

## **Top 25 \* Frequently Asked Questions \*** **2009 Student Handbook**

- 1) **What are the prerequisites for participation in the medical school curriculum?** (p. 50-53)  
All currently enrolled students need to have completed BLS/CPR training, criminal background check, HIPAA, immunizations, and Universal Precautions training. They also need to obtain an access card and photo ID badge during their first or second year (regional WWAMI students are assigned an access card when they are in Seattle for their second year).
  
- 2) **Does the School of Medicine offer long-term disability insurance?** (p. 56)  
Yes, disability insurance is available for all medical students. In light of the cost of your education and the risks associated with practicing medicine, students are strongly encouraged to consider enrolling in a disability insurance plan. Information on one plan, which is available for University of Washington medical students, may be found on the UW Benefits website at:  
<http://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/benefits/insure/students/medical/ltd-medstudents.html>.
  
- 3) **Am I required to carry health insurance?** (p. 56)  
No. The State of Washington does not permit the University to require students to have health or disability insurance, but we strongly recommend it, and it is available for all medical students.
  
- 4) **Are flu shots free?** (p. 53)  
No. Entering medical students pay a one-time health fee of \$475 that covers the HSI Program's services, which includes flu shots. If you obtain a flu shot or any of the required immunizations or tuberculosis screening from somewhere other than Hall Health, you will need to pay for that out of your own pocket and then submit your receipt for reimbursement. Receipts along with a short cover note that includes your name, year in medical school, and the address where you want your reimbursement sent should be sent to: UW Health Sciences Administration, Box 356355, Seattle, WA 98195-6355; (206) 543-7926. It takes approximately 4-6 weeks to process, and be sure to save a copy of everything, just in case!
  
- 5) **I was exposed to swine flu in one of my clerkships. Does the SOM reimburse for the cost of testing and initial prophylaxis?** (p. 53)  
No. Entering medical students pay a one-time health fee of \$475 that covers the HSI Program's services. This health fee also covers the cost of testing and initial prophylaxis should you experience an exposure to blood and/or body fluids in the course of your medical education program. **IMPORTANT:** This health fee does not cover the cost of testing and initial prophylaxis of exposure to air-borne pathogens, i.e., tuberculosis, swine flu, etc.
  
- 6) **Who do I contact for a Careers in Medicine token?** (pgs. 13 and 107)  
Michelle Fleming, [flemingm@uw.edu](mailto:flemingm@uw.edu), 206-543-5561
  
- 7) **What is a career counselor and how do I connect with one?** (p. 107)  
Each of the departments has established career counseling units. Within each unit, there are faculty counselors to whom you will be assigned by the Student Affairs Office based on specialty preferences you submit to the office during the third year. The function of the assigned counselor is to initiate you into the process of looking at residency programs and to help you select programs for which you are competitive. This counselor will not replace your College mentor, but is an additional person to help you focus on career planning. You will find that you will need to talk to a number of people to get information about residency programs. It is important for you to recognize that there is no one person who can identify the perfect program for you. The faculty can suggest programs to you and direct you to a variety of information sources, but, in the end, the decision is yours.

- 8) **I want to start up a new student group, what do I have to do?** (p. 26)  
Before a student group can be officially recognized and use campus facilities, members are required to apply for recognition as an officially sponsored student group of the University of Washington School of Medicine. An outline of the structure of the organization including names of officers, bylaws, its purpose, any affiliation with a national organization, and a commitment by the organization to abide by laws and institutional policies must be submitted to the Dean of Student Affairs along with a letter of request to receive official status.
- Once the Associate Dean for Student Affairs has received all of the application materials, they will be forwarded to the MSA for approval. Once the MSA has approved the application, the student group may contact the Student Activities Office (SAO) on upper campus and register their organization on their website. The new group's leadership will be required to attend an orientation session provided by the SAO. Once that has been completed, the new student group will be eligible to receive special services and benefits provided by the SAO. Please visit the SAO website for more details: <http://depts.washington.edu/sao/rso.php>.
- NOTE: In addition to the above, any new student organization that wishes to provide volunteer services of any kind must complete the application and approval process provided on the Service Learning and Advocacy website.
- 9) **I feel that one of my classmates/instructors is treating me inappropriately. What do I do?** (p. 67-68)  
Within the School of Medicine, Dr. Eveland, the Student Affairs Dean, has been designated as the initial contact point for medical student for discussing mistreatment concerns. If Dr. Eveland is not available, students should contact Dr. Norris, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. Depending on the situation and the student's decision on whether to make a formal complaint, an approach for addressing the issue will be agreed upon. Such approaches may range from recording the incident for future reference in determining a pattern of inappropriate behavior to referral to the University Ombudsman for in-depth management of the situation.
- 10) **What is the timeframe for completion of USMLE Step 1, Step 2-CK, and Step 2-CS?** (p. 46)  
Step 1: Students must take Step 1 in the June-July timeframe after the completion of the second year and prior to entering the clinical curriculum.  
Step 2-CK and CS: Students must take Step 2-CK and Step 2-CS in July-September timeframe of the fourth year, even if approved for a fourth year expansion.
- 11) **I failed Step 1, what happens next?** (p. 46)  
If a student fails Step 1, s/he should contact the Dr. Eveland to discuss the timing of retaking the examination in relation to his/her clinical schedule. With the Step 1 examination being given essentially year-round, the student is usually permitted to complete the clerkship in which s/he is currently enrolled. Most students find that having completed a clerkship helps in preparing for the retake of Step 1.
- 12) **I did not fail Step 1/Step 2-CK, but can I take the boards more than once to improve my scores?** (p. 48)  
If you take Step 1 or Step 2 – CK and receive a passing score, you cannot retake the examination to improve your score.
- 13) **Do I need to sign up for a preceptorship or is it automatically assigned?** (p.44)  
WWAMI-based students outside of Seattle are scheduled for the preceptorship experience as part of their ICM course. Seattle-based students should schedule a preceptorship by contacting the department of interest in advance (by the end of the previous quarter) with the exception of Autumn Quarter where the preceptorship may be set up the first week of Autumn Quarter.
- 14) **How do I register for a preceptorship?** (p.44)  
WWAMI-based students outside of Seattle are scheduled for the preceptorship experience as part of their ICM course. Seattle-based students must register prior to the registration deadline through MYUW. Preceptorship

coordinators in departments where preceptorship opportunities are available can help students connect with a preceptor in their field of interest and provide a faculty code for registration. Students may not start a preceptorship without first being registered through the University of Washington; insurance, safety, and liability are of utmost concern.

- 15) **How many preceptorships are required?** (p.44)  
One, but students are encouraged to take additional preceptorships during their first and second years in primary care or specialty fields.
- 16) **Can I set up my own preceptorship wherever I want?** (p.44)  
In Seattle, specific departmental requirements are available through the department preceptorship coordinator. Availability within each department is limited. Preceptorships are registered on a first come first serve basis. WWAMI-based students outside of Seattle are scheduled for the preceptorship experience as part of their ICM course.
- 17) **Where can I find out more information about State Based Tracks?** (p.38)  
State-Based Tracks: Over the past several years, the School of Medicine has developed programs in conjunction with the states participating in the WWAMI program. The state specific third-year tracks permit a student to complete the at least five of the six required third year clerkships in that state. Currently, tracks exist in Idaho, Eastern Washington, Montana (Missoula and Billings), and Alaska, along with a track-alternative in Wyoming called the Wyoming Rural Clinical Experience.  
<http://uwmedicine.washington.edu/Education/MD-Program/Current-Students/By-Academic-Year/Pages/Third-Year.aspx>
- 18) **How many required clerkships are there in the 3rd year? 4th year?** (p.30)  
There are six in the third year; four in the fourth year.
- 19) **How many total clinical credits are required for graduation?** (p.30)  
148 credits
- 20) **How many required clerkships are students expected to take outside of the Seattle area?** (p.36)  
Because of the regional nature of the School and the value of seeing health care delivered in different settings, it is expected that ALL students will take at least three clerkships outside the Seattle area.
- 21) **How many non-clinical selective credits do I need to satisfy my graduation requirements for an MD student? An MD/PhD student?** (p.40)  
MD student: four; MD/PhD student: zero
- 22) **Can CME courses I attend count for non-clinical selective credit?** (p.40, Item 8)  
No.
- 23) **What is the deadline to meet the credit requirements for non-clinical selective credit?** (p. 40)  
End of 2<sup>nd</sup> year, prior to clinical rotations
- 24) **I want to do one of my fourth year elective clerkships at another medical school. Who do I contact for more information?** (p. 13)  
These are also known as “away clerkships” and Trudy Furberry can provide the appropriate forms and information.
- 25) **How do I obtain a copy of my medical school transcripts?** (p. 16)  
Transcripts are ordered via MyUW or from UW Transcript Office located in Schmitz Hall.  
<http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/transcripts.html>