

Policy Title: Electives Policy	
Policy Leader(s): Senior Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs	Reviewed By: MD Policy Review Committee Pre-Clerkship Curriculum Subcommittee Clinical Curriculum Subcommittee
Approved By: Executive Education Committee	Approved Date: 7/10/26

PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

This policy ensures that all medical students gain diverse and substantial elective experiences that are integral to their professional development and readiness for residency. Students are encouraged to pursue electives that align with their interests and career aspirations, within these requirements.

RELEVANT LCME STANDARD(S):

- LCME Element 9.9 (Student Advancement and Appeal Process)

POLICY:

MD Curriculum Students and Ascend MD/PhD Students

Students must complete 20 weeks of elective rotations during Phase 2 and Phase 3 combined:

- A. Clinical Electives (14 Weeks minimum)
 - Of those 14 weeks it is recommended that 4 weeks be dedicated to a medicine subspecialty or critical care elective.
- B. Remainder of elective weeks may be fulfilled through
 - Additional clinical electives
 - Longitudinal electives for up to a maximum of 4 weeks. These may be clinical or non-clinical.
 - Research or a non-clinical learning elective

MD/PhD Legacy Curriculum Students Re-Joining ASCEND curriculum

Students must complete 16 weeks of elective rotations during Phase 2 and Phase 3 combined:

- A. Clinical Electives (12 Weeks minimum)

- Of those 12 weeks it is recommended that 4 weeks be dedicated to a medicine subspecialty or critical care elective.
- B. Remainder of elective weeks may be fulfilled through
 - Additional clinical electives
 - Longitudinal electives for up to a maximum of 4 weeks. These may be clinical or non-clinical.
 - Research or a non-clinical learning elective

MD/PhD Students in the PhD Phase

All MD/PhD students in the PhD phase may receive a maximum of four (4) weeks of elective credit in an established ISMMS elective provided that all below are met:

- A. The student is matriculated in the ISMMS Graduate School and eligible to enroll in coursework;
- B. The elective is marked in the electives catalog as accessible to MSTP students in the PhD phase
- C. The student received approval to participate from their scientific mentor.

Scholarly Year or Leave of Absence Legacy Curriculum Students Re-Joining Ascend Curriculum

- A. Students on a Scholarly Year or official Leave of Absence are not eligible to accrue elective credit.
- B. Upon re-entry into the curriculum, students must meet all ASCEND electives policy requirements applicable to their cohort.

Elective Completion Requirements for Degree Conferral

All elective requirements must be completed and graded by the week prior to May Commencement to ensure eligibility for May degree conferral. Students who complete electives after this deadline will receive their degree on the next scheduled conferral date.

POLICY ADHERENCE:

The Electives Team in the Office of Curricular Affairs will document the review and approval of elective requests and monitor the completion of elective requirements. This will be reported annually to the Executive Education Committee.

RELATED POLICIES:

- Grading Policy
- Student Progression Policy