

CHARLES E. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Integrated Patient-Focused Curriculum

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine's innovative integrated patient-focused curriculum features early longitudinal, community-based, clinical experiences and an emphasis on problem-based learning with collaboration, critical thinking, and self-directed learning.

In the first two years of training, small groups activities are a significant part of the curriculum where students apply knowledge from a variety of disciplines as they work through patient cases.

“Early patient exposure combined with an integrated, collaborative, tech-enhanced curriculum provides students enriching experiences.”

They are trained to apply clinical reasoning and problem solving skills as they learn how to review the scientific literature and become life-long learners. They learn the foundational sciences in our Fundamentals of Biomedical Science and system-based Pathophysiology and Therapeutics courses while simultaneously receiving clinical skills training in our Foundations of Medicine classes.

In the third year, students dive into two longitudinal integrated clerkships. Here, students are exposed to an array of clinical disciplines such as surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, psychiatry, geriatrics and internal medicine in a new more integrated model of clinical education. Students work in inpatient and outpatient settings with affiliated doctors and hospitals for an extended period of time. Our approach allows students to master skills, get to know hospital systems, patients and future colleagues, and serve as integral members of the health care team.

Fourth year is dedicated to acting internships and elective rotations, both locally and at medical schools across the nation, capped off with a practical skills-based “transition to residency” course at the end of the year.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Small class size promotes close collaboration and mentorship between students and faculty
- Incorporating technology transforms curriculum delivery (iPads, Apple TV, LCMS+)
- Build relationships with physicians, patients, and healthcare systems through early and continuous community-based clinical experiences
- State-of-the-art simulation center and standardized patient exercises enhance clinical training
- Professionalism, cultural competency, and communication skills training prepares students to be humanistic and patient focused
- Dedicated time for vacation, independent study and board preparation
- OwlMed, our LCMS+ curriculum management system, provides mobile and online access to all schedules and learning materials

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August-December

Year 1

Year 1 Orientation
Fundamentals of Biomedical Science
Foundations of Medicine 1:
Intro to Clinical Skills
Science of Clinical Practice

Year 2

Pathophysiology and Therapeutics 2:
Cardiovascular & Respiratory
Foundations of Medicine 3:
Preceptor, Clinical Learning Groups, Adv. Clinical Skills
Science of Clinical Practice
Pathophysiology and Therapeutics 3:
Renal, Endocrinology, & Reproduction

Year 3

Synthesis & Transition
Year 3 Orientation
First Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (23 wks + vacation)
Shelf Exams, Year 3 Institutional Competency Assessment

Year 4

Year 4 Orientation
Year 4 Rotation Blocks 1-8

January- May

Neuroscience and Behavior
Foundations of Medicine 2:
Preceptor, Clinical Learning Groups, Adv. Clinical Skills
Science of Clinical Practice
Pathophysiology and Therapeutics 1:
Gastroenterology, Hematology, & Nutrition
Year 1 Institutional Competency Assessment

Pathophysiology and Therapeutics 4:
Immunology, Infectious Disease, Hematology
Foundations of Medicine 3:
Introduction to Hospital Medicine
Science of Clinical Practice
Year 2 Institutional Competency Assessment
Break and Study for USMLE (7 weeks)

November- May

Second Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (23 wks + vacation)
Shelf Exams, Year 3 Institutional Competency Assessment

Year 4 Rotation Blocks 9-12
Transition to Residency Capstone Course
Match Day
Commencement

Winter Break: 2 or 3 weeks



Small Group Sessions

No more than 64 students a year

Service-learning projects

Community-based approach develops ties to South Florida

Integrated clerkships to master discipline-specific skills

Physician-preceptors dedicate weekly sessions to students

Students develop personalized learning portfolios with faculty mentors