Elective Description

Campus: Northeast (Grand Forks)  
Department: Family Medicine

Elective/Experience Title: Family Medicine  
Course Number: 9301-04

Location of Elective: Altru Clinic Lake Region – Devils Lake, ND  

Preceptor(s): Heidi Bittner, MD & Derek Wayman, MD

Period(s) Offered: All

Number of students per period: 1

Purpose: To provide education and experience in the care of patients in a community family medicine 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. Manage chronic disease conditions such as diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension.
3. Present patient encounters in an effective manner and document appropriately in the medical record.
4. Address preventive medicine aspects of health care delivery.
5. Perform clinical procedures in an ambulatory health care setting.
7. Describe the unique aspects of practicing medicine in a rural setting.

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

1. Evaluation and management of patients in the outpatient clinic.
2. Interpretation of test 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, vasectomy, colposcopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, dermatologic procedures, and joint/sift tissue injections.
5. Exposure to practice management, including utilization of resources and supervision of provider schedules.
6. Continuity-of-care patient management from clinic or emergency room to operating room, obstetrics/delivery, or med/surg unit, as appropriate.
7. Informal didactics and case presentations.
8. Exposure to unique aspects of rural medicine.

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

1. Utilize the standardized UNDSMHS senior elective evaluation form.
2. Judge by direct observation the student’s ability to perform and appropriate history and examination.
3. Evaluate by direct observation the student’s ability to diagnose and manage common clinical conditions.
4. Evaluate the student’s understanding of common disease states by observation of case presentations and discussions of selected clinical topics.
5. Judge by direct observation the student’s ability to work as member of an integrated health team.
6. Judge by direct observation the student’s ability to effectively and concisely communicate verbally and in writing.