



COURSE CATALOG

2025-2026



Alice L. Walton
School of Medicine

AWSOM Course Catalog

This course catalog serves as a comprehensive guide to the courses offered at Alice L. Walton School of Medicine. The AWSOM catalog is designed to help students understand the required courses for the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree, provide a detailed description of each course, and a map of the curriculum sequencing by year.

The course catalog is maintained by the Office of the Registrar and is published annually to reflect the most current course offerings and any updates to the curricula. The courses listed in the course catalog are intended as a general indication of ASWOM's curricula; all information is subject to change without notice. Students may access the Student Handbook for additional information.

Course Descriptions

Year 1 Courses

Biomolecular Origins of Medicine (MEDI 8100)

An eight-week course that introduces salient macromolecules that lie at the interface of human health and disease. The interconnectedness of these macromolecules within cells and across tissues is a major course focus. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (6 credit hours)

Blood and Lymphoreticular System (MEDI 8101)

This four-week course focuses on the blood and lymphoreticular systems, as well as disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other relevant clinical information linked both to healthy function and disease states affecting this system. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Cardiovascular System (MEDI 8102)

This six-week course focuses on the cardiovascular system, as well as disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other relevant clinical information linked both to healthy function and disease states affecting this system. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Foundations of Immunology (MEDI 8103)

The Foundations of Immunology is a three-week course covering the basic immune function and broad immunological responses to various invaders. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Foundations of Microbiology (MEDI 8104)

The Foundations of Microbiology is a 4-week course focusing on the fundamental knowledge required for student success. The course covers a broad overview of the clinically important microbes, their structure, virulence factors, and relevant pathologies. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Foundations of Pathology (MEDI 8105)

Foundations of Pathology is a 3-week course covering the foundational pathology knowledge required for student success in Phase 1. The course covers various cell-based processes that govern the cell's response to stress/injury and lays the foundation of neoplasia, the ultimate cell dysregulation. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Foundations of Pharmacology (MEDI 8106)

The Foundations of Pharmacology is a 4-week course covering the foundational pharmacology knowledge required for student success in Phase 2. The course focuses on pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and autonomic pharmacology, extending to encompass major drugs/drug classes and their effects on the various organ systems. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Keystone in Function and Structure (MEDI 8107)

Keystones in Function and Structure is a 22-week longitudinal course covering principal knowledge of the broad concepts surrounding anatomical terminology and imaging, histological concepts, embryological precursors, and physiological phenomena underpinning the ARCHES curriculum. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Multisystem Process Disorders I (MEDI 8108)

This one-week course focuses on the interconnected nature of the human body, and the disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other useful clinical information related to both healthy function and disease states affecting the human body. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (1 credit hour)

Renal and Urinary Systems (MEDI 8109)

This four-week course focuses on the renal and urinary systems, as well as disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other useful clinical information related to both healthy function and disease states affecting these systems. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Respiratory System (MEDI 8110)

This 5-week course focuses on the respiratory system required for student success in Phase II. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other clinical information linked both to healthy function, disorders, and disease states affecting this system. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (4 credit hours)

Clinical Skills I (MEDI 8120)

The Clinical Skills I course is a supervised practical experience designed to provide medical students with the opportunity to learn patient-centered communication, medical history-taking, and professionalism necessary to deliver high quality, age appropriate, gender and culturally sensitive patient care. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Clinical Skills II (MEDI 8121)

The Clinical Skills II course is a supervised, practical experience designed to provide the medical student with the opportunity to learn the head and neck, cardiovascular and respiratory systems patient-centered history-taking, physical examination, clinical reasoning, differential diagnosis, interpretation of clinical tests, documentation, and management plan needed to provide personalized patient care. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Early Clinical Experience I (MEDI 8122)

Students in Phase 1 begin their onsite clinical training by rotating at primary care clinical sites. Both in Phase 1 and continuation into Phase 2, they will have the opportunity to apply, as their skill level allows, their clinical skills training along with the respective ARCHES content to care for patients with a variety of concerns, presentations, and conditions. Students will spend focused time with various healthcare professionals and staff and team members at their clinic preceptor's site to gain a sense of how interprofessional interactions take place. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Early Clinical Experience II (MEDI 8123)

This longitudinal course is a continuation of Early Clinical Experience I. Students will continue to gain clinical skills experience and knowledge through supervised patient contact and will continue to work with clinicians who understand the whole health principles along with other healthcare team members. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Research I (MEDI 8140)

Research I provides first-year medical students with the foundational skills necessary to develop a well-structured research protocol. The course trains students to apply their knowledge of the foundations of medical research to progressively build their research protocol through team-based learning, faculty mentorship, and hands-on activities. Students will learn to formulate research questions, conduct literature reviews, apply appropriate study designs, and consider ethical principles in research. This course serves as the first step in equipping students with the necessary tools to engage in meaningful scientific inquiry and evidence-based medicine. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (1 credit hour)

Integrated Principles of Medicine I (MEDI 8160)

Integrated Principles of Medicine I is a 22-week course that weaves the foundational threads of Art of Healing, Embracing Whole Health, Health Systems Science, and Research to cultivate a whole-person, systems-aware, and inquiry-driven approach to medical care. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (4 credit hours)

Integrated Principles of Medicine II (MEDI 8161)

Integrated Principles of Medicine II builds upon the foundational training of Integrated Principles of Medicine I, delving deeper into the art, science, and practice of medicine. This course will focus on refining skills essential for patient-centered communication and ethical decision-making while exploring a deeper understanding of well-being and whole health. Students will learn to empower patients to take control of their health and make informed lifestyle choices while gaining insight into cultural and societal influences on health behaviors. The curriculum will incorporate topics such as therapeutic approaches through art, resilience building, and the impact of environmental factors on health. Health systems science will continue to be a core component and provide students with a comprehensive understanding of healthcare structures and processes. Ethical challenges will be explored with the students through real-world scenarios, fostering critical thinking and ethical decision-making. Overall, Integrated Principles of Medicine will equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate complex healthcare environments and advocate for patient well-being. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Year 2 Courses

Behavioral Sciences (MEDI 8200)

This three-week course focuses on the behavioral sciences, as well as disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant human coping styles, human behavioral development, salient neuroanatomy, pathophysiology, genetics, and other useful information in the context of normal and disordered behavioral functioning. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Endocrine System and Metabolism (MEDI 8201)

This four-week course focuses on the endocrine system and metabolism, as well as disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other useful clinical information related to both healthy function and disease states affecting these systems. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Gastrointestinal System (MEDI 8202)

Gastrointestinal (GI) Systems is a 6-week course designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, and clinical management of disorders affecting the gastrointestinal system. The course integrates the respective ARCHES letters to support discussions and activities which will allow learners to apply within early clinical experiences, laboratory exercises, IPM, and other disciplines to prepare students for their clerkships. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Multisystem Process Disorders II (MEDI 8203)

This one-week course provides an additional opportunity for students to learn about the interconnected nature of the human body, and the disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other useful clinical information related to both healthy function and disease states affecting this system. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (1 credit hour)

Nervous System and Special Senses (MEDI 8204)

This eight-week course focuses on the nervous system and special senses, as well as disorders that impact on them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other useful clinical information linked both to healthy function and disease states affecting this system. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (7 credit hours)

Reproductive Systems and Breast Health (MEDI 8205)

This six-week course focuses on the reproductive systems and breast health, as well as disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and other useful clinical information related to both healthy function and disease states affecting these systems. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Skin, Musculoskeletal, and Connective Tissue Systems (MEDI 8206)

This seven-week course focuses on the skin, musculoskeletal, and connective tissue systems, as well as disorders that impact them. Students will learn relevant anatomy, physiology, histology, embryology, pathology, pathophysiology, genetics, and clinical information related to healthy functions and disease states affecting this system. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (6 credit hours)

Clinical Skills III (MEDI 8220)

The Clinical Skills III course is a supervised, practical experience designed to provide the medical student with the opportunity to learn the gastrointestinal, reproductive, dermatological, and musculoskeletal systems patient-centered history-taking, physical examination, clinical reasoning, differential diagnosis, interpretation of clinical tests, documentation, and management plan needed to provide personalized patient care. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (4 credit hours)

Clinical Skills IV (MEDI 8221)

The Clinical Skills IV course is a supervised, practical experience designed to provide the medical student with the opportunity to learn the neurological system patient-centered history-taking, physical examination, clinical reasoning, differential diagnosis, interpretation of clinical tests, documentation, and management plan needed to provide personalized patient care. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Early Clinical Experience III (MEDI 8222)

This longitudinal course is a continuation of Early Clinical Experience II. Students will continue to gain clinical skills experience and knowledge through supervised patient contact and will continue to work with clinicians who understand the whole health principles along with other healthcare team members. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (4 credit hours)

Early Clinical Experience IV (MEDI 8223)

This longitudinal course is a continuation of Early Clinical Experience III. By this phase, students are expected to have become competent in practicing basic clinical skills. Students will continue to gain experiences and knowledge through supervised patient contact and will continue to work with clinicians who understand the whole health principles along with other healthcare team members. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (1 credit hour)

Research II (MEDI 8240)

In this longitudinal course, students will dedicate time to gathering and organizing data for their research project outlined in Research I. They will continue self-directed research efforts, obtaining feedback from small groups periodically. Additionally, students will explore the clinical application of research through case studies and vignettes, creating items related to their projects as a milestone activity. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Research III (MEDI 8241)

In Research III, students initially focus on collecting and assimilating data, similar to Research II. The course concludes with students preparing initial draft materials (e.g., posters, white papers) to present their research findings. This proactive approach allows students to gather feedback for revisions, identify data gaps, and update their project timelines and milestones. Like in Research I and II, students share progress and concerns with their small groups for guidance. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (1 credit hour)

Research IV (MEDI 8242)

During this two-week course, students will interface with their research mentor(s) to obtain suggested edits of their assembled research materials. Future directions of their study will also be discussed and formalized. The final version of research materials resulting from these mentoring sessions will be communicated and discussed within small student groups. Recertification of CITI modules or other research credentials required for clerkship matriculation will also occur in Research IV. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (1 credit hour)

Integrated Principles of Medicine III (MEDI 8260)

The longitudinal Integrated Principles of Medicine III advances into more complex realms of whole person care, ethical considerations, and social determinants of health, refining communication skills and ethical reasoning while expanding perspectives on public and population health and the crucial role of self-care and resilience. Significant emphasis is placed on mastering communication in increasingly complex scenarios to maintain empathy and provide support in challenging patient conversations. The course explores focused organ systems and conditions spanning continuity of care while teaching techniques to protect students' own emotional health during intense clinical scenarios. Ongoing self-care and resilience skill-building continue as strategies for managing stress and maintaining balance. Students explore how socioeconomic, educational, environmental, employment, and social support factors influence individual and community health, including healthcare disparities. Special sessions address multifaceted approaches to obesity, maternal morbidity/mortality, and tailoring care strategies to diverse patient contexts and needs. Concepts of human-centered care design, resource optimization, and value-based delivery are introduced to evolve students' perspectives on healthcare systems. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Integrated Principles of Medicine IV (MEDI 8261)

Integrated Principles of Medicine IV represents the culmination of the Phase II ARCHES curriculum, tailored to transition students smoothly into the next phase of their medical education with confidence, competence, and a well-rounded approach to healthcare. The course focuses on synthesizing the extensive knowledge and skills acquired from previous courses through continued simulations, case-based learning, and interactive discussions requiring patient-centered communication, ethical decision-making, health systems understanding, and awareness of social determinants. Special sessions address multifaceted approaches to the opioid crisis and concepts of value-based care delivery building on previous learnings. Students also learn about healthcare disparities and focused organ systems spanning continuity of care. Self-care and resilience remain crucial, providing further training in personal well-being and stress management to prepare students for the demanding nature of clerkships. Exercises integration of concepts across disciplines represented in the ARCHES curriculum. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (1 credit hour)

USMLE Step I Review (MEDI 8270)

The USMLE Step 1 Review course is an intensive 8-week program designed to prepare medical students for the USMLE Step 1 exam. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Transition to Clerkship (TRCK 8200)

This two-week course, held at the beginning of Phase 3, will initiate, and simulate the beginning of inpatient, emergent, sub-specialty, and consultation clinical practice that students will learn, practice, and apply for their clerkships. Students will be in small groups to actively learn and practice focused patient-centered care with the use of simulation, standardized patients, and other assets. In addition, this course will equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed during their clerkships and to further their journey from competency to proficiency. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Year 3 Courses

Clerkship Course Information

Students will complete a 48-week clinical training program comprising four 12-week blocks. The curriculum encompasses core clerkships in Internal Medicine (INTM 8300), Surgery (SGRY 8300), Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGN 8300), Pediatrics (PEDI 8300), Psychiatry (PSCH 8300), Family Medicine (FMED 8300), Emergency Medicine (EMRG 8300), and Neurology (NEUR 8300), complemented by two 2-week selective experiences to explore specialized areas of interest.

Emergency Medicine Clerkship (EMRG 8300)

Students spend four weeks in emergency medicine. The clerkship provides clinical experience in evaluating and managing patients with urgent and emergent medical conditions. Students will train in academic and community emergency departments, refining their diagnostic, procedural, and treatment skills under the supervision of attending physicians. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Family Medicine Clerkship (FMED 8300)

This clerkship provides students direct outpatient-centered care encounters. Students will be assigned to respective family medicine clinics and will observe and assist the attending clinician and health care team providers with outpatient care, documentation, clinical reasoning, and management plans. Students will have opportunities to integrate their organ-based knowledge, clinical skills, and whole health principles with clinical reasoning and patient-centered management plans. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Internal Medicine Clerkship (INTM 8300)

This eight-week clerkship features Internal Medicine (four weeks of inpatient Medicine service, four weeks of specialty care). This course is designed to help students focus on the care of adults who come to the hospital, including those in the emergency department, admitted to the hospital, and being seen by consultant teams. Students will be expected to carry an increasingly larger patient caseload over time. They will also be assigned to ambulatory or inpatient consult services featuring various medical specialties, and they will spend time advancing their knowledge in geriatrics and palliative care. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Integrated Principles of Medicine V (MEDI 8360)

This longitudinal course will offer immersive learning integrated with clerkship rotations, blending foundational principles with advanced content. Students will explore healthcare topics like healing, research, and health systems using asynchronous and synchronous learning involving case-based discussions based on clerkship experiences. Integrated Principles of Medicine V will introduce "grand rounds style" case presentations, fostering comprehensive medical diagnoses focusing on whole health, social determinants, and ethics. The curriculum will prioritize self-care, resilience, and humanistic medicine to support students' well-being alongside clinical education. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Integrated Principles of Medicine VI (MEDI 8361)

This longitudinal course builds on Integrated Principles of Medicine V and will continue to offer immersive learning integrated with clerkship rotations, blending foundational principles with advanced content. Students will explore healthcare topics like healing, research, and health systems using asynchronous and synchronous learning involving case-based discussions based on clerkship experiences. Integrated Principles of Medicine VI will continue with "grand rounds style" case presentations, fostering comprehensive medical diagnoses focusing on whole health, social determinants, and ethics. The curriculum will prioritize self-care, resilience, and humanistic medicine to support students' well-being alongside clinical education. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

Neurology Clerkship (NEUR 8300)

Students spend four weeks in neurology. The neurology clerkship provides clinical training in evaluating and treating neurological disorders. Students will hone their neurological skills and learn to localize lesions and diagnose conditions of the central and peripheral nervous system. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship (OBGN 8300)

Students spend eight weeks in Obstetrics/Gynecology including two weeks of labor and delivery, two weeks of outpatient service, two weeks of gynecology, and two weeks of gynecology specialty. Students will see common health problems that affect women and learn about prenatal and postpartum care. Students will gain experience in managing and caring for patients during pregnancy, labor and delivery, the postpartum period, gynecological exams, contraception, and common gynecological conditions. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Pediatrics Clerkship (PEDI 8300)

Students spend eight weeks in pediatrics. Pediatrics includes four weeks of inpatient experience (which will include care of newborns) and four weeks of outpatient experience. The pediatrics clerkship provides clinical experience in the management of pediatric patients from birth through adolescence. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Psychiatry and Behavior Health Clerkship (PSCH 8300)

This rotation is four weeks long and features inpatient and outpatient care of common mental health challenges as well as a survey of mind-body approaches and psychotherapies. This clerkship provides clinical experience evaluating and treating mental health conditions across inpatient, outpatient, and consultation settings. Students will develop skills in psychiatric interviews, diagnosis, treatment planning, and management of behavioral emergencies. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Surgery Clerkship (SGRY 8300)

This eight-week course is divided into 4 weeks of inpatient and 4 weeks of surgical subspecialty care that will allow students to learn how common inpatient and outpatient procedures are performed, their indications, their associated risks, and how to interpret results. This course is graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (5 credit hours)

Year 4 Courses

Integrated Principles of Medicine VII (MEDI 8460)

This course will offer immersive learning integrated with clerkship rotations, blending foundational principles with advanced content. Students will explore healthcare topics like healing, research, and health systems using asynchronous and synchronous learning involving case-based discussions based on clerkship experiences. Integrated Principles of Medicine VII will introduce "grand rounds style" case presentations, fostering comprehensive medical diagnoses focusing on whole health, social determinants, and ethics. The curriculum will prioritize self-care, resilience, and humanistic medicine to support students' well-being alongside clinical education. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (3 credit hours)

USMLE Step II Review (MEDI 8470)

The USMLE Step 2 Review course is a focused 4-week program aimed at preparing medical students for the USMLE Step 2 exam. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Medical Bridges (MEDI 8471)

To complete the medical school experience, and to ensure essential competency skills typically needed for residency, students will have a round of curricular experiences over two weeks designed to consolidate experiences they have learned. This course will include a list of common procedural skills (e.g., a 'core' of skills) that all students will demonstrate, perform, document (if applicable), and present. Also, students will demonstrate, perform, document (if applicable), and present skills and/or team skills aligned with their respective residency discipline. A final exam will involve an objective structured clinical examination with a mix of standardized patients (e.g., a mockup of a busy night on call) or simulation systems and relevant cases. This course is graded on a Pass/Fail scale. (2 credit hours)

Selective and/or Elective Rotations I – VIII

As part of the fourth phase of the curriculum, students can choose their curriculum, based on their career plans and interests. Students may choose to complete rotations in other specialty areas, such as intensive care, medical, and surgical specialties they would like to cover in greater depth. Students will also continue to build their leadership, entrepreneurship, and teaching skills. These courses are graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scale. (4 credit hours per rotation)