Elective Description

Campus:  All Campuses (Fargo)  
Elective Title:  Children with Special Health Care Needs  
Location of Elective:  Anne Carlson Center for Children - Jamestown, ND

Preceptor(s):  Myra Quanrud, MD  
Period(s) offered:  All  
Number of students per period:  1

Purpose:  To provide education and experience in the care of medically fragile children with special health care needs.

Objectives:  Following successful completion of this elective, the student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of primary care and “well child” issues for children with special needs.
2. Describe significant developmental issues for children with special needs.
3. To assess developmental delay and explain the initial work-up of children with problems of development.
4. Describe the challenges and the needs of the parents of a child with exceptional needs.

Instructional Activities:  During this elective, the student will be involved in/experience:
1. Morning rounds discussing daily care issues with preceptor at the Anne Carlsen Center for Children.  Afternoon therapy sessions/classroom with children (self-monitored time).
2. The evaluation of two or three complex patients to include:
   a. One multiply-handicapped medically fragile student at Anne Carlsen Center
   b. One behavioral (autistic, etc.) student or medically sturdy student
   c. One outpatient/community student at Anne Carlsen Center
3. Complete a case write-up of each case worked up by the student, including a brief summary of the handicapping conditions and medical complications and a discussion of impact on the child and family.  This will also address the medical and social needs and the prognosis for the future.
4. Weekly sessions in the physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy departments, plus spend two hours per day in one of these therapy departments spread over the elective time, to cover all areas.
5. Discussion of selected journal articles and textbook reading as assigned by preceptor.

Criteria for Grading:  During and following this elective, the preceptor will:
1. Evaluate the quality of the completed assignments and tasks.
2. Evaluate the quality of the discussions and oral presentations of the assigned preceptor’s patient cases.
3. Evaluate by direct observation student’s professional behavior.
4. Evaluate student’s ability to research the medical literature.
5. Evaluate the quality of the written comprehensive evaluation of the complex care assignments.
6. Utilize the standardized UNDSMHS senior elective evaluation form.