



What to expect in your first year at Hopkins

Week 1

The first week of school will be orientation activities and the Health Care Disparities and Service Learning Intersession. This one-week course provides a great introduction to the rich culture and challenges of East Baltimore and allows you to participate in service learning with your peers. It is an excellent opportunity not only to get to know your classmates in an active setting, but also to jump start your involvement in the Baltimore community.

MONTHS 1-4

Following the Health Care Disparities and Service Learning Intersession, the first four months of classes are the Foundation Block. This includes Scientific Foundations, Clinical Foundations, and Public Health Foundations. Classes begin with seven weeks of anatomy running concurrently with Clinical Foundations. Anatomy provides the quintessential medical school experience, while Clinical Foundations provides you with patient contact from “day 1.” Once you have finished the 7 weeks of anatomy, you will begin Public Health Foundations, which will introduce issues in global health, health policy, injury prevention, interaction with the pharmaceutical and other industries, etc.

MONTHS 5-10

In January of Year 1, the course Genes to Society begins. GTS is a systems-based course, which will teach organ system around the ideas of genetics, biology, physiology, and the impact that social, community, and environmental issues have on the health and well-being of individuals. You will get to participate in the Longitudinal Clerkship one half-day a week. This clerkship places you in an outpatient or community setting with a faculty preceptor. You will have direct contact with patients and be able to use what you learned in Clinical Foundations, as well as develop more advanced patient care techniques.

During this time, you will also have the opportunity to choose your Scholarly Concentration. Working with faculty mentors, you will choose a topic of interest to you that you would like to explore in detail. This could be in the realm of basic science, public health, community service, history of medicine, medical humanities, ethics, or clinical research. At the end of Year 2, a final paper on your scholarly concentration will provide you with an opportunity to describe the work you have done.

WHAT ARE INTERSESSIONS?

Every few months throughout the entire curriculum you will have one-week Intersessions. Intersessions in Year 1 are focused on Health Disparities (mentioned above), Prevention, Global Health, Pain care, and Disaster Management. During these weeks you will have the opportunity to break away from the organ-based class work and focus on advanced clinical skills, simulation experiences, and your scholarly concentration.

DO I GET A SUMMER BREAK?

When creating the GTS curriculum, we felt it was very important to maintain an ample amount of summer vacation. The first summer will provide an excellent time to work on your Scholarly Concentration. However, you should also feel free to travel abroad, do research, and most importantly – relax!

WHAT ABOUT GRADES?

- Basic courses in years 1 and 2 will now be pass/fail – (Foundations courses, Genes to Society, Scholarly Concentration, and all Intersessions.)
- The clerkships, clinical electives, advanced clerkships, and clinical subinternships will remain on the 4-tier system, because we believe that really helps our students match into top tier residencies. Grading for Longitudinal Clerkship, Transitions to the Wards and TRIPLE will also be tiered.
- A comprehensive validated assessment of basic science knowledge will be required before proceeding to the clinical curriculum.
- USMLE Step 1 must be taken by September of Year 3.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

We believe that everyone learns differently. To accommodate all learning types, we use several avenues for conferring knowledge. Our goal is to keep lectures under 40% of class time. The rest of your curricular time will be spent in lab (e.g., anatomy and virtual microscopy), small group discussions, case-and team-based learning, peer teaching and simulation. All lectures are recorded and available on-line for students from any computer and view.