YEAR 2 ELECTIVE COURSE

TITLE: Rocket Launch Peer Mentorship Program

COURSE NO.: SOMN 736

DEPARTMENT: Academic Enrichment Center-

DURATION: 1 academic year

COURSE DIRECTOR: Jessica Faber, M.Ed

SEMESTERS AVAILABLE: Fall

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 25

LOCATION: HSC and Off-campus

COORDINATORS: Devon Shannon, M3
Olivia Sagan, M3
Trisha Khambadkone, M3

FACULTY: Jessica Faber; Participating Physicians and UTMC Faculty

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Rocket Launch will be an elective course for 2nd year medical students. Second year mentors will be required to submit a CV and application in order to be considered for the program. This application will be reviewed and scored by the student coordinator. Each M2 mentor will then be matched based on similar interests with a maximum of six incoming first year students. This group will be expected to meet throughout the year in an informal environment to provide guidance, support, and encouragement to their new peers.

GOALS:
1. Create a resource for first year UTCOM students that facilitates the transition into medical school.
2. Provide an avenue to bridge the gap between classes and make peer advising readily accessible to students.
3. Expose second year students to a leadership role in which their experiences and insight become a valuable resource. Promote “learning by teaching” for peer advisors.
4. Enhance student preparation for clerkship years by developing relationships between physicians, clinical students, and preclinical students.
5. Provide easily accessible resources for academic and emotional support, shadowing, and professional networking.
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:
By participating in Rocket Launch, second year medical students will:

1. Develop communication and leadership skills in regards to effectively advising and supporting their younger peers
2. Learn to build professional relationships, both with peers and physician mentors
3. Explore avenues for effectively preparing preclinical students for clinical clerkship years by building relationships with clinical students
4. Understand the importance of peer learning and how it can be a useful tool in academic and personal growth
5. Recognize their role in bridging the gap between new medical students, clinical students, and physicians

METHODS OF TEACHING:
In order to fulfill the elective requirements of being a peer mentor, the M2 student will have the following responsibilities:

i. Mentors must meet with their groups for 3 mandatory activities: Opening Meeting, winter Break, and wrap-up meeting
ii. Mentors must meet with their groups throughout the remainder of the year, including 1 clinical student meeting, for a total of 10 contact hours (1 hour pre-meeting, 3 hours with the large group and 6 hours of individual group time).
iii. Mentors must participate in a large group study strategy workshop to determine goals for the upcoming year, in addition to discussing the positives and negatives about previous rocket launch experiences, for professional growth.
iv. Mentors may coordinate one small group meeting with a physician or faculty advisor, which can count as the meeting for the month.
v. Mentors must participate in 1 fall training session to define their roles and responsibilities, qualities of an effective mentor, methods of working with their first year students and instructions on reporting completed requirements
vi. Mentors must participate in 1 fall training session that will discuss their roles and responsibilities, qualities of an effective mentor, methods of working with their first year students, and instructions on reporting completed requirements (i.e., google doc).

METHODS OF EVALUATION AND STUDENT FEEDBACK:
Peer mentors will be required to briefly document meetings and provide short feedback on the usefulness of their experiences with their groups. First year participants will be encouraged to provide program feedback directly at any time throughout the year. Two surveys will be administered (following the fall and spring semesters) to allow students the opportunity to anonymously provide feedback. AEC staff will be accessible by email or meeting for any potential problems and necessary modifications throughout the course of the elective.
LINKAGE TO COMPETENCIES:
- PB-1 Ethical, responsible, reliable and dependable behavior in all aspects of their professional lives and a commitment to patients, society and the profession
- PB-8 Professional maturity by appropriately managing conflicts, coping with personal and professional stress and showing flexibility in potentially ambiguous situations
- IPC-2 The ability to communicate effectively with colleagues within one’s discipline as well as other health professionals in a respectful, professional and timely manner to ensure interdisciplinary and interprofessional delivery of high quality care

QUALITY ASSURANCE:
Participants in Rocket Launch will be expected to attend a fall training event through the AEC. This will involve a clear outline of the expectations for mentors, methods of advising their peers, and information on reporting fulfilled requirements. Second year mentors will be provided with a short curriculum outline to ensure that each group of first year students receives appropriate and well-rounded advising concerning the various challenges they will be expected to face throughout medical school.

PREREQUISITES:
Must be a current UTCOM medical student in good academic standing
Must have previous teaching or leadership experience
Must undergo training as discussed above