

An elective is defined as a structured learning experience in a field of medicine or related field approved by the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, which is not specifically required as part of the medical school curriculum. Electives allow students to tailor their schedule to explore areas of interest or passion and learn more specialized skills.

Electives include internal, external and international electives. Internal electives are courses offered by the University of Massachusetts Medical School or its affiliated hospitals. External electives are courses offered by LCME accredited institutions other than UMass Medical School or its affiliated hospitals. International electives are courses that allow students to travel and practice medicine outside of the US. Students are required to complete 24 weeks of electives credit.

Electives are categorized into three types: A, the student functions as if they have primary responsibility for patient care; B, the student has direct contact with patients but is not part of the primary team responsible for the patient; C, the student has limited contact with patients but is advancing skills relevant to medicine. For additional information please see page 6 of the SOM [Students Handbook](#).

Click [here](#) for a catalog of elective courses by department.