

GENERAL INFORMATION CLERKSHIP TRACK SYSTEM CLASS OF 2028

The Clerkship Track System governs the order in which students take their clerkships during their third year. The track system is comprised of 48 different tracks or clerkship schedules and certain governing rules and procedures. Each student will be assigned to a specific track or clerkship sequence by means of a lottery process (see below).

CLINICAL CALENDAR

The third year begins with a **mandatory** five-day program, **April 27 – May 1, 2026**. This week includes an orientation to third year (part of the first day) and a curriculum module entitled Clinical Skills for Third Year (the remainder of that first week). The purpose of these programs is to prepare you for a successful transition into clinical clerkships by providing you with general information, clinical skills (through workshops and lab simulation exercises), and educational overviews on EMR use, patient safety and privacy, etc.

The third-year calendar operates on a semester system that allows for several breaks. The dates of the breaks differ depending on the clerkship track version to which a student is assigned (i.e. Schedule A or Schedule B). The Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks are the same.

Required clerkships are four, six, or eight weeks in length; the elective block is four weeks in length. Exam dates will differ for different groups of students depending on the end dates of the clerkships in which they are enrolled.

The third-year clerkships begin on **Monday, May 4th, 2026**.

THE TRACKS

Each track includes seven core clerkships and one 4-week elective block totaling 48 weeks: Medicine and Surgery are 8 weeks each; Pediatrics, Ob/Gyn, Family Medicine, and Psychiatry are 6 weeks each; Neurology is 4 weeks in length, and the elective is 4 weeks in length.

The order of required clerkships in the third year is randomized, without any clerkship being prerequisite to any other. Thus, the arrangement of clerkships in each track is varied to allow distribution of students across clinical fields.

THE ELECTIVE PERIOD

There is a four-week elective period in the third year that may occur in any month.

Students must follow the Third Year Timetable for Elective Registration in registering for the third year elective. Third year electives must be selected from among the course offerings listed in the SSOM Elective Catalog (<https://www.luc.edu/stritch/regrec/electivecatalog/coursecatalog/>). **They may not be taken extramurally (i.e., away from Loyola)**. Electives open to third year students will be noted in the course description of the elective catalog. Some electives with specific prerequisites (for example, fourth year standing) are not open to third year students. A list of potential M3 elective options is available online here: <https://www.luc.edu/stritch/regrec/students/currentphysicians-in-training/clerkshiptracksystem/>

Additional elective policies and graduation requirements are listed in the SSOM Elective Catalog in the Policies section. Also, there is a Specialty Elective Guide

(<https://www.luc.edu/stritch/regrec/electivecatalog/specialtyelectiveguide/>) in the Scheduling References section that offers suggested elective choices based on students' career direction for postgraduate training.

More information about how to register for your third-year elective will be distributed to the class prior to the opening registration date for May electives.

ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO A TRACK

Tracks will be assigned by lottery. Members of the class eligible for the lottery will be assigned a computer generated lottery number which will be available on myLUMEN. Students are asked to rank order the tracks on the **Third Year Track Ranking Form**, which is on myLumen. See “**Clerkship Track System**” on the left-hand menu and then click on “**Third Year Track Ranking Form**.”

You can rank between 4 to 48 tracks, but it is to your advantage to rank all tracks if you have a high lottery number. (If you only rank some tracks and they are all filled by the time the track assignment gets to your lottery number, then you will be assigned to a track at random.) If you have any trouble with the ranking form or questions about it, please contact Rita Vazquez at rvazquez@luc.edu. **The deadline for submittal of your track form is Sunday, February 15 at 11:59 PM.**

CHANGES IN THE TRACK AFTER THE LOTTERY

Each clerkship rotation can only accommodate a strict maximum and minimum number of students. Consequently, changes in clerkship sequence from that designated by the student's assigned track will be made only if enrollment levels permit or when pressing circumstances can be documented. In any event, the possibility of altering the track schedule is very limited.

It is important, therefore, that each student be aware of the limits within which changes in the clerkship track schedule can be accommodated, as indicated below:

- 1) A student may **exchange a complete clerkship track** with another student by mutual agreement. If such an agreement is reached, the exchange will be reviewed for approval at the time it is reported to the Office of Registration and Records. Track exchange forms are available in the Registration and Records Office. (Alternatively, both students may email rvazquez@luc.edu with their agreed upon track trade.) Exchanges **must be arranged within two weeks of the completion of the track lottery.** (see "Clinical Site" below).

- 2) A student may **exchange a specific clerkship** within his/her track with another student by mutual agreement. If such an agreement is reached, the exchange will be automatically approved at the time it is reported to the Office of Registration and Records. Clerkship trading forms are available in the Registration and Records Office. (Alternatively, both students may email rvazquez@luc.edu with their agreed upon clerkship trade.) **This exchange must be arranged a minimum of six weeks prior to the beginning date of the time slot involved, or prior to the time the lottery for site assignments is run for the clerkship involved.** Changes after site assignments are made will not be allowed. If a student has been assigned to a Florida site for a specific clerkship, in order to trade that clerkship, the other student will be assigned to the Florida site once the trade is complete.

- 3) **A change in any assignment within a track that does not involve an exchange with another student must be initiated by petition to Registration & Records** (email rvazquez@luc.edu with your request). If good cause exists for the change and enrollment numbers permit, the Registrar will implement the change and notify the departments involved.
- 4) **Under NO circumstances are students permitted to make individual arrangements for clerkship track changes with the departments concerned or with the supervisors of clerkship services in the various hospitals. All departments and clerkship supervisors have been notified that requests for changes in individual clerkship tracks must be referred to the Registrar.**
- 5) Students requiring schedule changes for reasons such as personal needs, boards study, or time off must obtain approval from Dean Mendez or Dean Zarco.

CLINICAL SITE ASSIGNMENTS

Required clerkships must be taken at a clinical site specified by the department as one used for the core clerkship. Third year site assignments are accomplished by a separate assignment process about four to six weeks prior to the starting date of each clerkship. Information about this site assignment process will be distributed to students by the coordinator for each clerkship.

FOURTH YEAR

The clerkship track for your fourth year will be announced in the fall of your third year. A track lottery will be held soon thereafter to determine sequence of required and elective clerkships in the fourth year.