

# MD PROGRAM

---

## Core Curriculum and Competencies

The central curriculum and the two parallel tracks share numerous curricular elements, the result of deliberate educational program design that ensures comparability. At the core, they share the same vision, core curriculum, three-phase curriculum framework, graduation and education program competencies.

### MD Program Vision

To guide the development of a humanistic, systems-ready physician who is adaptive, critical-thinking, collaborative and scholarly.

### Core Curriculum

The core curriculum, defined by the Committee on Undergraduate Medical Education (CUMED) is built on a four-pillar framework of 1) Biomedical Sciences, 2) Health Humanities, 3) Clinical Sciences, and 4) Health Systems Sciences.

### MD Curriculum

The experience of a Penn State College of Medicine MD student comprises three phases:

- **Phase I - Foundations:** Students in Penn State College of Medicine, whether in the Hershey curriculum, one of the 3+ accelerated pathways in Hershey or the University Park curriculum, engage in two common instructional formats – small-group problem-based learning and direct patient experiences – with variations on the intensity with which each is used. For both Hershey and University Park accelerated students, lectures supplement the instructional formats. In University Park, which is a “no lecture” track, the more extensive small-group problem-based learning sessions, which are referred to as inquiry groups, and science seminars serve as the instructional formats that subsume the content expectations typically delivered in lectures. Students in any of the pathways in Hershey take the foundational courses sequentially prior to clerkships. Students in the University Park curriculum take some foundational courses before and some after clerkships.
- **Phase II - Clinical Core:** Students all complete the same seven core clerkships, though the instructional format may be in blocks or longitudinal. All students must take USMLE Step 1 before progressing to Phase III.
- **Phase III - Discovery & Residency Prep:** Two required courses – Translating Health Systems Science to the Clinical Setting and Transition to Internship are common for all students. Additionally, all students must complete two acting internships, a Humanities selective and electives to enhance their-competency-directed progression in learning, professional identity formation and residency preparation.

All students will be expected to meet the college’s list of competencies (<http://students.med.psu.edu/md-students/medical-student-competencies-and-subcompetencies-for-graduation/>) before graduating with an MD degree.

### Core Competencies

The core competencies for Penn State College of Medicine are:

1. Patient Care
2. Knowledge for Practice

3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
5. Professional Behaviors
6. Systems-Based Practice
7. Health Humanities