



# QUILLEN COLLEGE *of* MEDICINE

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Policy Name/Number: Elective Opportunities / MSEC-1018-23**

**Policy Owner:** MSEC Chair

**Committees, Departments, or Individuals Responsible for Implementation:** Offices of Academic Affairs and Student Advisors

**Original Approval Date:** 10/16/2018

**Effective Date:** 1/31/2024

**Most Recent Revision Date:** 1/31/2024

**Policy Advisory Committee Review Date:** 5/23/2024

**Date of Next Review (All policies are reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee every 3 years unless circumstances for an earlier review is identified.):** 5/23/2027

**A. Policy Statement:**

Through elective opportunities, students may individualize their educational experiences based on their own needs and interests. Electives should both broaden and balance the overall educational development of each student, while allowing for career exploration and preparation for graduate medical education and residency training. M4 students are encouraged to participate in electives to gain exposure to and their understanding of medical specialties, and to pursue their individual academic interests. M4 students are encouraged to participate in away electives to gain a different perspective on their chosen specialty while experiencing a different clinical environment.

**B. Purpose of Policy:**

Pre-Clerkship Phase Electives

The purpose of pre-clerkship phase electives is to allow each student to extend his/her education to construct a program of medical education that best meets the needs, abilities, and goals of the individual student. Elective courses provide enrichment opportunities to the student's total program in medical school.

Clinical Electives

Third year students participate in a 2-week block enabling them to explore a career in subspecialty areas of medicine that are not required within the core third year clinical clerkships. Fourth year students are required to participate in 28 weeks of electives. Of those 28 weeks, up to 16 weeks may be spent, away, and a maximum of 20 weeks (selectives and electives combined) may be in a single specialty. A minimum of 14 weeks of elective time must be performed in direct patient care settings.

M4 students may develop an individually arranged elective, in conjunction with a sponsoring preceptor and approved by the Office of Academic Affairs.

**C. Scope of Policy (applies to):**

All Quillen College of Medicine students.

**D. Policy Activities:**

Pre-clerkship students may enroll in offered electives on an optional basis.

Clinical advisors encourage student participation in electives to gain exposure to and expand understanding of medical specialties, and to pursue their individual academic interests. Clinical advisors approve the student's elective choices.

Third-year students submit a rank order list of the available elective options indicating their preference. Students are assigned based on interest indicated and available capacity.

Fourth-year students have the ability to request home electives via the curriculum management system which are reviewed for compliance with the established electives criteria and available capacity before the request is accepted or declined. Students may apply for away electives via AAMC's Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO) or directly to nonparticipating VSLO schools. Students may begin scheduling electives after their required selectives have been scheduled. Student schedules are maintained in the curriculum management system.