

**Special Projects in Medicine
MED 780**

1. INTRODUCTION

Faculty within the Department of Internal Medicine recognize the importance of providing a student with an opportunity to pursue independent learning of special topics otherwise not represented in the curriculum. This course was created to permit the student to create a medicine special topic study experience to meet individual study and/or career interest needs.

2. COURSE INFORMATION/STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Special Topics is a graded 2-4 week course in which prior approval for registration must be granted by the department's chairman. The number of credit weeks will be determined in part by the planned activities and study proposal submitted by the student. The course location is the Byrd Clinical Center and/or Marshall University Medical Center. The student assumes the responsibilities of determining the content and organization of this course. The student must be an independent learner and able to function under limited supervision. The key contacts for this course are:

Course director and contact information:

Dr. Mehiar El-Hamdani, Internal Medicine Department Chairman;
elhamdani@marshall.edu

MUSOM Course coordinator and contact information:

Brittani Ruiz, 304-691-1739; ruizb@marshall.edu

3. COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This Special Topics in Medicine Course will provide the student with a better understanding of a selected topic of study.

4. COURSE GRADE MODE: HONORS/PASS/FAIL

5. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The student will be responsible for preparing a special topic proposal that includes the following indicated sections:
1. Topic/Project: The student must detail the topic/ project of interest and explain why she/he is interested in the topic/project.
 2. Purpose and Objectives: What is it that the student hopes to accomplish? The student must also explain which institutional objectives will be affected by the project and provide details about what is expected to be accomplished.
 3. Procedures: The student must explain clearly and concisely the method by which the student will proceed i.e., attendance at seminars and/or lectures, site visits, written essay(s) or reviews, presentation(s), laboratory reports, a grant proposal, examinations, a clinical practice workload that is monitored, etc. In conjunction with the student's sponsoring faculty, a clear indication of how the course grade shall be assessed must be provided.
 4. Outcomes: What will be the tangible results of the study (papers, reports, products or summaries)? Who will receive copies? Will there be a formal presentation? If so, how will it be evaluated?

- B. The student must meet with sponsoring faculty and refine topic proposal.
- C. The student must revise the proposal as necessary; secure the signatures of sponsoring faculty and submit the signed copy of the plan to the department's chairman for approval.

5. **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

At the completion of this course, the student will have indicated if the following Institutional Objectives are met by demonstrating the denoted competencies:

- A. Medical Knowledge-** The student will identify a special topic to study and enhance basic knowledge and its application of the special topic to patient care.

Outcome Measurement- The student will work with faculty to determine the appropriate outcome measurement.

- B. Patient Care-** The student will demonstrate if the project affects patient care.

Outcome Measurement- The student will work with faculty to determine the appropriate outcome measurement.

- C. Practice Based Learning and Improvement-** The student is expected to develop skills and habits to be able to meet the following where appropriate:

- Identification of strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge and expertise
- Set learning goals
- Identification and performance of appropriate learning activities
- Location, appraise, and assimilation of evidence from scientific studies related to their special topic
- Use information technology to optimize learning

Outcome Measurement- The student will work with faculty to determine the appropriate outcome measurement.

- D. System based Practice-** The student will work with faculty to determine applicability of the following to their special topic :

- Whether the special topic impacts various health care delivery settings and systems
- Impact of the coordination of patient care within the health care system
- Possible cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis
- Impact upon patient safety and possible improvement of patient care quality
- Identification of system errors as part of performance improvement activities and contribution to the development and implementation of potential systems solutions.

Outcome Measurement- The student will work with faculty to determine the appropriate outcome measurement.

- E. Interpersonal and Communication Skills-** The student is expected to communicate effectively with the faculty member and the Department of Internal Medicine faculty and other appropriate parties.

Outcome Measurement- The student will work with faculty to determine the appropriate outcome measurement.

- F. Professionalism-** The student is expected to demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others. The student must demonstrate accountability in being able to work independently and in meeting established deadlines and timelines. The student is also expected to attend all activities as assigned on time, dress professionally and answer pagers and emails in a reasonable time frame.

Outcome Measurement- The student will work with faculty to determine the appropriate outcome measurement.

6. STUDENT ASSESSMENT FOR SPECIAL TOPICS

The student's evaluation will be based, but not be limited to, the following factors:

- Submission of a detailed special topics course plan. The plan must incorporate the components as indicated above.
- Promptness of timely submissions and completion of special topics assignments and readings and attendance to activities and events as assigned by the faculty sponsor and Associate Director for Medical Education.
- Professionalism
- Demonstration of knowledge and skills obtained during completion of this course

The grade assigned shall be either Pass/Fail. If the course is not completed, a grade of Incomplete shall be issued. **Remediation is at the discretion of the sponsoring faculty member.**

7. MUJCESOM Policies: All medical students taking this course will comply with School of Medicine policies given at <http://musom.marshall.edu/students/policies>. Individual policies can be found at the following websites:

Student Infectious Material Exposure: <http://musom.marshall.edu/ups/postexposure.asp>

MS-IV Attendance: <https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/policies/Yr4attendance.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

<https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/policies/Standards-of-Professionalism-and-Honor-Code.pdf>

Academic Standards Policy: <https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/Policies/ASC-FINAL-POLICY.pdf>

Policy for Students with Disabilities:

<https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/Guidelines.pdf>

University Computing Services' Acceptable Use Policy:

<http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/CS/accptuse.asp>

Affirmative Action Policy: pp. 16-17,

http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/Graduate/S2008/gr_sp08.pdf

Incllement Weather Policy: <https://musom.marshall.edu/students/documents/policies/MUSOM-Incllement-Weather-Policy.pdf>

Notification of delays and cancellations of classes are posted on the Medical Education Home Page when Marshall University Main Campus is not in session

<https://musom.marshall.edu/weather>

8. TEXTBOOKS/READING ASSIGNMENTS

Due to the nature of this course, the required reading will be dependent upon the student's special topic.