

**UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**  
**SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY**  
**NON-CREDIT PRE-CLINICAL SUMMER ELECTIVES**

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**Revised:** March 2023

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**Next revision:** 2025

## **PURPOSE**

The Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) program supports voluntary, non-curricular opportunities for Year 1 and 2 students to explore research and/or learn from physicians at their clinical practice. The purpose of this statement is to ensure that students are aware of the limitations of their participation and the process they must follow.

While the Non-Credit Pre-Clinical Summer Elective (NPSE) is intended to provide a more intensive, hands-on learning experience than an Optional Clinical Learning Opportunity (OCLO), students and preceptors are reminded that a clinical rotation has not yet been completed as part of the students' undergraduate medical education. Strict supervision is required.

Students in Year 1 or 2 who are not enrolled in MED5010 during the summer months are not protected by Western University's general and professional liability insurance.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Non-credit Pre-clerkship Summer Clinical Elective (NPSCE):**

A clinical learning opportunity during which a student receives at minimum of 30 hours of clinical instruction while interacting with patients in a clinical setting. It involves shadowing, observing, and participation in patient care under strict supervision by a legally licensed medical practitioner (preceptor).

### **Non-credit Pre-clerkship Summer Research Elective (NPSRE):**

A structured research learning opportunity during which a student works a minimum of four weeks with a faculty supervisor in a research setting.

### **Combined Non-credit Pre-clerkship Summer Clinical and Research Elective (NPSCRE):**

A Combined NPSCRE is primarily for students involved in a research project but who would also like to accompany the same preceptor during their clinical duties on intermittent days.

## OBJECTIVES

### NPSCE:

1. By completion of the elective, the student will be able to:
  - Explain the role and functioning of the physician in this specific practice context.
  - Extrapolate this understanding to explain how physicians in a given discipline function generally.
  - Describe the issues that affect health care delivery in this context.
2. It is expected that at the outset of the experience the student and preceptor should determine individual objectives that might apply.

### NPSRE:

1. By completion of the elective, the student will be able to:
  - Explain the role and functioning of the physician in this specific practice context.
  - Gain a basic understanding of the research process for basic and/or clinical biomedical research.
  - Understand how the clinical research enterprise functions at Schulich.
  - Gain research experience to complement the student's academic studies.
2. It is expected that at the outset of the experience the student and research supervisor should determine individual objectives that might apply.

## STATEMENT

1. The NPSE must not occur during Discovery Week and/or any assessment period.
  - Occur during summer months after the last date of scheduled learning for Year 1 and 2
  - Meet the minimum required number of hours or weeks.
  - Be registered and approved in Single Sign On as part of the MED5010 course.
2. The preceptor (for NPSCE) must:
  - Be legally licensed to practice medicine free from restrictions against their practice.
  - Complete required forms within stated deadlines.
  - Fully supervise the student in regard to any patient interactions.
  - Understand that student participation in patient care, including delegation of any medical procedures, is at the discretion and responsibility of the preceptor.
  - Directly evaluate the capability and skills of the student before making judgement about the latitude and scope of the student's involvement with patients.
  - Conduct all learning activities according to the policies of the licensing authority in the preceptor's jurisdiction.
  - Discuss specific elective learning objectives with the student.
  - Introduce and state the student's status to any patient with whom they interact.
  - Be aware that should the students engage in behaviour deemed by the preceptor to be disruptive, unprofessional or inappropriate, the preceptor may terminate the elective.
    - A report must be submitted to the UME Office within one week of termination of the elective.

3. The faculty supervisor (for NPSRE) must:
  - Complete required forms within stated deadlines.
  - Discuss the specific elective learning objectives with the student.
  
4. The student must:
  - Follow the appropriate registration process outlined on the UME website [Course 5010 Registration](#)
  - Complete all mandatory LHSC online modules or any other required learning by site of elective as a principle of best practice in pre-clinical training [LHSC Training Modules](#)
  - The Program Office is not responsible for ensuring/verifying that students have completed this training.
  - Failure by the student to comply with completion of these modules may result in removal of good standing in the MD Program.
  - Pay the registration fee (except for electives coordinated by Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Research Office).
  - Ensure that the preceptor/supervisor receives all documentation supplied by the UME Office.
  - Refrain from performing any unsupervised/unauthorized procedures.
  - Abide by the standard of ethical behaviour as stated in the CMA code of ethics located at [www.cma.ca](http://www.cma.ca).
  - Wear their Schulich name badge at all times.
  - Refrain from any clinical contact when they could potentially be impaired by disease or by any psychoactive substance, including alcohol.
  - Provide the UME Office with an electronic copy of the Assessment Form, signed by the preceptor or faculty supervisor which indicates a grade of “PASS” as well as confirmation that the required time commitment was met. This is to ensure that “SAT” can be recorded on the student’s transcript.
    - The UME Office will not be responsible for tracking down outstanding assessment forms from preceptors.
    - As per Western University Senate rules on Progression, all assessments need to be submitted within one week of the final encounter with the learner.