



## Graduation Requirements at a Glance – Class of 2026

The following information is provided as you develop your fourth-year schedule to ensure that you will satisfy all graduation requirements in effect for the **Class of 2026**. Graduation requirements for your class include successful completion of:

- All Pre-Clerkship courses, including all PCM and TCM courses.
- Required Clerkships, including the third year Medicine, Surgery, Neurology, Family Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry and the required fourth year clerkships: Sub-I ICU, Sub-I Wards, Emergency Medicine, as well as PCM-4 and Transition to Residency (TTR) courses. (*Note – currently, mid-year/January grads are exempt from completing the TTR course*).
- The M3 Capstone Exercise which takes in the springtime of the M3 year (or fall for off-cycle students). All students are given a Pass for participation; failure to participate will result in a Failure. Participation is recorded as part of PCM-3.
- A minimum of **22 weeks of elective credit**, including a minimum of twelve weeks of *clinical electives* in your fourth year (more specific details regarding elective requirements will be on the following page). (Please note you are limited to two weeks of elective credit from the preclinical years.) Please consult the *Elective Requirements at a Glance* document below and the policies section of the *Elective Course Catalog* for specific details relating to satisfactory completion of your elective requirements.
- You must be enrolled in a minimum of **12 weeks of full-time required and/or elective coursework in your final semester** of your fourth year.
- Two specific Bioethics & Professionalism requirements:
  - A passing grade for the Bioethics Case Paper
  - Attendance at a minimum of four Ethics Grand Rounds sessions
- United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) requirements:
  - A **passing** Step 1 score by the end of your third year.
  - A **passing** score for the Step 2 *Clinical Knowledge* exam prior to graduation. You are required to take your Step 2CK exam by December 31st of your fourth year.

**PLEASE NOTE:** An audit of your progress towards satisfying graduation requirements will be completed in October and in January of your fourth year. You will be sent a copy of the audit results; any deficiencies that must be satisfied for graduation will be noted. Although we conduct this audit as a service to you, **responsibility for satisfying graduation requirements ultimately rests with you**. Your schedule should be planned in consultation with your advisor to complement your medical education and competency in the various specialty and sub-specialty areas available.

# Elective Requirements at a Glance – Class of 2026

There are 34 weeks available in the third and fourth year for electives. You must complete a **minimum of 22 weeks of electives** to fulfill your graduation requirement.

## Elective Guidelines:

- 1) During your fourth year, you must complete **at least twelve weeks of clinical electives**. Clinical electives do not include such electives as Research, Virtual Pathology, Global Health and Epidemiology, or other online/virtual/didactic only courses (including any “virtual away rotations”). The SSOM’s overarching goal is to ensure that each student graduates with a well-rounded, solid clinical foundation upon which to begin residency training.

If you need any assistance in interpreting what counts as a clinical vs. non-clinical elective, please contact the Office of Registration & Records.

- 2) ***Before leaving for an extramural rotation, check your schedule on myLUMEN to make sure that you have been scheduled for the rotation.*** This will ensure that you receive credit towards graduation and that a grade evaluation is sent to the extramural school. ***If your extramural is not listed on your schedule, Registration and Records has not received approval for the elective from the extramural school.***

- 3) During your fourth year, you can accrue **no more than 12 weeks** of electives in a **particular specialty area** to count towards your graduation requirement with the following exceptions:

- Cardiology Graphics (MED-401A ) does NOT count towards the Internal Medicine cap
- Research electives (RES-401) do not count towards the cap of the particular specialty you are doing research in (i.e., research is considered its own separate “specialty” category).

Please note that **individually designed electives do count towards the total cap** of specialty electives given credit. However

If you are uncertain about a specific elective and how it will apply to your cap, do not hesitate to inquire in our office.

- 4) **Clinical specialty areas** include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

Allergy and Immunology  
Anesthesiology  
Colon and Rectal Surgery  
Dermatology  
Emergency Medicine  
Family Medicine  
Internal Medicine  
Medical Genetics  
Neurological Surgery

Neurology  
Nuclear Medicine  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Ophthalmology  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology  
Pain Medicine  
Pathology-Anatomic and  
Clinical

Pediatrics  
Physical Medicine and  
Rehabilitation  
Plastic Surgery  
Preventive Medicine  
Psychiatry

Radiation Oncology  
Radiology-Diagnostic  
Sleep Medicine  
Surgery-General  
Thoracic Surgery  
Urology

- 5) Normally, credit will not be granted for full-time electives that are less than 2 weeks in length, or for "split" electives (electives interrupted by Discretionary Time, another elective, etc.) without prior written approval from the elective supervisor, the Office of Student Affairs, and ORR.
- 6) If you wish to complete an **Individually Designed Elective** (i.e. an elective not listed in the course catalog), you must submit a written proposal to Dr. Laura Ozark, ccing the supervising physician and ORR as your elective application. Dr. Ozark will review and approve or deny all Individually Designed Elective proposals. Please see [Section P](#) of the Elective Course Catalog policies and the linked [IDE](#) section for details on constructing an individually designed elective experience.
  - Please note that an IDE cannot interfere with required M3 clerkships (you cannot design a rotation where you will be an extra learner on a rotation intended for M3 students).
- 7) **International elective experiences** are awarded elective credit only if they are sponsored by Loyola (intramural) or by another LCME-accredited medical school (extramural). *CCGH must approve all international experiences, in accordance with the application cycle they have set-forth. This process must begin nearly one year in advance of the elective.* More information about International Electives can be found [here](#). Inquiries regarding specific programs may be directed to the Center for Community & Global Health ([ccgh@luc.edu](mailto:ccgh@luc.edu)).
- 8) You must submit an online **Discretionary Time request** (on myLUMEN, under the same menu as elective registration) for any week or weeks that you are not enrolled in a **full-time** elective or required clerkship.
- 9) Students are allowed to apply a limited amount of **part-time elective credit** toward their elective requirements. Part-time or asynchronous electives can span an entire month, semester or academic year. For these electives, students receive partial credit and may be registered concurrently with a full-time elective or clerkship if the part-time elective does not conflict with their full-time course work. Part-time electives include, but are not limited to, Medical Spanish, Medical Teaching, Healer's Art, Physician Wellness through Meditation, Careers in Medicine, and Clinical Reasoning. A full list of part-time electives can be found [here](#).

For the class of 2026, a maximum of two weeks of part-time/asynchronous elective credit from M1 and M2 years (combined) can be applied to fulfill elective requirements. Students are also limited to a maximum of four weeks of part-time elective credit from M3 and M4 year (combined) to apply towards graduation requirement totals. **Thus, the maximum part-time elective credit allowed is six weeks (up to two weeks from M1/M2 years and up to four weeks from M3/M4 years).** Students may take additional part-time electives if they are of interest, but they will not count towards graduation/elective requirements.



- 10) Full-time electives may not be taken concurrently with other full-time electives or required courses or clerkships. For example, students cannot take PCM-4 or TTR and register for another full-time elective (virtual or in-person) for the same period. There is an exception for up to one week of overlap for PCM-4 and an away rotation.

**Additional resources to help plan your Fourth Year:**

- [General Track Information](#)
- [Fourth Year Schedule Planner](#)
- [Fourth Year Elective Timetable](#)
- [Elective Catalog](#)