



**Policy Title:**  
M4 Academic Year

**Policy Identifier:**  
USCSOMC – UME – 1.18

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| <b>Prepared by:</b> M3/M4 subcommittee                         | Creation Date: Prior to 2017 |
| <b>Reviewed by:</b> Curriculum Committee                       | Review Date: June 2024       |
| <b>Approved by:</b> MD Program Policy and Procedures Committee | Effective Date: 10-10-24     |
| <b>Category:</b> Undergraduate Medical Education               |                              |

**LCME Standards**

- 6.0 Competencies, curricular objectives, and curricular design
- 6.5 Elective opportunities
- 6.8 Education program duration
- 8.1 Curriculum management

**Scope**

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (USC SOMC) students

**Reason for Policy**

This policy outlines the process and requirements for fulfilling the requirements of the M4 year

**Procedures**

1. The fourth (M4) year of the medical curriculum will consist of 40 academic weeks. Students must obtain a total of 32 credit hours during these 40 weeks to satisfy the requirements of the M4 year. The M3 and M4 years will commence on the same day when possible.
2. The 40 weeks of the M4 year are scheduled as follows:
  - a. Acting internship – 4 weeks
  - b. Critical care rotation (Emergency medicine rotations, ICU rotations or anesthesia can satisfy this requirement) – 4 weeks
  - c. Step 2 study preparation – 4 weeks
  - d. Capstone (transition to residency course – occurs as final block of the year) – 4 weeks
  - e. Four additional four-week electives
  - f. There are two additional four-week periods that can be utilized at the discretion of the student.
3. Students will create their schedules in the Spring of their M3 year using the OASIS scheduling software through an M4 lottery. Students can also schedule away rotations through the Visiting Student Learning Opportunities portal sponsored by the AAMC (or other similar mechanism for scheduling away rotations). Students who are off cycle may need to work with the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services and the Assistant



Dean of Clinical Curriculum and Assessment

4. Up to four (4) clinical rotations (AI, critical care or electives) may be scheduled away
5. No more than four (4) rotations (including the AI, critical care or elective rotations) may be scheduled in the same specialty or subspecialty. One or two additional rotations beyond the eight required rotations can be scheduled, if desired, in any specialty or subspecialty and at any approved site, in the two four-week blocks available for use at the discretion of the student.
6. Rotations that occur on either of the University of South Carolina Columbia (USCSOMC) clinical campuses (Columbia or Florence) are considered “home” rotations for students, regardless of their primary location for the clerkship phase. Additionally, rotations offered by the SC Area Health Education Consortium (SCAHEC) or any other Prisma Health site (Upstate or Midlands) are also considered "home" rotations for medical students.
7. USC SOMC electives are reviewed and approved by the M3/M4 subcommittee (and subsequently by the curriculum committee) on an annual basis.
8. Students wishing to do "away" electives must submit a description of the elective experience to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services. The Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment reviews these rotations to ensure they offer an equivalent educational experience to rotations offered by USCSOMC.

**Contacts**

Office of Undergraduate Medical Education  
Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment

**History**

| Date of Change | Change   |
|----------------|--|
| June 13, 2024  | Vote to allow up to 4 rotations (previously 3) in the same specialty of subspecialty |