

Rural Osteopathic Medical Education of Texas (ROME) Curriculum Outline

The ROME curriculum includes academic activities and clinical experiences from pre-matriculation through all four years of predoctoral medical education.

This four-year curriculum consists of:

Pre-matriculation Clinical Observation	Before school begins
Rural Medicine Courses	Years 1-2
Family Medicine Continuity Experience	Years 1-4
Community Project	Years 2-4
Core Clerkships	Year 3
Clinical Rotations/Electives	Year 4

Pre-matriculation

Accepted students begin their ROME curriculum with a two-day shadowing and observation experience at a rural clinical teaching site. This experience is scheduled for completion before medical school starts.

Rural Medicine Courses

The Rural Medicine I-IV courses are completed in addition to regular medical school curriculum during Semester 1-4 of Years 1 and 2. Each course is comprised of a variety of activities that may include Classroom Learning Sessions, Rural Clinical Correlations, Rural Topic Presentations, Skills Labs and Clinical Experiences. Threads of learning related to special patient populations found in rural communities, cancer detection and prevention, and exposure to toxic substances will be included throughout the courses.

The goals of these courses are to:

1. provide educational experiences to help the student understand the special problems relevant to practice in a rural environment;; and
2. teach additional procedural competencies relevant to the practice of rural medicine.

NOTE: Course specifics outlined below may vary as the curriculum evolves.

YEAR 1

Rural Medicine I (Semester 1):

- Introduction to the ROME curriculum
- Introduction to Sterile Technique
- Navigating the Rural Information Highway
- Rural America and Community Health in Texas
- Introduction to Compassionate Interviewing
- Skin Disorders Common to the Rural Environment
- Professional Development
- EMS Protocol for Immobilization and Transport
- Rural Epidemiology
- Neurotoxic Exposure in Rural Communities

Rural Hospital Emergency Department Observation (Clinical Activity)

Rural Medicine II (Semester 2):

Medical Information Resources and Search Strategies
Evidence-Based Medicine: Searching the Literature
Cultural Competency in the Practice of Rural Medicine
The Nature and Scope of a Rural Primary Care Practice
Ethical Issues in Rural Medicine
Smoking Cessation for Rural Patients
Colorectal Cancer in the Rural Patient
Cervical Cancer in the Rural Patient
Procedural Competency for Rural Practice
Focused History and Physical Examination Skills for the Reproductive System

Rural Hospital Emergency Department Observation (Clinical Activity)

YEAR 2

The Rural Medicine III and IV courses are designed to introduce the student to issues of public health, rural health policy, telemedicine, pathophysiology, and specific clinical problems and procedures relevant to rural medicine, which present unique diagnostic and management issues. Each session correlates with the study of a specific systems course.

Rural Medicine III (Semester 3):

Special Patient Populations in Rural Texas
Renal System
Cardiovascular System
Respiratory System
Hematopoietic System
Gastrointestinal System

Rural Hospital Emergency Department Observation (Clinical Activity)

Rural Medicine IV (Semester 4):

Rural Health Policy
Roles of the Rural Physician
Advanced Medical Information Resources & Telemedicine
Endocrine System
Reproductive System
Nervous System
Musculoskeletal System
Behavioral Science

Evaluation

Student's knowledge and level of competency acquired from each course will be assessed through written exams and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

FAMILY MEDICINE CONTINUITY EXPERIENCE

The Family Medicine Continuity Experience allows the ROME student to experience the benefits of continuity and interaction with a rural family medicine practice and community over time. Students are matched to a dedicated family medicine training site early in their first year of medical school. The following activities are completed in the same community.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Timing</u>
1) Rural Lifestyle/Practice Visit	4 days	Summer break after Year 1
2) Rural Preclinical Preceptorship	4-6 days	Year 2
3) Rural Community Observation	4-8 hours	Year 2
4) Family Medicine Clerkship	8 weeks	Year 3
5) Rural Primary Care Partnership	4 weeks	Year 4
6) Geriatrics	4 weeks	Year 4

1. **Rural Lifestyle/Practice Visit:** A four-day experience that introduces the student to a family practice and the lifestyle of a physician in a rural community.
2. **Rural Preclinical Preceptorship:** A 3-6 day clinical experience that introduces the student to the role of comprehensive, continuing family-oriented primary medical care in a rural setting.
3. **Rural Community Observation:** A 4-hour observation at a local agency to increase the student's knowledge of community resources as a support system for health care.
4. **Family Medicine Clerkship:** An 8-week third year family medicine core clerkship that focuses on cognitive and behavioral skill building.
5. **Rural Primary Care Partnership:** A 4-week clinical experience focusing on delivery of primary health care in a rural clinical setting.
6. **Geriatrics:** A 4-week clinical experience focusing on delivery of geriatric care in a rural clinical setting.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Each student will complete a community project related to their assigned "family medicine continuity" community. The purpose of the community project is to provide the student experience in "community responsiveness" and leadership through the identification and development of a plan to address a relevant community concern. This project will be initiated during Year 2 and due for completion and academic credit in Year 4.

CORE CLINICAL CLERKSHIPS

The Year 3 core clinical clerkships for the ROME curriculum are designed to provide focused training which will prepare the student for the practice of medicine in a rural setting. Rotation sites will include tertiary urban centers and rural clinical sites to facilitate the best training possible.

NOTE: The length, distribution, and sequencing of clerkships are subject to change from what are listed below.

YEAR 3 - 52 weeks

- 8 wks Family Medicine (Family Medicine Continuity Experience)
- 8 wks Internal Medicine
- 8 wks General Surgery
- 6 wks Pediatrics
- 6 wks Ob/Gyn
- 4 wks Psychiatry
- 4 wks Emergency Medicine
- 4 wks Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
- 4 wks Elective

CLINICAL ROTATIONS/ELECTIVES

The final year of the ROME curriculum consists of required and elective clinical rotations that will provide the student with experiences especially relevant to the practice of medicine in a rural clinical setting. Rotation sites will include tertiary urban centers and rural clinical sites to facilitate the best training possible.

NOTE: The length, distribution, and sequencing of clerkships are subject to change from what are listed below.

YEAR 4 - 32 weeks

- 8 wks Primary Care Partnership/Geriatrics (Family Medicine Continuity Experience)
- 4 wks Rural Hospital Emergency Medicine and Critical Care
- 4 wks Orthopedics/Sports Medicine
- 4 wks Specialty Medicine: Cardiology/Pulmonology
- 4 wks Specialty Medicine: Neurology
- 8 wks Selective (international rotation, vacation, research, occupational medicine, public health)

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