I. PURPOSE

The Year 4 Clinical Science Electives (Medicine 5401) program at Western provides Schulich Medicine students with the opportunity to study an area of interest in great depth and fill in personal knowledge gaps through a self-directed program. Each student is responsible for creating his/her individual program that meets the student’s academic and personal needs.

II. DEFINITIONS

LEW Learner Equity and Wellness

CaRMS Canadian Resident Matching Service

III. STATEMENT

1.0 The Clinical Science Electives program is a 16-week program divided into eight blocks, each block being two weeks in duration.

2.0 The Clinical Science Electives program runs from September to December.

3.0 All or some of the elective time may be spent in electives offered at Schulich or at other approved institutions in Canada or other countries.

4.0 Electives may be in a basic science, research or clinical area but must be in a medical setting.

5.0 Clinical departments at Schulich offer either two or four week blocks at their discretion.

6.0 Electives end at 6pm on the last Friday of the block. The weekend is for travel to the next elective location, which would start on a Monday morning. In the event of a holiday Monday, the new block will start on Tuesday morning.

7.0 Students must submit their final Clinical Science Electives program summary to the Director for approval before starting any electives.

7.1 When arranging the Clinical Sciences Electives program, a student must ensure it is broadly based; it must include electives in a minimum of three CaRMS entry disciplines plus a maximum of 12 weeks of elective time in any one category, with the remaining four weeks in either one or both of the other two categories.

8.0 In order to pass the course, a student must satisfactorily complete all eight blocks (16 weeks).

9.0 Electives may be 2, 3, or 4 weeks in length subject to departmental availability.

10.0 The student is expected to attend according to the schedule set by the supervisor, including call duty, rounds, etc for the full period of the elective.

11.0 Reasonable absences by the student may be permitted at the discretion of the supervisor as follows:
11.1 Up to 3 days for personal commitments of the student
11.2 Up to one week (maximum 5 days within the 16 week period) for medical or compassionate reasons with the permission of the Assistant Dean, LEW.
11.3 Absences must be noted on the assessment form and the student must demonstrate exceptional circumstances to the satisfaction of the UME office.

12.0 The only travel time permitted to and from Clinical Science Electives is the weekend between blocks.

13.0 Students taking approved electives are covered by Western’s professional liability insurance.
   13.1 Students with unapproved or informal elective arrangements are not covered. This puts the student and the preceptor at unacceptable risk.
   13.2 Students would not be covered if it could be shown that they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs while acting in a health care setting.

14.0 For all electives being arranged outside of North America, students must contact the Global Health Office for policies and procedures when planning an international elective.

15.0 Due to the limited number of positions in any Schulich department and hospital, a computerized lottery selection process is used to maximize every student’s chance of getting Schulich electives of his/her choice. The lottery uses random numbers in combination with “rank orders” to ensure all students get some of their elective choices. The rank order is adjusted based on the choices students are assigned, in order to ensure an even distribution among all students.

16.0 After the lottery has been run and the Schulich students are notified of their results, the program opens up for an add/drop period which runs from the end of February to the end of June.

17.0 Following the add/drop period, clinical departments are notified of the finalized electives schedules and can then determine how many visiting elective students they are able to accommodate.

18.0 Students who are doing a non-Schulich elective or an elective with an institution which is not affiliated with a Canadian university must complete, in advance, the Fourth Year Electives – Learning Objectives form and submit it to the UME office before the start of the elective. A copy will be retained by the student and this copy will be signed off by the preceptor at the end of the elective and submitted to the UME office.

19.0 Students who are doing a non-Schulich elective must ensure that a Clinical Science Elective Assessment form is completed and submitted to the UME office within two weeks following the completion of the elective.