

Elective Courses

This resource aims to provide guidance and support when identifying, selecting, and registering for elective courses during the Clerkship Phase.

Background The SOM Renaissance Curriculum affords students personalization of their medical school learning experience with multiple elective opportunities. Electives are 4-week clinical rotations allowing students to add customization as well as breadth and depth to their curriculum. Students must complete a minimum of **6** electives prior to graduation – no more than 2 electives in the Pre-Clerkship phase, no more than 2-electives in the Clerkship Phase, and the remainder in the Advanced Clinical Phase.

Choosing Electives in the Pre-Clerkship Phase

Getting Started: Before you get started, you will need your clerkship schedule including the clerkship block dates as well as the unscheduled dates where you will select your elective choices. The following tools and resources will also be helpful when choosing your electives; all of which can be found in the [SOM Academic Handbook – Scheduling Resources](#).

- [SOM 2025_2026 Course Catalog](#) (Blocks 1-10)
- [SOM 2024_2025 Course Catalog](#) (Blocks 11, 12)
- [SOM 2025-2026 Academic Calendar – Clerkship Phase](#) (Blocks 1-10)
- [SOM 2024_2025 Academic Calendar – Clerkship Phase](#) (Blocks 11, 12)
- [SOM Renaissance Curriculum 2027 Graduation Requirements](#) - Class of 2027 Coming Soon
- [OSA Elective Options](#)

Overview/Initial Steps

1. Identify electives of Interest
2. Choose your electives
 - a. Confirm that you meet the elective pre-requisites for the block you are trying to fill
 - b. Confirm that there is availability for the elective in the block you are trying to fill
3. Complete the Elective Survey

Identify Electives of Interest

Start by reviewing your options in the Course Catalog to see which courses might be of interest to you. The catalog is a full listing and description of all UMSOM elective (and sub-internship) courses for the academic year.

When selecting electives, students should consider personal and professional interests and goals. An elective course may help you to explore or confirm a specialty of interest, fulfill a personal interest, gain a valuable skill, or be useful in preparation for future specialty-based courses. OSA has curated a [list of popular electives](#) universal to any specialty as well as those popular with students who plan to apply to specific specialties. Faculty mentors, including OSA Deans, and near peers (senior students) can also be a valuable resource when considering between multiple different elective choices [[Specialty Advising Mentors](#)].

Choosing Electives

Once you have considered your options and have a possible list of elective courses you would be interested in taking during the Clerkship Year, your next step is to confirm pre-requisites and the availability of the electives.

STEP1: Log on to Catalog: Open the course catalog for the appropriate academic year. If your unscheduled months are Blocks 11, 12 (i.e., May/Jun) in this Academic Year be sure to use the SOM 2024_2025 Course Catalog.

If your unscheduled months are in Blocks 1-10 in the upcoming Academic Year, be sure to use the SOM 2025-2026 Course Catalog. Note you must be logged on through MedScope to access all catalog features.

STEP 2: Confirm Pre-Requisites: For each potential elective of interest, confirm that you meet the pre-requisites. Pre-requisites are listed in the course catalog under the rotation name and above the course description. To be eligible for a course you must have completed all pre-requisites before the start date of that course. Note some electives have no prerequisites and can be taken any time during the Clerkship Year. A list of courses without prerequisites is available on your MedScope Class Page.

STEP 3: Confirm Availability: For each potential elective of interest, confirm the elective is available for the block you wish to take it (i.e., the block(s) you are unscheduled). Click the “Check Availability” box to see availability by block. “Not Offered” means that course is not offered in that block; if you see “0” all spots for that block are full. (Remember you must be logged in – Step 1 - to see this)

Sub-Internships: Students may take a sub-internship during the clerkship year in lieu of an elective course, if the student has progressed through at least three quarters of the Clerkship Year (e.g. Blocks 8, 9, 10 for those who started at the standard start date) and they meet all prerequisites. A sub-internship is a 4-week clinical rotation in which the student is directly involved in patient care at an intern level, with appropriate and adequate supervision. Students must complete two sub-internships prior to graduation.

Rotations Requiring Prior Approval: Note that some courses require approval prior to enrollment. These courses are noted in the catalog as “Approval Required”. With the exception of AHEC 548, courses requiring prior approval will NOT be scheduled during the MedScope scheduling survey process. If you wish to take one of these courses, please reach out directly to the course director to begin the approval process. Once approved, the course can be added during the student self-scheduling process (see below). If you are interested in taking AHEC 548, and there is availability you may list this course on your survey. For your convenience, a list of courses requiring prior approval can be found on your MedScope Class Page.

Out-of-state, International, and Extramural Rotations can only be scheduled in the Advanced Clinical Phase after the completion of clerkships.

OSA/OME Assisted Scheduling: Completing the Elective Survey via MedScope

OSA and OME will assist students in scheduling ONE Elective during the Clerkship year.

Your preferences (as determined above) will be collected via a MedScope survey. The Elective survey will open March 18 and close Mar24. Requests made after the survey closes will not be honored.

Students may submit up to TEN preferences. Preference should be entered into the survey using the course abbreviation and number found in the course catalog along with the block number they wish to schedule. Each preference should be separated by a semi-colon; and should be listed in order of preference. Students with more than one unscheduled block may list the same course once for each available block. Be sure to enter blocks using the same block numbers from the OME Academic Calendar.

Example No. 1 – A student with one unscheduled block (block 8), lists 10 possible electives in order of preference.

ANES 541-08; EMER 544-08; CARD 541-08; ENDC 541-08; INFE 541-08; NEUR 542-08; OBST 545-08; OPTH 541-08; PEDI 556-08; PSYH 543-08 (where “-08” indicates “Block 8”)

Example No. 1 – A student with two unscheduled blocks (3, 8), lists 10 possible electives in order of preference.

ANES 541-08; EMER 544-03; EMER 544-08; CARD 541-08; ENDC 541-03; ENDC 541-08; INFE 541-03; INFE 541-08; NEUR 542-03; NEUR 542-08

Student Self Scheduling: Changing or Adding your Elective

OSA/OME Assisted Scheduling will close with the completion of this elective survey. At this time, most students will have a full clerkship schedule and at least one elective posted to MedScope through the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Student Self Scheduling will open on April 1, 2025. Changes or additions to electives and sub-internships can be made by the student using self-scheduling. Detailed information can be found in the student handbook scheduling pages: <https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/osa/handbook/clinical-scheduling-and-sites/clinical-rotation-scheduling-process---intramural-rotations/>

Once posted, any changes to the Clerkships must be discussed with and approved by OSA/OME.

Changes to your Electives/Sub-Internships: Can be made via self-scheduling using the Add/Drop form. Note that electives must be dropped at least two weeks prior to the rotation start date and sub-internships must be dropped at least 4 weeks prior to the rotation start date. Requests under that time frame will only be considered in extenuating circumstances.

Students with two unscheduled blocks can add a second rotation using the self-scheduling process – additional information can be found in the student academic handbook and will be shared as a reminder when the self-scheduling process opens in April.