

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM)

Policy:	International Student Elective
Subject:	Diversity
Administrator:	D. Trinkle
Rev.:	2
Original date:	11/7/2013
Revision dates:	11/10/2016

1 Purpose

To promote social and cultural understanding of international health care models and systems, and specific needs and challenges of international communities through collaborative rotations and exchanges of VTCSOM medical students to locations throughout the world. All International Student exchanges will be undertaken in service to the VTCSOM overall mission of educating and graduating Physician Thought Leaders who will have a broad, empathic, and culturally aware world view of their role as a physician. This will include a significant understanding of health care practices in various systems that are facing differing needs both clinically and financially. Students will be encouraged to work as part of interprofessional health care teams and to participate in international electives that align with their career interests, research, and desire for community service.

2 Policy

1. This policy is to be followed in conjunction with the International Student Elective Procedure (SOP) document and the Medical Education Policy: Elective Policy and Procedure.
2. This policy does not apply to students traveling internationally on vacation or on own time but may be used as a guide.
3. Students must be in good academic standing in order to be eligible to participate.
4. International Rotations are restricted to the fourth year of medical school, or may occur in year 3 with special permission.
5. To ensure an appropriate learning environment and sound educational program, VTCSOM requires a Memorandum of Understanding with the host site prior to departure.
6. Applications to participate are due to the Office of the Associate Dean for Community and Culture not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the expected departure date.
7. Funding for students and faculty to participate in international rotations is the obligation of the participant(s). Additional VTCSOM funds, including federal financial aid, are not available to support student and faculty travel. Students may not borrow additional funds (loans) that would result in exceeding the established cost of attendance. Certain international sites offer scholarship funding awarded by application to defray some of the costs of travel.
8. Proof of travel insurance is required as part of the application.
9. Students are required to follow the local health department and/or Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for immunizations and health screenings prior to, and upon return from, travel.
10. All travel must be completed two days prior to the start of the next rotation.

11. VTCSOM does not allow driving while on site participating in an approved global health elective. VTCSOM also does not allow use of motorcycle or moped taxis offered at many international sites. Many of the specific sites have their own rules that must be followed complementing our rules of no driving or riding on motorcycles.
12. The goals and objectives of the international rotation must meet the minimum requirements of the credit hour policy.

For purposes of the application of this policy and in accordance with federal regulations, a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates:

- a. Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or
- b. At least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined in item 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practice, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

3 Tables

Table 1:

Time Period	Contact Hours	Earned Credit Hour	Learning Modality
Block I	25.5	1	Lecture, Lab, Small
Block II	25.5	1	Groups, Patient
Block III	25.5	1	Contact, and
Block IV	25.5	1	Assessment
Year 1 Research	23	1	Independent Study
Block V	28.5	1	Lecture, Lab, Small
Block VI	28.5	1	Groups, Patient
Block VII	28.5	1	Contact, and
Block VIII	28.5	1	Assessment
Block IX	29.5	1	Independent Study, Step 1 Prep
Block X	80	1	Clinical Rotations
Block XI	80	1	

Note: The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) limits contact hours to 80 per week. Students are given one credit per week of clinical experience in Years 3 and 4.

Table 2:

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine Summary of Contact Hour to Credit Hour Conversion 2012 - 2016	Total Hours	Conv. Factor	Credit Hours	# of Weeks
Orientation	25	25.5	1	
Block I	280	25.5	11	
Block II	280	25.5	11	

Total Semester One	585		23	21
Block III	280	25.5	11	
Block IV	280	25.5	11	
Research	120	40	3	
Total Semester 2	680		25	23
Block V	228	28.5	8	
Block VI	228	28.5	8	
Block VII	228	28.5	8	
Total Semester Three	684		24	24
Block VIII	228	28.5	8	
Block IX (Research and USMLE Step 1 prep)	560	29.5	19	
Total Semester Four	788		27	22
Total Year Three	3,840	80	48	48
Total Year Four	2,720	80	34	42
Grand Total MD Program	6,560		181	180

Review

This policy shall be subject to review at least once every three years, or upon curriculum revision, whichever occurs first.