

To: Larner College of Medicine Class of 2025 Students
From: Deans for Students and the Student Services Team
Date: October 5, 2023
Re: Planning for Advanced Integration Level

We hope you are all enjoying the Clerkship year! By this time, many of you are beginning to think about the next phase of your medical education and wondering what this will look like. This memo is intended to address many of your questions about the Advanced Integration level of your medical education.

Meetings

There will be a class meeting on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, from [3:00 to 4:30 pm ET via Zoom](#), to discuss the Advanced Integration level requirements and the [scheduling process](#). There will be additional small-group sessions held during November and December with the Deans for Medical Students to further clarify and answer questions about the Advanced Integration lottery process and the approach to building your Advanced Integration schedule. There will also be a separate opportunity to ask members of the Class of 2023 questions about their Advanced Integration level experience at a later date.

⇒ Please review the [informational materials posted on the website](#) prior to the meeting and submit questions in advance to [Emma Faustner](#) to be covered during the meeting. Please send questions by 3pm on Friday, October 27. There will be additional time for more questions that may arise.

If, after the meeting, you have additional questions about the Advanced Integration level, you may schedule a meeting with your specialty advisor or a drop-in meeting with [Dr. Karen George](#), [Dr. Katie Dolbec](#), or [Dr. Ellen Kulaga at the CT campus](#). Things you should review in preparation for the meeting include:

- 1) Your progress in the Clerkship Year to date.
- 2) Any concerns you have about your experiences and/or evaluations.
- 3) Your current thoughts about specialty choices.
- 4) Your selection of a faculty specialty advisor.
- 5) Your plans and goals for the Advanced Integration level.
- 6) Any problems or concerns you wish to bring to our attention.

Exams

End of Clerkship Level CSE [Per the UVM COM Student Handbook]

Passage of the End of Clerkship CSE is required for graduation. Please see the [Policy Statement on Grading for the Clerkship Year](#).

You will receive more information about the End of Clerkship Level CSE from the Clinical Simulation Lab, in mid-November or early December, with dates and information about registering for this exam. This is a required component of the VIC, and you must pass it to complete the Clerkship Year. Please note that you are not eligible to take this End of Clerkship Level CSE until you have successfully completed, and remediated all grades of incomplete, for all required clerkships.

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)

Please read the [Policy Statement on USMLE Examinations](#) in the Student Handbook. It is strongly recommended you take Step 2 CK by late August 2024, so your results are reported before you submit your

residency application, in late September 2024. Additional information about the USMLE can be found at the NBME website (<http://www.nbme.org>).

Advanced Integration Requirements

The Advanced Integration level of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum begins 3/18/2024 and ends 5/2/2025.

- 1) Students are required to do **two** Acting Internships (AIs) at the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCC), Danbury Hospital (DH), or Norwalk Hospital (NH).

One of the AIs must be in Internal Medicine at UVMCC, Danbury Hospital, or Norwalk Hospital. Dr. Garth Garrison is the course director for the required Medicine AI component of the curriculum. There is a formal curriculum for this AI, including didactic and discussion sessions focused on skill development. Evaluation will include assessment of clinical performance on patient care teams, assessment of quality of written documentation, and assessment of skills by faculty in a formal assessment context to assess understanding of common clinical situations. The AI in the medical intensive care unit will not fulfill this requirement, nor will AIs in other specialties.

- 2) All students are required to complete a 4-week rotation in Emergency Medicine within the UVM Health Network at UVMCC, the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, or at Danbury Hospital.

Please note that the two requirements listed above must be completed at your assigned campus unless you have documented approval to enroll in one or both courses at the unassigned campus. The deadline to [upload a request to OASIS](#) for consideration by the Dean for Students is **December 1**. Please refer to Medical Student Handbook [Policy 523.00 Site Assignments: Advanced Integration Level](#) for details.

- 3) All students may take up to **6 weeks of vacation** during the Advanced Integration curriculum. One vacation month is often used for completing residency interviews, most commonly taken during November, December, or January, but many students choose to schedule a non-clinical elective during a busy interview month. *An additional 5 gap weeks are scheduled between rotation blocks which do not need to be scheduled as vacation in OASIS.*
- 4) All students may enroll in **up to 4 weeks of study time** to prepare for and take the **USMLE Step 2 exam**. The study month does not count as a month of vacation, and you receive 4 weeks of credit for this month.
- 5) Students should not schedule residency interviews or USMLE examinations during AIs or teaching months. **Once scheduled for an AI, a student may not drop it unless they arrange for a student to take their place, or unless the department concerned excuses the student.**
- 6) Students are required to take a **surgical specialty/subspecialty month** composed of two weeks within two different surgical specialties or subspecialties, or four weeks of a single specialty or subspecialty. This graduation requirement must be fulfilled at the UVM Medical Center or one of our affiliate clinical sites.
- 7) Students must complete a teaching practicum or a scholarly research project during the Advanced

Integration level. You will receive additional information about this requirement from [Dr. Eileen CichoskiKelly, PhD](#), Director of Educational Instruction and Scholarship.

- 8) Students must complete 48 weeks of clinical or non-clinical rotations during the Advanced Integration level, including the two required AIs, the surgery specialty/subspecialty requirement, Emergency Medicine course, and the teaching practicum/scholarly research project,
- 9) Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification must be completed prior to graduation. Training will be scheduled by the Clinical Simulation Lab for students to complete at their convenience. Students who wish to complete this at the CT Branch Campus should contact [Joanna Conklin](#) or [Moir Barber](#).

Choosing a Specialty Advisor

All students will need to select a specialty advisor in OASIS by **December 1, 2023**. Please contact the [Specialty Advising Director](#) in your field of interest, and they will assist you with selecting an advisor in their department. If you are undecided about a specialty, you may list your current advisor (your PCR mentor) as your advisor until you have selected a specialty, or you can select an advisor in the specialty in which you are most interested. You can always change advisors if you change specialties. As you prepare for applying to residency, it is important to have an advisor in your specialty of choice who is familiar with the application process, matching in that specialty, and career pathways within that specialty.

Extramural Rotations

Many students wish to do rotations at other sites during Advanced Integration, while other students prefer to do all their rotations at our affiliated clinical sites. This may be a matter of personal choice or may be important for your chosen specialty. Please check with the specialty advisor to determine if away rotations are expected to apply to that specialty. Students may also want to travel to other institutions to be close to family and friends, work in an environment with a different patient population, or experience medicine in a different culture.

Students often wait until after they have received their UVM Advanced Integration schedules before applying for extramural rotations. Other institutions are not usually ready to act on visiting applications until after they have scheduled their own students. The process of planning and applying for extramural rotations extends through much of the Advanced Integration level. Do not expect to have everything finalized by March.

Many institutions impose a limit on the number of rotations for visiting medical students. Eight weeks is a common limit. Some institutions require proof that students have passed USMLE Step 1 and/or completed clerkships before their applications are processed. Some institutions charge a registration fee.

You can learn about opportunities at other institutions on their websites, where you will be able to download an application. Many schools have become participants in the AAMC's on-line [Visiting Student Learning Opportunities \(VSLO\)](#) site. Emma Faustner, Advanced Integration and Residency Placement Coordinator, in the Office of Medical Education can assist you with the application process. Contact [Emma](#) for authorization to use the VSLO service. Please see the [Extramural Guide](#) posted to the [Preparing for Advanced Integration](#) webpage for information about the typical requirements for extramurals and how to obtain them.

Students should be advised that **all extramural rotations will require advance approval from the Office of**

Medical Education before the rotation will be allowed onto the student's schedule for credit. Any extramural done without approval will not earn credit toward graduation. Extramurals may not be added retroactively, after they have already been done. **Established rotations at LCME-accredited medical schools and ACGME-accredited hospital programs will be readily approved.** Some types of rotations will require review and approval by the Medical Education Leadership Team (MELT).

Letters of Recommendation for Residency Applications

Some of you have asked about requesting letters of recommendation from faculty you have worked with during the Clerkship level. Generally, it is advisable to wait and seek letters from faculty who can evaluate your work at a more advanced level during Advanced Integration. However, you can certainly accept a letter if offered one.

All letters for the Main Match must be submitted directly by the author via the online LoR Portal after ERAS has opened for your class. Please see the [AAMC's website](#) for more information. Letters cannot be reviewed by OME personnel or maintained in OME.

Careers in Medicine

The [Careers in Medicine](#) website has some helpful information about **Choosing a Specialty** and **Getting into Residency**. Please familiarize yourselves with these sections of the CiM program and let our office know if you have any questions. You may also find the book [Iserson's Getting Into A Residency: A Guide for Medical Students](#) a useful resource. There are copies of this book in the library.

This is an exciting time in your medical education; however, it may seem confusing or overwhelming at times. We are here to help so please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or for assistance during this final phase of the VIC. You may also email the StudentCOMServices@med.uvm.edu account and we will direct your questions to the appropriate person.

Thank you and good luck!

Dr. Karen George
Dr. Ellen Kulaga
Dr. Katie Dolbec
Emma Faustner