Name of Policy: **College of Medicine and Life Sciences:** THE UNIVERSITY OF Dual Degree (MD/PhD; MD/JD) Student Clinical Elective During Graduate Research Years **Revision date: Policy Number:** 3364-81-04-031-00 **Approving Officer**: Dean, College of Medicine and Life Sciences **Original effective date:** June 1, 2010 Associate Dean for Undergraduate **Responsible Agent:** Clinical Education, Director(s), MD/PhDDual Degree Committee Students in the dual degree MD/PhD Scope: and MD/JD Programs New policy proposal Minor/technical revision of existing policy Major revision of existing policy Reaffirmation of existing policy

# (A) Policy statement

The clinical elective chosen by individuals in the MD/PhD and MD/JD program during the research years of their graduate study (after completion of the first two years of medical school) allows for the continuation of clinical education while completing their PhD or JD. This elective also allows for up to eight weeks (PhD) or four weeks (JD) alternative experience during the final (fourth) year of medical school.

Eligibility: This elective process is only available to students that are accepted and participating in the MD/PhD or MD/JD program. The student will have successfully completed the M1 and M2 years of medical school. The student will have participated in the transitional course(s) during the spring of the second year of medical school, which are -required prior to participation of the student into his/her first clinical elective. Furthermore, students will be required to complete the transition course again prior to beginning the third year of medical school to update all requirements prior to returning to clerkships. The student, though, will enroll and receive credit only the firstone time for the transition course.

### (B) Purpose of policy

The Doctor of Medicine curriculum of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences must be designed and structured to prepare graduates from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences

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with a quality general medical education. This elective allows students to have clinical contact during their research graduate curriculum.

#### (C) Scope

This policy applies to students in the MD/PhD <u>and MD/JD</u> programs in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

#### (D) Procedure

- (1) MD/PhD students will identify a clinical mentor: The process for selection of the mentor and approval of the MD/PhD Student Clinical Training Agreement will be under the direction of the MD/PhD Program Director(s) and will be communicated to the Associate Dean for Clinical Undergraduate Medical Education. The clinical faculty mentor will be responsible for the clinical training program of the student and will provide formative and summative feedback concerning the development of clinical skills and a foundation for subsequent clinical clerkship training. The clinical mentor may change during the course of the student's graduate school years, but any change should occur after the end of the semester. Students may choose a mentor from any department, with the following specialties particularly suited to training MD/PhD students who have limited prior clinical training and restricted hours of availability: Internal Medicine; Emergency Medicine; and Family Medicine.
- (2) Elective Clerkships: The clinical MD/PhD Director will organize the elective rotation for all MD/PhD students. Students will register for the general clinical elective course (INDI 745) and will discuss with the clinical MD/PhD Director the medical areas of choice and the process for notifying the clerkship coordinator for each rotation and for grading.
- (3)(1) Elective Attendance and Student Time Commitment: Students are expected to spend 8 hours per month in clinical training (96 hours/year). This can be divided into weekly 2 hour sessions, biweekly 4 hour sessions or an 8 hour day per month. Students are encouraged to discuss the most appropriate schedule with their laboratory mentor research major advisor to ensure that the clinical experience does not interfere with graduate coursework or research progress. The program should be formalized in writing, and the MD/PhD Student Clinical Training Agreement submitted to the MD/PhD Director(s) and their research major advisor for approval. Students will be expected to evaluate one patient per hour of training. Refer to course syllabus for procedures. INDI 745 (PhD) or INDI 746 (JD).
- (2) Credit: For Ph-D- Students: Upon completion of 3 years of graduate training, students will have accumulated clinical experience approximately equivalent to 2

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months of full-time clinical electives (8 hours/day X 5 days/week X 4 weeks or 160 hours/month), and students will be awarded up to 8 weeks of 4<sup>th</sup> year clinical elective credit for this training upon re-enrolling in the MD program. This credit should allow further flexibility in 4<sup>th</sup>-year elective scheduling, enabling additional research months, off-site rotations and other educational options. If students require more than three years of graduate work, continued participation in the clinical elective program is strongly encouraged but no more than 8 weeks of elective time will be awarded in total.

- (3) For J<sub>-</sub>D<sub>-</sub> Students: Upon completion of 2 years of graduate training, students will have accumulated clinical experience approximately equivalent to 1 months of full-time clinical electives (8 hours/day X 5 days/week X 4 weeks or 160 hours/month), and students will be awarded up to 4 weeks of 4<sup>th</sup>—year clinical elective credit for this training upon re-enrolling in the MD program. This credit should allow further flexibility in 4<sup>th</sup>—year elective scheduling, enabling additional off-site rotations and other educational options. If students require more than three years of graduate work, continued participation in the clinical elective program is strongly encouraged but no more than 4 weeks of elective time will be awarded in total.
- **(4) Evaluation Requirements**: Students are expected to keep a log of their patients, their diagnoses, and any procedures performed. The log serves to document student work hours. -Their clinical faculty mentor will evaluate students on their clinical performance. Students will undergo formative evaluation on a monthly basis, documented by a brief form signed by both the mentor and the student. This feedback will not be used for grading purposes. Summative evaluation will occur twice yearly by the clinical mentor, filling out an evaluation form to be mailed to via RocketMed, which will be monitored by the Office of Undergraduate Clinical Education, Office of Student Affairs, and to the MD/PhD or MD/JD Director(s). This form will assess Cognitive/Performance Skills (ability to perform history and physical and present cases to an attending) and Professionalism (promptness and consistency of attendance, appropriate attire, etc.). -Students lacking repeatedly in these areas will not receive elective credit for their rotation. The student will receive a copy of this evaluation and should discuss any issues with the clinical mentor. The Director(s) of the MD/PhD or MD/JD program, the Office and Student Affairs, and the Office of Undergraduate Clinical Education will keep copies of the records of student participation and performance evaluation.
- (5) Students participating fully in a clinical elective (enrolled in INDI 745 ([PhD]) or INDI 746 ([JD])) will enroll for 2 credit hours in fall and spring semesters and 1 credit hour for the shorter summer elective course. The guidelines for the fourth-year electives remain intact with the exception that each 3 successful credit hours earned by the student may be applied towards 2 weeks of clinical elective time during the fourth year of medical school, up to a maximum of 8 weeks of elective time.

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Approved by:

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Date

Review/Revision Completed by: Assistant Dean for Medical Education, Assistant Dean for Foundational Sciences; Director(s), Dual Degree Committee **Policies Superseded by This Policy:** 

None

**Review/Revision Date:** 

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11/15/24

**Next review date:** 

(three years from most recent revision/review date)