UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences
University of North Dakota

Elective Description

Campus: Southeast (Fargo)
Department: Surgery
Elective/Experience Title: General Surgery
Course Number: SURG 9201-02
Location of Elective: Essentia Health – Fargo, ND

Preceptor(s): Brian Dees, MD; Zachary Ernst, MD; Joshua Gebur, MD; & Dustin Nowotny, MD; Lucas Holkup, MD

Period(s) Offered: All
Course Prerequisites: Completion of Surgery Clerkship
Number of students per period: 1-2 students per period
Revised Curriculum Phase(s): 2 & 3

Purpose: To provide education and experience in advanced general surgery care in an inpatient /outpatient setting.

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

1. Execute basic operative principles and techniques.
   (Competency 3.6)
2. Classify surgically treated diseases and provide care for the surgical patient.
   (Competency 2.1, 2.5, 2.7)
3. Execute the collection of relevant history of present illness and performance of a surgery focused physical examination.
   (Competency 3.1)
4. Generate a working diagnosis, and correlate this working diagnosis with operative and pathological findings.
   (Competency 3.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3)
5. Summarize and execute basic principles of surgical critical care.
   (Competency 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)
6. Successfully execute the ABCs of trauma care.
   (Competency 3.5, 3.6)
7. Summarize information contained in assigned readings.
   (Competency 1.3, 1.6, 1.8)
8. Choose to complete all elective related tasks in a professional manner.
   (Competency 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 7.2, 7.4)

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

1. Assisting with preoperative and postoperative care of surgical patients and participating with the preceptor in daily hospital rounds.
2. Scrubbing in the operating room in the role of first assistant and participating in instructional activities related to basic surgical technique and interventions.
3. Completion of and discussing daily reading assignments.
4. Participating in outpatient surgical care.

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

1. Through discussion with the student evaluate the student's understanding of assigned reading *(objective 7).*
2. Evaluate by direct observation and from team member feedback the student's professionalism *(objective 8).*
3. Evaluate by direct observation the quality of the student's clinical and surgical skills *(objective 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).*
4. Utilize the standardized UNDSMHS senior elective evaluation form.

Modified and Approved: P2P3C 11.9.21 & UMEC 11.24.21
Updated Fall 2025