

Criteria for Awarding Clinical Credit for an Elective Course

To be eligible for clinical credit, an elective rotation must meet the following requirements:

1. Accredited Institution

The clinical elective course must be conducted at an educational institution that is appropriately accredited by the: Liaison Committee on medical Education (LCME <https://lcme.org/directory/>), or Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA <https://osteopathic.org/about/affiliated-organizations/osteopathic-medical-schools/>) or the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG, *World Directory of Medical Schools* www.wdoms.org) or the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) (<https://www.acgme.org/>).

2. Supervision and Oversight

Supervision of medical students must comply with the M3/4 Clinical supervision of Medical Students (UCF COM Policy 9.3.1), which specifies that at all times, there will be timely access to, and site-of-care availability of the supervising health care professional. The supervising faculty will at all times be physically present within the hospital or other site of patient care to provide guidance, feedback, and formal evaluation.

3. Clinical Time Requirement

Attendance of clinical duties during clinical electives must comply with the M3/M4 Attendance Policy 8.8.2, which specifies that students are allowed to take an excused absence for 1 day (for a 2 week rotation) and 2 days (for a 4 week rotation). Clinical duty hours must meet Duty Hours policy 8.8.1. with a minimum of 40 clinical hours per week, and a maximum of 80 hours per week, averaged over a 4-week period.

4. Active Clinical Participation and Access to Medical Records

Participation in clinical activities must meet the M3 procedures for clinical duties and access to Electronic Medical Records. The student must have a primary, hands-on role in the care of patients. Observership only experiences do not qualify. Active participation includes, but is not limited to: conducting medical histories and physical examinations; developing differential diagnoses; recommending appropriate diagnostic tests and/or therapeutic interventions; performing clinical procedures under supervision.

Students must have access to patient clinical information within the medical record to support documentation, clinical reasoning, and continuity of care. Whenever possible, efforts should be made to provide students with write access in a designated student section of the medical record to allow for the development and practice of clinical documentation skills.

Note: Additional criteria for international electives:

Safety Considerations

To ensure student safety during elective rotations, the following procedures must be followed regarding travel advisories:

- a. Restricted Travel – Level 4 Advisory. If the elective is located in a country or region designated as a *Level 4 – "Do Not Travel"* area by the U.S. Department of State, the elective will not be approved for academic credit or University endorsement. The University cannot provide assurances regarding student safety in areas with known and credible threats and will not support or sponsor travel to such locations for any University-related activity.
- b. Conditional Travel – Level 1–3 Advisories. If the elective is located in a country or region with a *Level 1–3 travel advisory*, the student must consult with UCF Global to assess the risk and receive guidance regarding the feasibility and safety of travel. Approval for travel to Level 1–3 locations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, factoring in the nature of the advisory, planned activities, and institutional support at the destination.

Availability

International clinical electives will be provided to M4 medical students to ensure that participants have the necessary clinical experience, professionalism, and maturity to engage safely and meaningfully in diverse healthcare settings. M4 students are better equipped to provide value to host institutions, navigate ethical and cultural complexities, and align the elective with their career goals. This approach also supports patient safety, reduces institutional risk, and promotes responsible use of global health resources. In rare circumstances, M3 international electives may be granted clinical credit.

Acting Internship

International clinical rotations do NOT meet acting internships criteria. Acting internships (also known as sub-internships) are critical components of the final year of medical school, designed to prepare students for the transition to residency by providing structured, hands-on clinical responsibilities that simulate those of an intern. Clinical experiences outside the United States, while often valuable for cultural and global health exposure, may not offer the standardized oversight, assessment methods, or learning environment necessary to meet the expectations of an acting internship. Exceptions to this policy will not be granted.