

UC Riverside, School of Medicine Policies and Procedures**Policy Title:** Standardized Nomenclature for Learning Units at UCR SOM**Policy Number:** 950-06-041

Responsible Officer:	Senior Associate Dean, Medical Education
Responsible Office:	Office of Medical Education
Origination Date:	12/14/2022
Date of Revision:	12/21/2023
Scope:	All students, faculty and administrators

I. Policy Summary

This policy provides a standardized nomenclature system for learning units (e.g., course, clerkship, selective, elective, thread, designated emphases, etc.) at the UCR School of Medicine. These learning units are sometimes associated with accreditation, budgetary, administrative and transcript considerations.

II. Definitions

Learning unit – is a learning experience offered to medical students with a start and end date. Courses, clerkships, selectives, electives, threads, and designated emphasis are all examples of learning units.

Course – is either a classroom-based, lab-based and/or community-based learning unit *required* for credit for graduation. Every student must take these courses. Requisite courses have a catalog number associated with a grade and are recorded by the registrar. Courses can take place anywhere in the curriculum (e.g., Block Course 1, Block Course 6, MS3 Community-based Experience Course, MS4 Radiology Course, MS4 Transition to Residency Course, etc.). All courses have at least one faculty lead.

Block Course – is a type of required course during the pre-clerkship years of the curriculum made up of integrated modules and threads. Students must successfully pass all requisites of the block course and its five modules. A passing grade determines student promotion and graduation decisions. UCR SOM has nine block courses across the first two years of the curriculum.

Examples include Block Course 4: Musculoskeletal Medicine and Block Course 7: Cardiovascular, Renal, & Respiratory Medicine II. The block course has at least one faculty lead who functions as the block course director(s).

Module – Each block course has five integrated components known as modules: Foundational Module, Longitudinal Ambulatory Care Experience (LACE 1 and 2) Module, Clinical Skills (CS1 and 2) Module, Doctoring (1 and 2) Module, and the Case-based Learning (1 and 2) Module. Each module has at least one faculty lead who functions as the module director(s). Block 1 has an additional sixth module: Biostatistic/Epidemiology.

Threads – are longitudinal theme curricula required for all medical students whose sessions take place during Block Courses in years 1 and 2, during third- year clerkships and sometimes into fourth year experiences. Examples of threads include the Health Systems Sciences (HSS) thread, the Health Equity Social Justice Anti-Racism (HESJAR thread), Palliative Care thread, among others. All threads have faculty leads known as thread directors.

Clerkship – is a clinic setting-based learning unit required for credit, promotion and graduation. A catalog number is associated with each clerkship for the registrar. Clerkships take place in the third year of the curriculum. Every student takes the same clerkships but in different sequences, and usually at different affiliates or clinical sites. There are 8 different possible sequences of clerkships known as ‘clerkship

tracks'. Every student receives the same clinical educational experience and assessment standards regardless of which track they are assigned. Clerkships require proof or mechanisms of standardization (known as 'site comparability') of certain elements by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (e.g., Observed Clinical Encounters, midway feedback, required clinical encounter (RCE) patient logs, work hours regulations and logs). Examples include the Medicine clerkship, Pediatrics clerkship, OB-GYN clerkship, among others. Each clerkship has at least one faculty lead who functions as the clerkship director(s). Each affiliate or clinical site has a faculty member who supervises the student experiences locally and is known as the clerkship site leader.

Selective - is a required, clinically based learning unit that must be taken by every student for promotion and graduation. Students must choose from an officially approved list of experiences that enables the student to meet the requisites. The only two examples of selectives that currently exist at UCR SOM are the Critical Care Medicine Selective and the Core Sub-internship Selective in the fourth year of the curriculum. Unlike clerkships, standardization mechanisms are not required because the selective is not meant to be standardized (e.g., can satisfy the sub-internship requirement in Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, etc.). Selectives are for academic credit and are given a catalog number. All selectives have at least one faculty lead who functions as the selective director(s).

Elective

- A. In Years 1 and 2 – Electives that are officially sponsored by UCR SOM are for students in 'good academic standing.' These electives are not required of all students because the regular Y1 and Y2 curriculum is compulsory and demanding for most MS1 and MS2 students – thus these electives are usually voluntary/optional. Students can get transcript credit and a grade for electives approved by the Elective Subcommittee with approval of the Medical Education Committee (MEC). These electives do NOT take place during requisite course hours. All MS1/2 electives must have a faculty lead known as an elective director.
- B. In Years 3 and 4 - medical students must take a certain number of electives. Most Y4 student must take 5 four-week electives while most Y3s take 3 two- week electives. These electives are completely chosen by the student and the school does not prescribe which electives the students must complete. The student can take a UCR sponsored elective or an elective anywhere in the US (through VSLO and other mechanisms) and sometimes internationally. Students get a transcript grade and credit for each elective. All electives must have a faculty lead.

Designated Emphasis Program (DE) – are four-year programs that allow a subset of medical students to explore specialized areas in medicine. DE programs are made up of electives *only available for students in the program*. DE programs can have transcript notation and an associated grade. Students must be in good academic standing to be enrolled in a DE program. Examples of DE program are HABLAMoS, Healthcare Leadership, the Medical and Health Humanities, and Ultrasound Education among others. All DEs have a faculty lead known as a designated emphasis director.

Educational Enhancement Program – These are learning units like a didactic series or journal club, but they are not officially sponsored by UCR SOM, and not offered for transcript notation or grade. These may be special voluntary offerings by a department, an affiliate, or a student interest group. These also do NOT take place during requisite course hours. Students must be in good academic standing to attend these offerings.

Approvals:

MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (12/14/2022)

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