
MD Program

Clerkship Electives Policy: Kingston & Lakeridge Campuses

Curricular Component: Policy #CC-06 v14

Approved by Curriculum Committee: April 22, 2026

Approved by MD PEC: February 3, 2025, April 30, 2026

Approved by SOMAC: February 10, 2025, pending

Approved by Faculty Board: pending

Effective Date: August 1, 2026



Background

- 1.1. During clerkship, students complete research and clinical elective placements. Elective placements are organized by the student to meet the individual student interests and educational needs.
- 1.2. For each elective placement, the student is required to complete an electives learning plan proposal form, choosing three (3) CanMEDS roles with a defined educational goal and objective for each. A competency from *all three roles* must be developed by the end of that elective placement.
- 1.3. All the CanMeds roles must be covered at least once in the students' elective learning plans by the end of the clerkship electives weeks.
- 1.4. Formal approval by the Director, Enhanced Clinical Experiences of the elective learning plan is mandatory prior to commencement of an elective placement. Exceptional circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, by the Director, Enhanced Clinical Experiences.
- 1.5. The Academic Performance Advisory Group, (APAG) may require students to use elective placement time to address deficiencies identified during clinical courses or electives placements.

2.0 Policy

- 2.1. The number of required elective placement weeks for each clerkship class will be defined by the Curriculum Committee on an annual basis.
- 2.2. Vacation weeks may be exchanged with elective placement weeks for the purposes of scheduling.
- 2.3. Personal days cannot be exchanged for elective placement time.
- 2.4. Elective placements must be under the supervision of licensed physicians who are affiliated with a CACMS or LCME accredited medical school, or a designated rural provider network. Proposals

for electives that do not meet these criteria will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Director, Enhanced Clinical Experiences.

- 2.5. Individual elective placements may be from two to four weeks in length. Alternate arrangements must be approved by the Director, Enhanced Clinical Experiences.
- 2.6. Students are expected to work a minimum of eight hours per day. Students may be required to take calls, work shifts in evenings, overnight, weekends, or statutory holidays. Students should be expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week during the elective placement.
- 2.7. The following are in accordance with resolutions passed by the AFMC UG Dean's Committee and/or policies of Queen's MD Program:
 1. Students may select electives from any of the primary or secondary entry (Internal Medicine and Pediatrics subspecialties) disciplines
 2. Students may not have more than eight weeks of clinical elective placements in any one discipline.
 3. The number of weeks permitted for away elective placements are determined by the AFMC.
 4. At least three primary entry disciplines must be undertaken.
 5. Research electives allow for involvement in scientific or scholarly projects without involvement in clinical activity. They do not count toward the discipline cap set out in 2.7.2. They also do not offset the need to undertake three primary entry disciplines as outlined in 2.7.4.
- 2.8. All elective placements must be approved by the Director, Enhanced Clinical Experiences prior to their commencement.
- 2.9. Unapproved electives will not be credited on the Medical Student Performance Record (MSPR).
- 2.10. To receive a pass in an Electives unit students must:
 - 2.10.1. Demonstrate a satisfactory progression of clinical competencies over the course of all elective placements as determined by the Clerkship Elective Assessment Form.
 - 2.10.2. Submit all documentation (approval and assessments) in the timeline outlined in the Electives procedure document.
- 2.11. Students who fail to comply with the requirements outlined in item 2.10 will meet with the Director, Enhanced Clinical Experiences. The Director, Enhanced Clinical Experiences will make recommendations to the Clerkship examiners group and APAG as needed.