Phase 2 and 3 Electives FAQ

What are the Elective Requirements for Graduation?

- All students must complete at least **24 credits of electives** over the **two clinical phases (2 and 3)**
  - **(usually 1 credit = minimum of 40 hours/week)**
  - Of those 24 elective credits, **16 must be clinical electives (those with greater than 50% hands on patient care)**
  - **At least 6 credits must be outside of a chosen narrowly defined specialty**
    - For example, someone going into Ortho cannot use all of their elective time doing Ortho Sub-Is
    - Variation within a larger specialty (Medicine, PEDS, Surgery, OB/GYN) is acceptable
  - Your 1st Sub-I (a Geisel requirement) is not included in the total elective credit requirement but can count for credits outside of a narrowly defined specialty
    - For instance, a student going into Radiology who does a Medicine Sub-I would have the Medicine Sub-I credits count towards the 6 total credits needed outside of Radiology
  - Any **subsequent Sub-Is will count toward your elective requirements**

When will I have time to do electives?

- 6 weeks of time to take electives in Phase 2
  - Most students take 2-6 weeks of electives and 2-4 weeks of vacation/other
- 54+ weeks available in Phase 3 (April through May of following year but must subtract time for Sub-I, Neuro, AAM, Step 2 and 4 weeks of Capstone Coursework in March), which leaves 34+ weeks in which to schedule the 24 elective credits.
- Most students will also take 1-2 months off for interviews and board prep/taking. Interview season is a good time however for self-paced non-clinical electives such as research, reading, EKGs, Transfusion Medicine, EBM.
- On OASIS, many elective times are defaulted to begin on a Monday and end on a Friday. In Phase 2, and sometimes in Phase 3, your schedule may not permit you to start and end on those days. *For some electives, it may be possible to start and end on a different day of the week, but you'll need to contact the elective coordinator to get permission to do so*.

Where can I find elective options?

- Geisel sponsored electives are found on OASIS: https://geisel-oasis.dartmouth.edu/index.html
  - There are over 100 to choose from, and you can sign up for them on OASIS
  - For most electives, you will initially be put on a waitlist, and the elective coordinator will do their best to enroll you within 2 weeks, let you know if there is no room, or let you know that it is not yet certain if there will be room or not
    - You should contact the coordinator if you have specific questions

- If the listed coordinator is not getting back to you, please contact the Registrar's Office
- VSLO (Visiting Student Learning Opportunities):
  - This AAMC system allows you to view and apply for electives that are established and run by other medical schools and are <u>intended for Phase 3 students.</u>
  - http://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/admin/registrar/how_to_register.shtml
  - In addition to being accepted for these away rotations on VSLO, you must complete the <u>online Non-established elective / Sub-I Application</u> at least 4 weeks in advance of the elective start date. The Registrar's Office and the Associate Dean for Clinical Education will review these and give final approval.

How do I sign up for an elective?

- Registering for an elective must be done through OASIS. Instructions are located here: https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/admin/registrar/how_to_register/

Can I create my own elective experience?

- You can create your own elective experience in conjunction with a sponsor who must be a faculty member of an accredited medical school for a clinical elective. Other college faculty can be considered for non-clinical electives.
- These can be clinical, research/reading, or abroad medical experiences
  - Examples include spending a clinical week or two with your prior On-Doctoring preceptor; reading/reporting on the psychological aspects of childbirth; engaging in a case-series study of patients with chronic pancreatitis; medical work in Vietnam
- These "non-established" electives must be thoughtfully devised, require completion of the online Non-Established Elective / Sub-I Application and be approved by the Associate Dean for Clinical Education at least 4 weeks in advance of the elective start date.

Why do the "away" and non-established electives need to be approved ahead of time?

- To ensure adequate educational opportunities
- To give enough time to gather required documents – proof of immunization, etc.
- To ensure you are appropriately enrolled by the Geisel Registrar in order to earn the credit

Where can I get advice on choice of electives?

- The Associate Dean for Student Affairs, the Associate Dean for Career Advising, the Associate Dean for Clinical Education, and the Director of Phase 3 would be happy to give advice regarding elective choices.
- The Medical Student Advising page on CANVAS is an excellent resource that includes recommendations based on specialty choice including the "Specialty-specific planning grids"
- AAMC Careers in Medicine website
- Your coaches and specialty residency advisors
- Classmates

What elective(s) should I choose during Phase 2?

- Students who are undecided in career choice should attempt to use this elective time to explore a particular field that they might be interested in, especially if you will not be getting much exposure to it during Phase 2 (Radiation Oncology, Dermatology, Ophthalmology).
- Students who are interested in fields that require multiple Sub-Is or visiting rotations (Plastics, Emergency Medicine, Orthopedics) should consider selecting a grid that gives them their elective block at the end of the academic year during which time they might be able to complete an "early" Sub-Internship; or, if certain on one of those career choices, use the time to meet your requirements for getting exposure to something outside of that narrowly defined field or take Step 2.

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