

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
**Department of Family Medicine**  
**Education Office, Kent J. Sheets, PhD, 998-7138**

**Guidelines for Senior Year for Students Interested in  
Pursuing a Career in Family Medicine**

## **Subinternship:**

Most students who go into family medicine complete their subinternship in medicine or family medicine or pediatrics. You have the option of completing a four-week family medicine subinternship on an inpatient service at Chelsea Community Hospital or on the University Family Medicine service at the University of Michigan Hospital.

## **Basic Scheduling Principles for Family Medicine:**

1. Students are encouraged to schedule clerkships that will help with career decision making no later than Period 6, and preferably by Period 5, of the M-4 year. This is particularly important if students are trying to decide between family medicine and another specialty.
2. Students interested in family medicine are encouraged to take advantage of the M-4 year as their last chance to do special or unique things like electives in history of medicine, research in another specialty, or even clerkships in disciplines or specialties that they are not likely to repeat as residents.
3. You should consider doing an elective in obstetrics, particularly if you did your obstetrics and gynecology clerkship in the first half of the M-3 year. Obstetrics is a skill that you will need to use in a family medicine residency regardless of whether you plan to include obstetrics in your ultimate practice plans.
4. You should try to take one or more clerkships that are consult services or based primarily in outpatient clinics that will help supplement and complement your M-3 experience. A list of possible clerkships that students and their advisers should consider in making a schedule is provided below.

## **Electives:**

The following groups of clerkships are recommended as a menu from which students should pick appropriate experiences.

1. Obstetrics/women's health/gynecology
2. Medicine consult services (GI, infectious disease, cardiology, pulmonary)
3. Musculoskeletal experiences (outpatient orthopedic surgery, sports medicine, PMR consult or outpatient PMR)
4. Pediatrics (pediatric ER or walk-in, general pediatrics, adolescent medicine)
5. Senses and Skin (ophthalmology, otolaryngology, dermatology)
6. Behavioral Science (psychiatry consult, substance abuse)
7. Radiology (community, general)
8. International/Medically Underserved Experiences (generally individually arranged by student, plus the migrant clinic elective offered in the summer by Psychiatry)
9. Advanced/applied basic science (clinical anatomy and women's health, clinical pathology)