

THE CLINICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

Clinical Sciences Curriculum

The Clinical Medicine Curriculum is a period of **six - twelve week semesters**; it provides training in basic clinical skills and identifies areas of medical practice in which students may wish to specialize upon graduation. The program provides training in basic clinical skills through direct patient contact, under close supervision.

The program provides students with a broad overview of medical practice in order for them to understand the interrelationships between various levels of practice and different areas of specialization.

This program provides exposure to clinical correlations and examples of clinical relevance in hospitals and various health institutions for the duration of the instructional program in basic sciences. It also provides a thorough physical diagnosis & introduction to clinical medicine course, which teaches the necessary practical experience and prepares students adequately for their clerkships.

After passing the USMLE Step I, students are ready to enter clinical clerkships, in rotation, in specific fields. There are 48 weeks of required clinical core clerkships and 24 weeks of electives.

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| <i>Required core-clinical clerkships</i> | 48 weeks |
| Medicine | 12 weeks |
| Surgery | 12 weeks |
| Pediatrics | 6 weeks |
| Family Medicine | 6 weeks |
| Obstetrics and Gynecology | 6 weeks |
| Psychiatry | 6 weeks |
| <i>Electives</i> | 24 weeks |
| The electives are tailored to the student's individual needs. | |

The core clerkships in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology and psychiatry are the basic areas of medical practice in which all physicians need to be knowledgeable. They are included in the curriculum of every medical school. Participation in these clerkships also provides students with an understanding of the various specializations in medicine.

Affiliate Hospitals

During the Clinical Program, students complete core and elective clerkships at affiliated hospitals in Suriname, Curaçao, the United States and/or the United Kingdom. Clerkships can also be arranged in other countries if there is a need.

SAISOM has the advantage of having an excellent teaching hospital as its home campus. The St. Vincentius Hospital which is located adjacent to the SAISOM campus has been one of Suriname's premier hospitals for over 100 years. Further, SAISOM students can complete

clerkships at one of the hospitals in Curacao, which include the Curacao Medical Center (CMC), and the Advent Hospital. All which have qualified, experienced staff fully adept to training students.

Furthermore affiliation arrangements have been made with several US South Eastern ACGMT training hospitals, and in the Netherlands. Placement of students into various hospital clerkships is done by the Office of the Dean of Clinical Medicine.

Required Core Clinical Clerkships (48 weeks)

Medicine

In this clerkship students learn the steps necessary for proper diagnosis and treatment of patients. Students learn how to take complete medical, personal, and family histories, to do a diagnostic "work-up," and to develop a plan for managing a patient's care. They participate in clinical conferences where they learn to report their findings and conclusions logically and succinctly.

Surgery

In the course of the surgery clerkship, students learn about conditions requiring surgical intervention and have opportunities to observe how surgical patients are managed. In the process, they become familiar with policies and procedures followed in the operating room.

Pediatrics

During the pediatrics clerkship students acquire special skills and knowledge required for the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of infants, children, and adolescents.

Family medicine

In this clerkship, student acquires an understanding of the principles of family medicine and of how these principles apply in community practice. Emphasis is placed on continuous and comprehensive health care for people of both sexes and all ages within the context of their families, social groups and communities. Particular attention is paid to the diagnosis and treatment of common medical problems and to health maintenance, ambulatory care, and continuity of care.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

During this clerkship, students learn about the changes that take place during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the postpartum period, both normal and pathologic. They also become familiar with diagnosis and treatment of major gynecological diseases and various methods of family planning.

Psychiatry

In this clerkship, students become familiar with the major categories of mental disorder, including diagnosis and methods of therapy. In the process they learn how to take a psychiatric history and to evaluate a patient's mental status.

Elective Rotations (24 weeks)

The 24 additional weeks are spent in elective clerkships; these can be tailored to the individual student's special needs or requirements. Extra time may be spent in the core rotations or the student may opt for rotations within various subspecialties. We particularly suggest that students have rotations in Pathology and Radiology.