

Elective Description

Campus: Southeast (Fargo)
Elective/Experience Title: Family Medicine
Location of Elective: Oakes, N D

Department: Family & Community Medicine
Course Number: FMED 9201-06

Preceptor(s): Tara Mertz-Hack, MD
Period(s) Offered: All
Number of students per period: 1

Purpose: To provide education and experience in the care of rural-based patients and families, and to advance the student's knowledge and skills in providing care in a rural setting.

Objectives: Following successful completion of this elective, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate and manage a broad spectrum of acute problems encountered in a diverse population of all ages.
2. Participate in the management of chronic disease conditions such as diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension.
3. Present patient encounters to the preceptor in an effective manner and appropriately document these encounters in the medical record.
4. Discuss the patient's disease process with the patient and the attending physician.
5. Apply preventive medicine concepts in daily patient management.
6. Participate in daily clinical procedures that are performed in an ambulatory health care setting.
7. Participate in the management of continuity-of-care patient problems following hospitalization.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the capabilities and limitations of clinical resources in a rural clinical/hospital or home setting.

Instructional Activities: During this elective, the student will be involved in/experience:

1. Evaluation and management of patients in the outpatient clinic and inpatient hospital.
2. Interpretation of tests such as EKGs, X-rays, and labs.
3. Reading of current literature pertinent to patients seen in the clinic.
4. Assisting with minor procedures including, but not limited to, casting, skin lesion removal, suturing, and joint/soft tissue injections.
5. Practice management responsibilities, including utilization of resources.
6. Continuity-of-care patient management from clinic throughout the rural health delivery system.
7. Informal didactics and case presentations.
8. As indicated or needed, work with other physicians in the community.

Criteria for Grading: During and following this elective, the preceptor will:

1. Judge by direct observation the student's ability to perform an appropriate history and physical examination.
2. Evaluate the student's clinical aptitude based on ability to diagnose and manage common medical conditions.
3. Assess the student's understanding of common disease states by observation of care presentations and discussions of selected clinical topics.
4. Judge by direct observation the student's ability to effectively and concisely communicate verbally and in writing.
5. Complete the standard UNDSMHS senior elective form.