Gateway Curriculum

Under the new Gateway Curriculum, medical students spend their four years split among three phases. Phase 1 involves the first 16 months of medical school. During Phase 1, students participate in three Procedural Immersions, which are three-week-long clinical and surgical experiences. The primary goals of the Procedural Immersions are to socialize the student to different clinical settings, to hone their clinical skills, and to allow them to explore the impact of society and health systems on an individual patient’s health. This 360-degree approach to early clinical exposure allows students to view practicing medicine through physician, patient, and systems lenses. In these rotations, medical students will often focus on longitudinal patient care by following a specific patient from the time they arrive until they leave and seeing how all health care team members are involved in that patient’s visit. During the Ophthalmology Procedural Immersion, students spend time in the University Eye Clinic and in the pediatric and adult subspecialty clinics and operating rooms, and they attend rounds with an inpatient consult team. This early exposure to clinical experience helps students to contextualize the classroom and clinical learning that they continue with over the next two phases.

The basic and clinical science of ophthalmology is taught in Phase 1 during Module 7: Brain and Behavior. During this module, the students will spend time learning about eye anatomy and physiology, the visual pathways in the brain, and the mechanisms of extracocular movements. The students participate in interactive case sessions that reinforce the material and encourage students to practice their critical thinking and eye examination skills.

During Phase 3, medical students will have opportunities to participate in electives in ophthalmology and advanced clinical rotations in ophthalmology. These will allow students to obtain further experience in clinical ophthalmology to strengthen their clinical knowledge and examination skills. The students will work closely with the ophthalmology residents and review the differential diagnosis of the "red eye," the interpretation of an ophthalmologic consult note, and the handling of ocular emergencies. During this rotation, there is again emphasis on the use of the ophthalmoscope. Additional clinical skills introduced to rotating students include the use of the slit lamp and indirect ophthalmoscopy.

Legacy Curriculum: Fourth Year

The Ophthalmology Sub-Internship Rotation occurs during this time. During the month of June during their fourth year, students interested in pursuing a career in ophthalmology are encouraged to complete this intensive four-week rotation. Students will have personal indirect ophthalmoscopy lenses available for use on the rotation. Formal didactic sessions and workshops will be used to teach students how to perform a detailed ophthalmic history and exam, including the mastery of advanced slit lamp techniques and indirect fundoscopy. Students present a case at the department’s grand rounds. By the end of the rotation, students will be expected to function at the level of a first-year ophthalmology resident.

Curriculum Courses

**M50 Ophth 805 Ophthalmology (Clinical Elective)**
The Ophthalmology elective is designed to provide a foundational experience in clinical and surgical ophthalmology for medical students. Time will be divided between the University Eye Service clinic, adult inpatient consults, pediatric ophthalmology, and other ophthalmology subspecialties ophthalmology (e.g. Glaucoma, Cornea, or Retina). The amount of time at each location will depend on length of the rotation and the student’s specific interests. There are didactic sessions with Dr. Andrew Lee and Dr. Cynthia Montana during which the students present their own cases. In addition, there are continuing opportunities to attend educational conferences. At the end of the experience, the student is expected to be familiar with the routine eye exam, common eye conditions and their treatment, and the use of the slit lamp and ophthalmoscope.

**M50 Ophth 910 Ophthalmology Advanced Clinical Rotation (ACR)**
On the Ophthalmology Advanced Clinical Rotation, medical students will rotate on the ophthalmology adult consult service, the University Eye Service clinic, and the subspecialty clinics of the full time faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (cornea, glaucoma, retina, oculoplastics, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology, ophthalmic pathology, uveitis, and ocular oncology). Students will care for patients of all ages and backgrounds, and ophthalmic diseases seen will range from common eye conditions to complex diseases requiring subspecialty care. In clinic and on consults, students will perform the ophthalmic history and physical examination and also develop their ability to diagnose, manage, and treat common ophthalmic conditions. In the operating room, students will participate in all phases of perioperative patient care and learn basic ophthalmic surgical principles and techniques. Academic curriculum for the rotation will include weekly case presentations with ophthalmology faculty, resident lectures and conferences, and weekly departmental grand rounds. Each student will also present a case at grand rounds during the final week of the rotation with the assistance of a resident mentor. Students will participate in ophthalmology call approximately once per week from 5pm-12am. During that time, the medical student is expected to be present to work with the primary call ophthalmology resident.

Credit 140 units.