electives. Different sub-specialty electives within the same department are not considered essentially identical.