

COURSE REQUIREMENTS CLASS OF 2026

Students in the Class of 2026 are required to complete the following clinical training.

2024-2025 (Clerkships)	Syracuse Credits	Binghamton Credits
Medicine	10	10
Family Medicine	5	5 (longitudinal)
Psychiatry	5	5
Pediatrics	5	5
Neuroscience	5	5
Obstetrics/Gynecology	5	5
Surgery and Subspecialties	7	7
Emergency Medicine	3	3
Clinical Bioethics	1	1
Population Health for Physicians	0.5	0.5

2025-2026	
Electives	Minimum of 25 credits (see specifics below)
Transition into Residency*	Period 9, 2026
Step 2 CK	Sit for exam by August 15, 2025; Pass exam prior to graduation

All students may take more than the required number of elective credits. Each elective is listed under the department offering it (departments are listed alphabetically). It is imperative to identify the courses you select by their appropriate code numbers in order to correctly prepare your schedule. A two digit code number is assigned to each department. Code numbers ending in "00" are clerkships, the other numbers are electives offered by the department. The following policies outline the elective requirements and will guide students as they select course schedules:

1. **2 credits** of the required 25 elective credits must be a **basic science selective**. The basic science selective requirement may only be fulfilled after three clerkships has been completed. This selective may be chosen from a list of pre-approved basic science selectives. Alternatively, a student can petition that a unique elective be reviewed for potential approval as a basic science. Students who complete the MD/PhD program are exempt from the basic science selective requirement.
2. **4 credits** of the required 25 elective credits must be an **Acting Internship elective**. This requirement can only be fulfilled at Upstate and an away elective Acting Internship will not satisfy the requirement.
3. **Only 16** of the required clinical elective credits may be taken in any one department. At least 9 elective credits must be from a different department(s). If more than the minimum of 25 elective credits are earned, then more than 16 elective credits can be in the same department, as long as at least 9 credits are from another department(s). Elective credits earned during the pre-clinical years may count towards fulfilling the requirement of 9 elective credits outside the same department. Students who complete the Traditional RMED program are exempt from this requirement because they precept with faculty in different specialties but all elective credit is awarded in the Family Medicine Department.
4. **At least 13** elective credits must be as an intramural experience (sponsored by an Upstate faculty member).

5. **A maximum of 6** of the required elective credits may be taken in the pre-clinical years and count toward fulfilling graduation requirements. If more than 6 elective credits are earned in the pre-clinical years, all will be on the academic transcript even though they do not fulfill graduation requirements. Electives taken in the pre-clinical years must be taken on a pass-fail basis, unless petitioned by the sponsoring faculty to be taken for a grade.
6. Standard electives have 1 credit assigned for each week of training. Credit assignment for electives may be found in each description of electives included in the Course Selection Book. Exceptions require a written approval from the elective sponsor and the corresponding department chair.
7. All extramural electives that are existing electives at LCME accredited medical schools must have prior approval from the host school or confirmation of acceptance in the Visiting Student Learning Opportunities™ (VSLO™, formerly known as VSAS™). Students must complete an add/drop form and submit the description of the course from the host school's website or course catalogue if the elective was not accepted through VSLO™. All extramural electives taken at sites other than LCME accredited medical schools should be processed as Unique Electives. Extramural electives will appear on your schedule and transcript with the department code and '99' in the course number, e.g. an extramural in Pediatrics will be listed as PEDS5699 – Pediatrics. Only the narrative will contain the location and name of faculty preceptor.
8. **Unique Electives** - All extramural electives which are not existing electives at LCME accredited medical schools, and all intramural electives which do not appear in the Course Selection Book (both hereafter titled unique electives), must have prior approval of the sponsor of the proposed elective and the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. Students must complete an add/drop form and a Request for Approval of Unique Elective form. Intramural unique electives will appear on your schedule and transcript with the department code and '98' in the course number, e.g. PEDS5698 – Pediatrics. Only the narrative will contain the title of the unique elective and name of faculty preceptor. Extramural unique electives will be listed as described above. No retroactive credit will be awarded.
9. Students wishing to engage in an Upstate related international elective (research, global health experience, or service learning activity) for academic credit must complete and have approved both the Unique Elective form and the Study Abroad Contract. The Study Abroad contract must be approved by the Assistant Registrar/International Student Advisor. The contract outlines several requirements students must fulfill before being approved for Upstate related international travel. Failure to have the Study Abroad contract approved prior to engaging in international experiences will disallow a student from earning academic credit.
10. Any changes in course schedules such as adding and dropping electives should be made by the student at least one week before they anticipate taking the elective. This also includes extramural electives, and those which may not appear in the Course Selection Book. Electives as listed in the Course Selection Book may be added or dropped through MyUpstate. For all others, an Elective Add/Drop form should be submitted to the Registrar's Office (Syracuse) or the Student Affairs Office (Binghamton). Forms are available on the Registrar's Office website or the Registrar's Office and the Binghamton Campus Student Affairs Office.
11. Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to take 2 electives at the same time unless one is a concurrent elective. It is the student's responsibility to inform elective sponsors and coordinate requirements for both the elective and concurrent elective so as to not infringe upon the educational experience of either elective.
12. Students must meet all prerequisites of a course (unless waived by the course director) before they will be permitted to take the course.
13. It is possible to complete the academic requirements for the M.D. in less than 8 semesters. However, be advised that, nonetheless, Upstate requires payment of a minimum of eight semesters of tuition for completion of the M.D. degree. This policy is in lieu of the more cumbersome method of charging for credit overloads in each semester, or charging for separate tuition for summer semesters. The exception to this is transfer students and students who are admitted with advanced standing. These students must pay two semesters of tuition for every year of medical education completed at SUNY Upstate Medical University. The exception to this is transfer students, students who are admitted with advanced standing, and students in the accelerated (three-year) pathway. These students must pay two semesters of tuition for every year of medical education completed at SUNY Upstate Medical University

*Transition into Residency, although taken in the fourth year, is a required course. Therefore, the 3 credits of Transition into Residency **DO NOT** count toward fulfilling the 25 required elective credits.