

Elective Counseling

Immersion Phase Introduction for Class of 2026

Phase Directors

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School *of* Medicine

Elective Counseling Resources

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-gateway/elective-counseling-overview/>

MD Gateway

Elective Counseling Overview

Immersion Phase Elective Counseling Overview

Immersion Phase Elective Counseling is a joint effort between Medical Student Affairs, Careers in Medicine, the Immersion Phase Team, College Mentors, and the Faculty Specialty Advisors designed to support students in planning and managing their Immersion Phase schedules to ensure timely achievement of graduation requirements and preparation for post-graduation plans.

In need of individual elective counseling? Please [let us know](#) so we can schedule a one-on-one session with you!

Elective Counseling

Elective Counseling:
Immersion Phase
Requirements

Elective Counseling:
Documents

Elective Counseling:
Presentations

Elective Counseling Overview



School of Medicine

Session Goals

- Describe the overarching goals and course types in the Immersion Phase
- Discuss Immersion Phase curricular requirements
- Discuss Research, LC and FHD requirements
- Discuss the upcoming registration timeline and provide counseling on your elective choices



Curriculum 2.0: Immersion Phase

A highly individualized post-clerkship phase that uses clinical context to build upon prior learning

Advanced Clinical Experiences

rigorous clinical rotations



Integrated Science Courses

mixed didactic and clinical experiences



Acting Internships

supervised intern-level responsibilities



Research

mentored research project

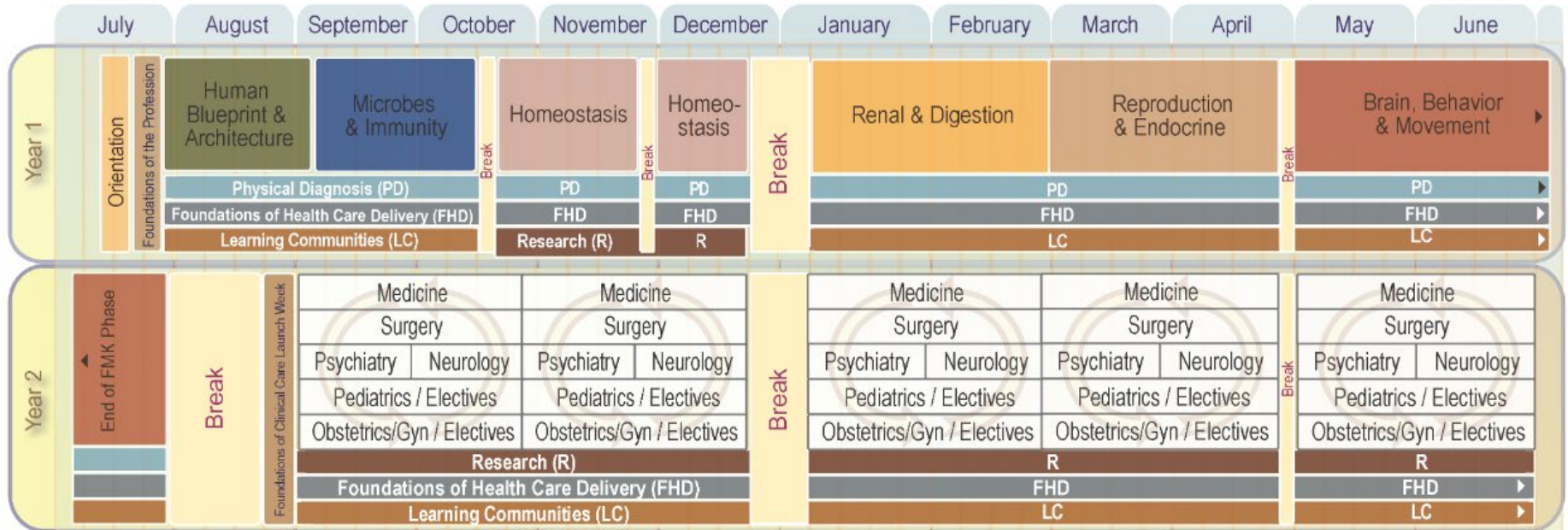


IMMERSION PHASE GOALS

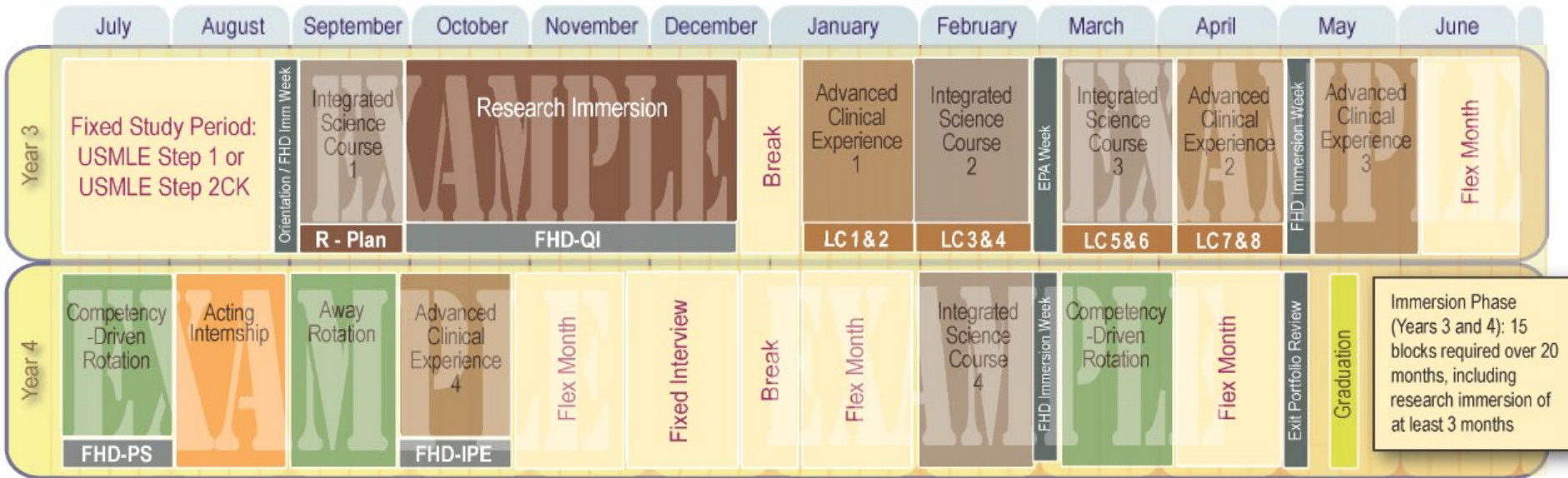
- Deepen **FOUNDATIONAL SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE** during meaningful clinical engagement
- Solidify **CLINICAL SKILLS**
- Enhance **PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING SKILLS**
- Ensure readiness for **INTERN ROLE/RESIDENCY**
- Expand knowledge and skills regarding **SCHOLARSHIP**
- Further grow knowledge and skills regarding **LEADERSHIP**
- Encourage **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

VUSM Curriculum 2.0

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Curriculum 2.0 Schematic



VUSM Curriculum 2.0



Immersion Weeks are Mandatory

Year 3:

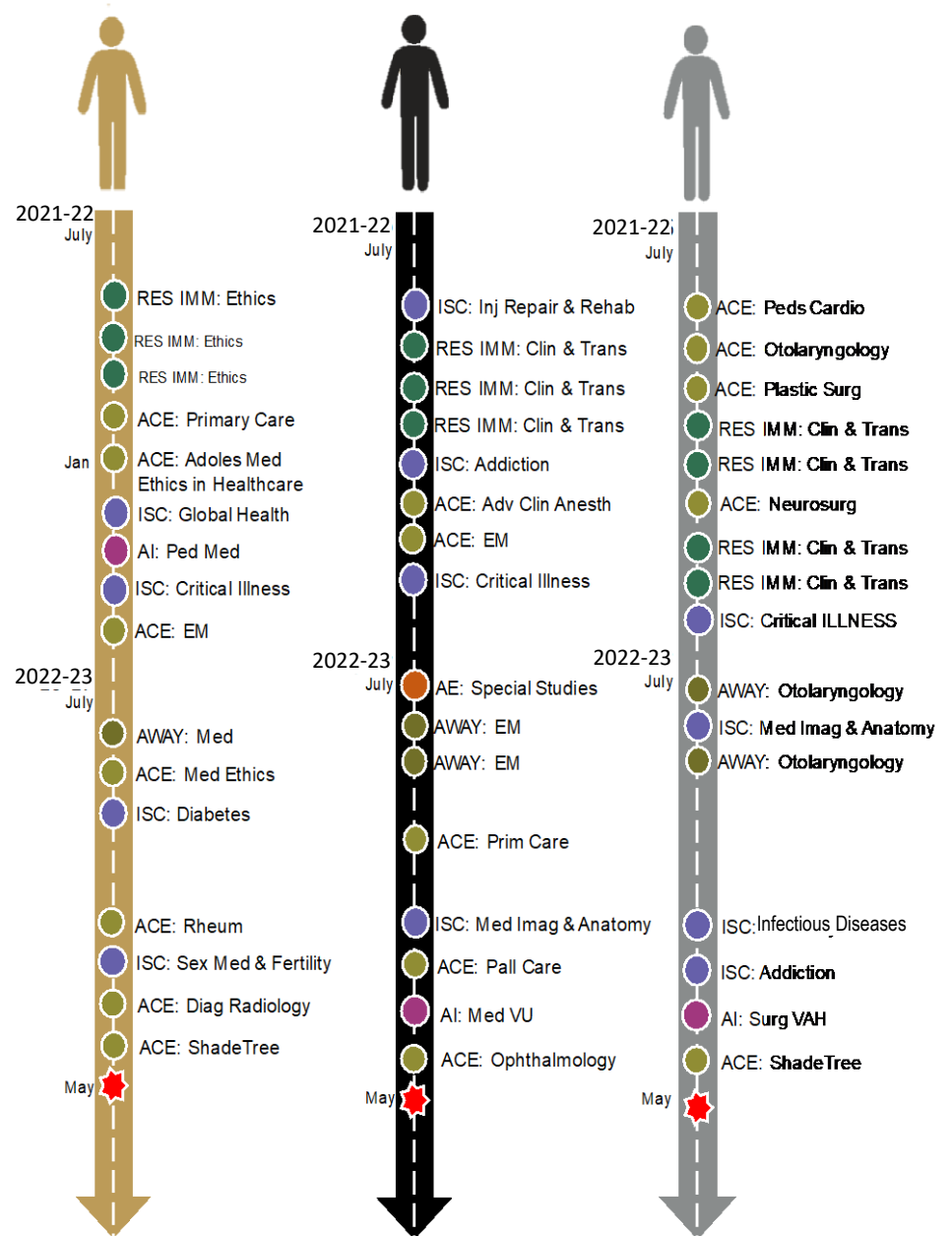
Aug. 26-30, 2024 — Immersion Orientation (Monday), FHD (Tue-Fri)

Mar. 3-7, 2025 — Intro to Core EPAs

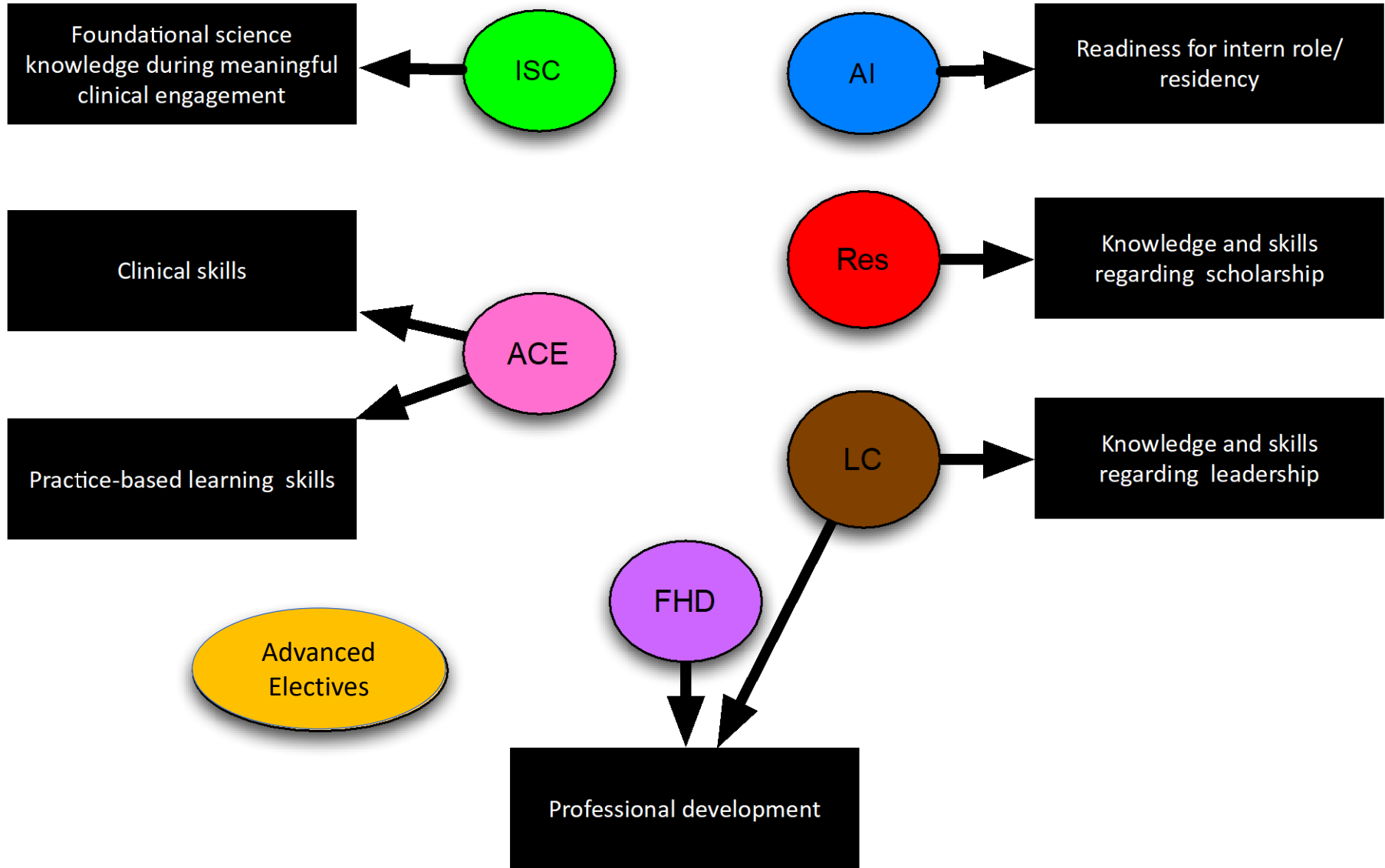
May 5-9, 2025 — FHD: AC2 and IPE1

**Do not submit abstracts to meetings
that occur during mandatory Immersion Weeks**

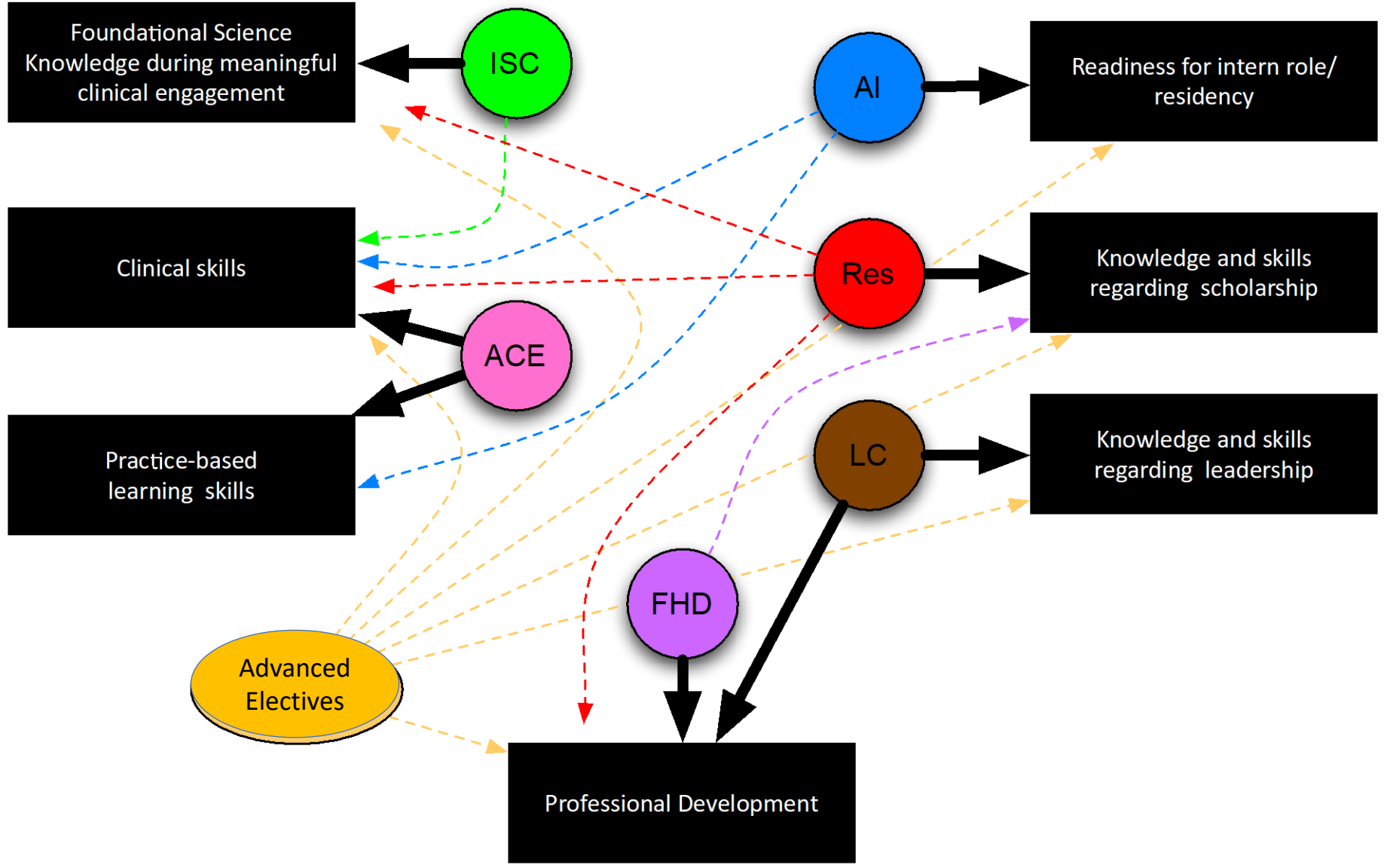
Individualization



Courses Designed to Meet Phase Goals



Courses Designed to Meet Phase Goals



C 2.0 Immersion Phase: Course Types

ACE: Advanced Clinical Experience

- Rigorous clinical experience

ISC: Integrated Science Course

- Didactic and clinical experiences

AI: Acting Internship

- Supervised intern-level responsibilities

AE: Advanced Elective

- Competency- or interest-driven
- Usually non-clinical setting

Special Studies

- Competency- or interest-driven rotation
- Tailored course
- NOT in the catalog



C 2.0 Immersion Phase Requirements (traditional)

Minimum C2.0 Requirements (in Months)		
On-Campus	4	Integrated Science Courses (ISCs)
	1	Acting Internship (AI)
	4	Advanced Clinical Electives (ACEs)
On-Campus or Away (away with approval*)	3	Research Immersion
	3	Competency and Interest-Driven Rotations [#] (can be ISCs, ACEs, AIs or AEs)
15 required months		Must include: 1 Primary Care course 1 Acute Care course (EM or ICU-based course)
7 Flex months		2 months for Step Study + 1 month for interviews + 4 flex months

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/kuali/som-23-24.php#/content/641c91a00e1eed001c5f4678>

ISC, ACE, and AI grading = H/HP/P/F

Students can register for up to 19 months

* No more than two clinical aways for graduation credit

[#]At least one must be clinical rotation

Advanced Clinical Experiences (ACE)

- 4-week clinical rotations designed to develop clinical and practice-based learning skills
- Set of common objectives for all ACEs
- More than 70 ACEs available



The **final grade** is assigned on an H/HP/P/F basis based on milestones and comments

Integrated Science Courses (ISC)



- 4-week rotation designed to reinforce and advance the foundational sciences* underlying clinical medicine
- Innovative mixed didactic/clinical design with multiple learning activities (CELA, CBL, TBL, lectures, conferences, community clinics, etc.)
- Set of common objectives for all ISCs
- The **final grade is assigned on an H/HP/P/F** basis based on quantitative scores, milestones, and comments.

**traditional pre-clerkship sciences as well as social and behavioral sciences, health services and population science, systems science, quantitative methods and informatics.*

Integrated Science Courses

- 1) Cardiovascular Diseases
- 2) Clinical Cancer Medicine
- 3) Clinical Informatics
- 4) Community Health
- 5) Critical Illness
- 6) Diabetes Mellitus
- 7) Disability Competent Care
- 8) Emergency Care
- 9) Global Health
- 10) Healthy Aging and Quality Dying
- 11) High-Value Care
- 12) How Doctors Think
- 13) Infectious Diseases
- 14) Injury, Repair, and Rehabilitation
- 15) LGBTQ+ Health
- 16) Medical Imaging and Anatomy
- 17) A National Crisis: Opioids, Pain, Addiction and Policy
- 18) Sexual Medicine and Reproduction
- 19) The Skinny on Obesity

~50% of total
spots held for
your cohort



Registering for ISCs

- Plan to register for at least 2 and no more than 3 during initial registration
- ISC spots are not held 50/50 in each month, but over the full year
 - Example: VMS4s cannot take April ISCs



Acting Internships (AI)

- A 4-week intensive, inpatient experience designed to provide supervised intern-level responsibilities.
- All time devoted to the AI
 - No holidays
 - No longitudinal courses (No PLAN, FHD, or LC)



Final grade will be assigned as H/HP/P/F based on milestones, Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs), and comments.

Timeline

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Year 3	Step Study					AI Fair	AI Survey & Assignment		AIs Available			
Year 4	AIs Available					Fixed Flex Month for Interviews		AIs available for students who don't need prior to residency applications			Graduation	

Date	Event
Early January	AI preference survey to VMS3s and MSTPs
Mid January	AI preference survey closes
Early February	VMS3s/MSTPs notified of initial assigned AI
Late February	Enrollment visible in YES for current AY
Late April	Self-add/drop for AY24-25 AIs opens



Acting Internships (AI)

- If you need to complete an AI before residency applications: AIs offered March to September
- If you DO NOT need to complete an AI before residency applications: AIs February and March of Y4
- **Initial AI enrollment is NOT through YES.**
 - In November/December, we will have an AI Counseling Session to learn about the options and the process for enrollment.

Advanced Electives (AE)

- 4-week courses that are typically “classroom”-based (most do not count for clinical credit)
- These courses meet the competency- and interest-driven requirement
- Final grade will be assigned as **P/F**

AE: Career Exploration
AE: Contagion of Distress
AE: Ecology and Health
AE: Ethics in Health Care
AE: Global Health
AE: Leadership in Medicine
AE: Med School 101
AE: Preparation for Surgical Internship
AE: Students as Teachers (<i>registration is off-cycle and will occur in winter of 2024</i>)
AE: Transition to Residency and Internship
AE: WikiMed



Special Studies

- Courses that are uniquely designed by the student **in collaboration with Vanderbilt faculty AND** not in the current course catalog
- To receive credit, course must be:
 - Requested at least 28-days in advance
 - 4-weeks long (128 hours minimum)
 - Have learning objectives with multiple assessment modalities
- Fulfill a “competency/interest-driven” requirement

Special Studies

- Final grade will be assigned as **P/F**
(Exception—7100 AWAY Clinical Rotations may be graded as H/HP/P/F)
- Enrollment will explain the process for petition and review at orientation in August

Form #	Course
Form 6100	Petition for Clinical Special Study (at VUSM)
Form 6200	Petition for Non-Clinical Special Study
Form 6150	Petition for Research Special Study (at VUSM)
Form 7100	Petition for Clinical Rotation (Away)
Form 7150	Petition for Research Special Study (Away)

C 2.0 Immersion Phase Requirements (traditional)

Minimum C2.0 Requirements (in Months)		
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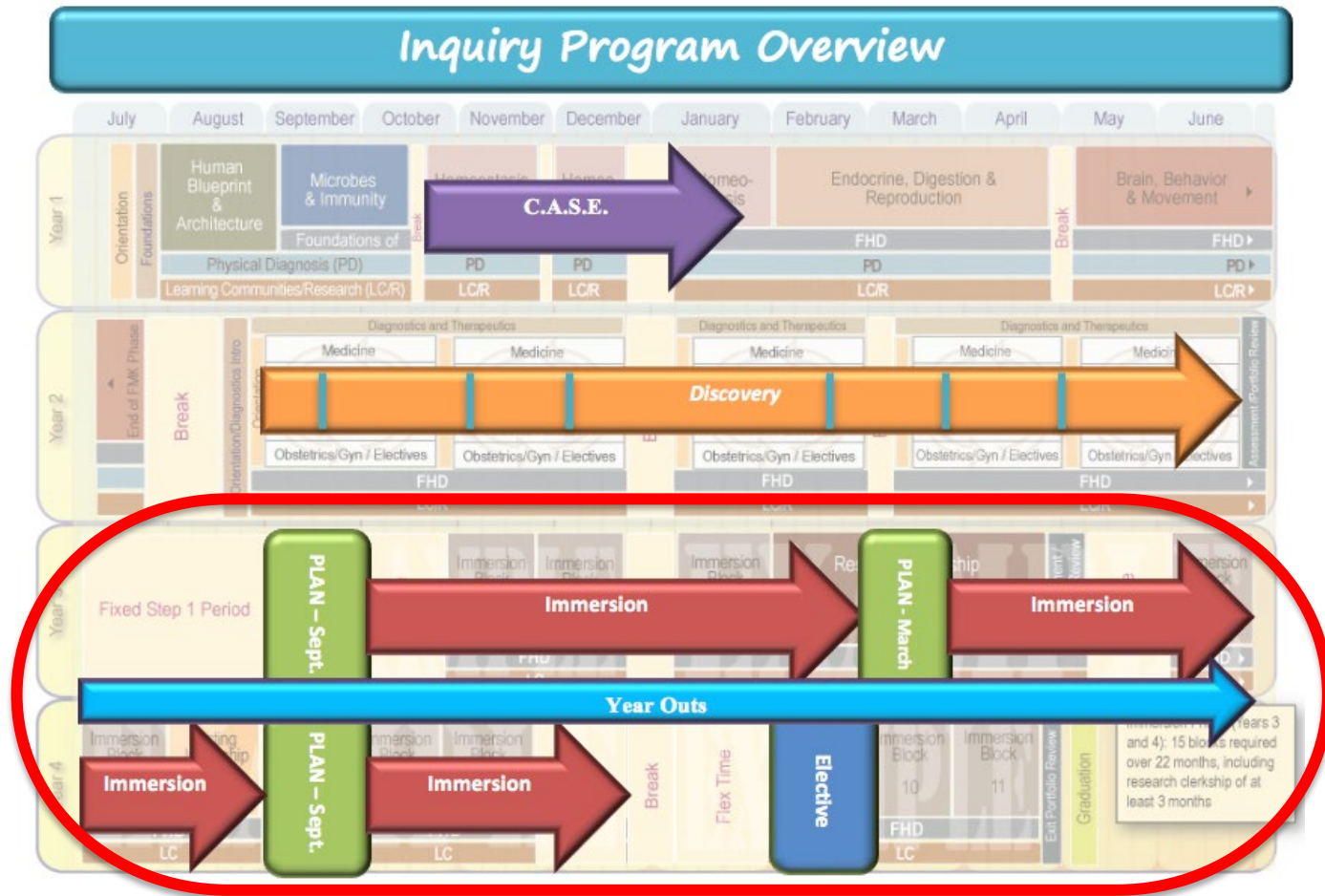
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[#]At least one must be clinical rotation

Inquiry Program

Inquiry Program: Courses During the Immersion Phase



Inquiry Program: PLAN

- September *or* March, Tuesdays, 1pm – 5pm
- Developing a Research Project Plan
 - Work with SGF during class
 - Work with mentors outside of class
 - **Set up your meetings before you leave for STEP studying in July/August of Y3**
 - **WE** register you for PLAN
 - **YOU** Register for **RI months**



Inquiry Program: Research Immersion

- Implement a Mentored Research Project
- Full-time, immersive experience; 3 – 6 blocks
- Expected to be in Nashville
- 2 OMSR meetings per block; 2nd & 4th Weds.
- 1(+) Area meeting per block
- 1 RD 1-1 meeting per block



Inquiry Program:



Important Upcoming Dates:

March 4 – Mentor Meetings & Selection

May 6 – Research Immersion Planning Form

June 3 – IRB or IACUC Approval (P2P6)

FYI:

The Office will register you in **PLAN**

You will register for your **RI** blocks*



C 2.0 Immersion Phase Requirements

Impact of Increasing Research Months

To extend research beyond 3 months:

Student must be in good academic standing and complete an approval process

4 months: Additional research month fulfills one competency/interest-driven rotation

5 months: Additional research month fulfills one competency/interest-driven rotation

6 months: Additional research months fulfill two competency/interest-driven rotations and requires the use of one flex month

Inquiry Program:

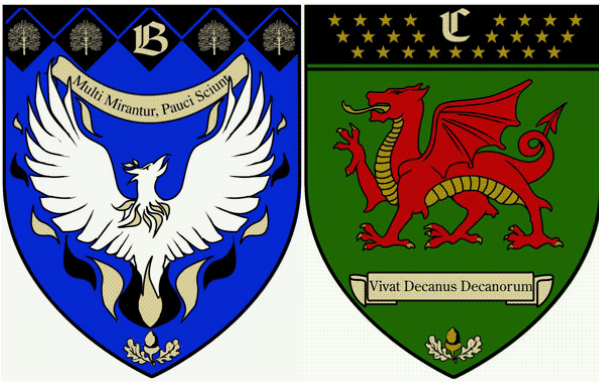
QUESTIONS?

vms.research@vanderbilt.edu

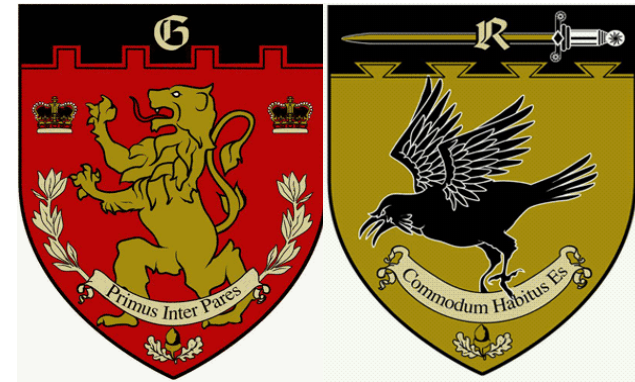
4th floor EBL



Learning Communities



Goals of Learning Communities



- Lead Well
- Practice Morally
- Know Thyself
- Act Responsibly
- Think Critically
- Appreciate Systems

Improving the delivery of ethical, empathetic, well-reasoned healthcare to the populations we serve



Learning Communities

- Meets throughout the Immersion Phase
- 8 LC units, each offered 4 times, over 22-month phase
- Flipped Classroom Structure
 - Pre-session learning modules
 - In-person context talk & college-based discussion groups
- Continued focus on
 - Learning from and with your peers
 - Building community
 - Professional Identity Formation





Learning Communities

- 1) Managing Medical Error
- 2) Lifelong Learning
- 3) Situational Leadership & Followership
- 4) Change Management
- 5) Priority Setting
- 6) Sustaining Well-being in Medicine
- 7) Managing Ambiguity
- 8) Our Social Mission in Medicine





Learning Communities

- Preparation/Participation
 - 6 hours effort per unit (including face-to-face time)
- **Face-to-face** meeting
 - usually the **3rd Monday** of the block
 - 1-3pm and 3-5pm (required, in-person only)
- Pass/Fail based on preparation/participation
- May not enroll: AI, Away, Fixed 4th Yr December Flex
- Must enroll in each unit separately (take with ISC, ACE, Research)
- Months offered:

Sept: Units 1&2

Jan: Units 1&2

Oct: Units 3&4

Feb: Units 3&4

Nov: Units 5&6

Mar: Units 5&6

Dec: Units 7&8

Apr: Units 7&8





Timing of LC sessions



- September (Block 09) → Monday 9/16/24
- October (Block 10) → Monday 10/14/24
- November (Block 11) → Monday 11/11/24
- December (Block 12) → Monday 12/9/24
- **January (Block 01) → Monday 1/27/25**
- February (Block 02) → Monday 2/17/25
- March (Block 03) → Monday 3/24/25
- April (Block 04) → Monday 4/21/25





LC Questions

Please email

elizabeth.a.yakes@Vanderbilt.edu

and

LC@Vanderbilt.edu

Foundations of Health Care Delivery (FHD)

Immersion Phase— Years III & IV

FHD Immersion Courses – 10 units

- August Immersion Week – 3rd year
 1. Public Health & Prevention (PHP)
 2. Advanced Communication (AC1)
- May Immersion Week – 3rd year
 3. Advanced Communication 2 (AC2)
 4. Interprofessional Education 1 (IPE1)
- March Immersion Week – 4th year
 5. Health Care Policy & Economics (HCPE)

1

Advanced Communications 1 and Public Health and Prevention
(Intro to Immersion Phase week)

2

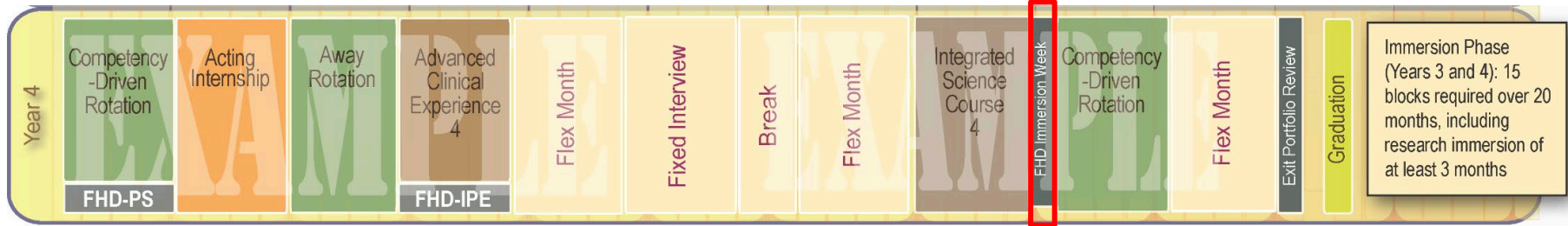
Advanced Communications 2 and Interprofessional Education 1
(3rd year spring FHD Immersion)



5 of the FHD units are completed during week-long FHD Immersions – you will be auto-registered

3

Health Care Policy and Economics
(4th year winter FHD Immersion)



Immersion Phase (Years 3 and 4): 15 blocks required over 20 months, including research immersion of at least 3 months

FHD Immersion Courses – 10 units

- August Immersion Week – 3rd year
 1. Public Health & Prevention (PHP)
 2. Advanced Communication (AC1)
- May Immersion Week – 3rd year
 3. Advanced Communication 2 (AC2)
 4. Interprofessional Education 1 (IPE1)
- March Immersion Week – 4th year
 5. Health Care Policy & Economics (HCPE)
- Paired Rotations (w/ ISCs and ACEs)
 6. Interprofessional Education 2 (IPE2)
 7. Patient Safety (PS)
 - 8-10. Quality Improvement (QI1-3)



FHD Immersion Course Information

5 units are completed longitudinally, mostly during 3rd year

- Paired with a primary rotation (ISC, ACE, AE)
- Tuesdays from 1-5 pm
- 20 hours effort per unit
- Primarily self-directed, asynchronous learning
 - Patient Safety and IPE have CELA requirements
 - QI courses – all meetings are virtual
- You are responsible for self-registering:
 - Order of courses does not matter EXCEPT in QI
 - Can only take ONE FHD unit each block
- **One or two face-to-face meetings (varies by course)**



1

Advanced Communications 1 and Public Health and Prevention

2

Advanced Communications 2 and Interprofessional Education 1 (3rd year spring FHD Immersion)



4

QI 1-3 & PS longitudinally during phase IPE2 fulfilled either via one month longitudinal or other approved experience*

3

Healthcare Economics and Policy (4th year winter FHD Immersion)



Immersion Phase (Years 3 and 4): 15 blocks required over 20 months, including research immersion of at least 3 months

*Such as Nicaragua, Shade Tree elective, VPIL, or other approved interprofessional experience

FHD Immersion Course Offerings

AY 22-23 Immersion Phase

Time reserved for FHD: Immersion Phase is Tuesday afternoons, 1-5p

Course	IDIS	Section 7	Section 8	Section 9	Section 10	Section 11	Section 12	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	
Immersion Weeks	5741(I) 5743(II) 5744(III)		VMS3: 5741* (6/28,6/29;8/30) AC1/PHP						VMS4: 5744 (1/31-2/4) HCPE			VMS3: 5743 (5/2-5/6) AC2/IPE1		
Course	IDIS	Tuesday Face-to-Face Sessions												
IPE2**	5722	4th Tuesday 1-5p		X				X	X				X	
QI	5716 (Longitudinal Course)													
QI1	5751	1st Tuesday 1-2p	X					X						
QI2	5752	1st Tuesday 2-3p	X					X						
QI3***	5753	4th Tuesday from 1-3p	X					X						
PS	5714	1st & 4th Tuesdays 3-4p	X					X						

Course Offered
Course Not Offered

FHD Immersion Course Specifics

- Pass/Fail Grading (except QI)
- All FHD Immersion Weeks have **mandatory in-person** attendance.
 - PHP/AC1: Dates TBD
 - IPE1/AC2: Dates TBD
 - HCE&P: Dates TBD
- Can fulfill IPE2 requirement via approved experience: Global Health Nicaragua, Shade Tree, VPIL

*** IPE and Patient Safety content covered on Step 2 exam***

QI Courses

- Grading: Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail
- **QI 1-3 via three 1-month longitudinal units**

You must have QI1-3 completed prior by Block 10 (October) prior to graduation

- QI Symposium in February 2022 featuring your projects!



What do I need to do?

- Attend the 3 longitudinal weeks
- Schedule IPE2, PS, and QI1-3 during your immersion phase by October of your last year
- Blocks can be taken concurrent with most courses (but not PLAN)

FHD Immersion Course Information

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/fhd/foundations-of-health-care-delivery-immersion-phase/curriculum/>

Lots of additional information on our website:

- Immersion course prerequisites and pairing suggestions
- Dual degree equivalencies for MBA/MPH students
- Links to all syllabi
- Wiki of QI projects
- Course policy details (add/drop, group work, etc.)

FHD Immersion Website – MD Gateway

Foundations of Health Care Delivery (FHD)

FHD 1 & 2

- ◉ [FHD1 Course Syllabus](#)
- ◉ [FHD1 Calendar](#)
- ◉ [FHD2: Course Syllabus](#)
- ◉ [FHD2: Calendar](#)

FHD Immersion

- ◉ [Calendar Overview AY21-22](#)
- ◉ [Longitudinal Course Offerings AY21-22](#)
- ◉ Syllabi
 - ◉ [IPE2](#)
 - ◉ [Patient Safety](#)
- ◉ [Dual Degree Equivalencies for MBA and MPH \(updated 6/18/20\)](#)

**If previous syllabi/calendars are needed, email fhd@vanderbilt.edu.*

FHD Quality Improvement (QI)

- ◉ [Welcome to Quality Improvement](#)
- ◉ [QI Master Syllabus](#)
- ◉ [QI Medical Student Survival Guide](#)
- ◉ [QI Final Student Projects \(updated 7/2/21\)](#)

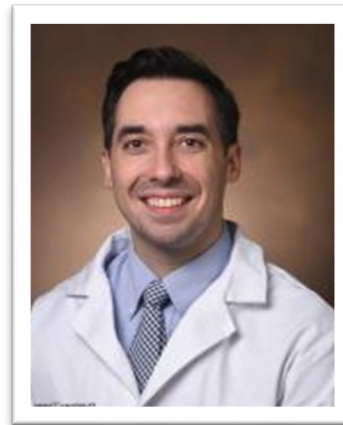
Course Directors



Heather Ridinger, MD, MHPE
Assistant Professor of
Internal Medicine



Kurt Smith, MD
Associate Professor of
Emergency Medicine



Ryan Buckley, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical
Medicine



John Graves, PhD
Associate Professor of
Health Policy
Dept. of Health Policy

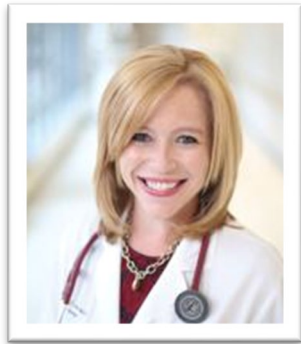
fhd@vanderbilt.edu

Block Directors

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety



Brian Bales, MD, DTMH
Assistant Professor of
Emergency Medicine

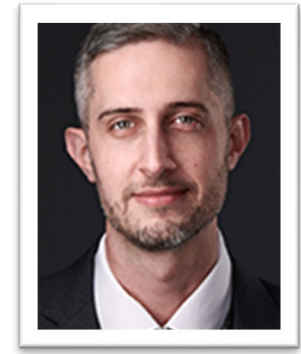


Martha Presley, JD, MD
Assistant Professor of
Clinical Medicine

Health Policy & Economics



John Graves, PhD
Associate Professor
Health Policy



Kevin Griffith, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health Policy

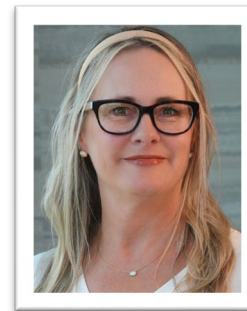
New Block Directors for AC1 and
PHP to be Announced Soon!

Advanced Communication 2

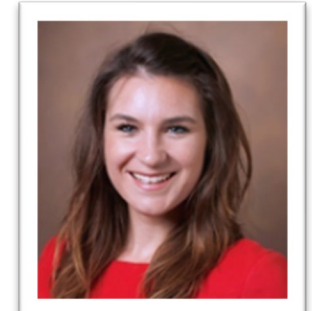
Center for Patient and
Professional Advocacy

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Interprofessional Education



Jennifer Hunt, DNP, RN, CNE
Assistant Professor of Nursing
Vanderbilt School of Nursing



Natalie McCall, MD
Assistant Professor of
Medicine

Administrative Staff



Program Manager
Jared Austin



Program Coordinator
Lia Nagge



Program Coordinator
Reilly Wade

Eskind Biomedical Library (EBL) – 4th Floor
fhd@vanderbilt.edu

C2.0 Longitudinal Requirements Summary

Longitudinal Course Requirements				
Foundations of Health Care Delivery—10 units		Learning Communities—8 units	Research—3 months	
5 taken as 4-week courses (self-enroll)	5 units completed during week-long Immersion Weeks	All taken as 4 week-courses (self-enroll)	PLAN Required	3-6 block Research Immersion

Careers in Medicine

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-gateway/pathway-to-match/>

Pathway to Match

Timeline

September – December

- Begin the immersion phase of the curriculum. Use this time to continue exploring career opportunities and spending time in areas of interest.
- Start thinking about dual degree and year-out programs.

January – March

- Select faculty advisors and schedule initial and follow-up visits with them.

April

- Write [curriculum vitae \(CV\)](#) and begin working on [personal statement](#).

May

- Send your college mentor your CV and personal statement via email for review prior to your [MSPE](#) appointment.
- Arrange MSPE interview with the Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs - do this early and have CV and personal statement ready by time of interview.
- Upload your "Noteworthy Characteristics" to the MSPE online system no later than 2 weeks prior to your MSPE appointment.
- Begin gathering residency information.
- [Military match](#) – check deadlines, even if applying for deferments.



VMS2 Registration Timeline

You are here



Meet with your Coach (3/11-3/29):
You will upload your schedule template to review with your coach

Feb March April May June July Aug Sept

2/13 3/6 3/28 4/1 4/8 4/15 4/24 8/26-30



Elective Counseling:
Planning Your Imm
Phase Reg & ISC Fair
at 5:15p



Rising VMS3
Elective Counseling:
Imm Phase Intro

How to
Register
March 28
at 5 pm

Registration opens
for rising VMS4
April 8 at 6 pm

Registration opens for
rising VMS4 MSTPs
April 1 at 6 pm

Registration opens
for rising VMS3
April 15 at 6 pm

Registration reopens
for ALL
April 24 at midnight

Immersion
Phase 2024-25
begins

Immersion Phase
Orientation and
FHD AC1 & PHP for
VMS3



Opportunities for course/elective counseling

Questions?

Please direct questions related to the overall phase to:

Immersion.Phase@Vanderbilt.Edu

Research: vms.research@vanderbilt.edu

FHD: fhd@vanderbilt.edu

LC: LC@vanderbilt.edu

