

ELECTIVE TYPES A, B1, B2, and C

An elective is defined as a structured learning experience in a field of medicine or related fields approved by the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, which is not specifically required as part of the basic medical school curriculum.

TYPE A: Under appropriate supervision, students function as if they have PRIMARY responsibility for patient care in an acute hospital setting. This implies that the students are responsible for and direct the diagnostic and/or therapeutic plan under the direction of the attending physician and with the aid of the intern or resident. This role often is referred to as a “Subinternship.”

Criteria to be considered in the definition of a Type A elective are:

- Block of continuous time of at least four weeks.
- Work-up approximately three new patients per week.
- Perform initial history and physical exams.
- Write orders (co-signed by house officer).
- Coordinate work-up and follow hospital course.
- Perform or observe all procedures on assigned patients.
- Be responsible for “scut” work on patients.
- Scrub for surgical procedures on assigned patients.
- Take night call according to intern’s schedule.
- Participate in AM work rounds and attending rounds.
- Present assigned patients to attending physician.
- Participate in teaching sessions regularly.

TYPE B1: Students must have direct contact with patients as a major feature of the elective. They are expected to obtain histories, perform physical examinations and offer diagnostic and therapeutic alternatives. Students need not have primary responsibility for patients. Such electives include the traditional consultative services in medical and surgical subspecialties as well as anesthesiology, preceptorships in primary care (medicine, pediatrics, family practice) certain experiences in community hospitals, etc.

Criteria to be considered in the definition of a Type B1 elective:

- Block of continuous time of at least four weeks.
- Work-up approximately 15 patients per month.
- Attends regular didactic teaching session (a minimum of one per week)
- Follows course of patients with appropriate follow-up notes if necessary.
- Obtain history and perform physical examinations on assigned patients.
- Formulate diagnostic and therapeutic plan.
- Present patients to preceptor or attending physician.
- Make regular rounds on assigned patients.
- Perform procedures related to a specialty as appropriate.
- Review recent literature on diseases or problems encountered.

TYPE B2: Students must engage in the type of clinical care carried out by the clinicians practicing in this field but may not have direct patient care as a major feature of the elective. Such electives include advanced radiology electives (not the introductory radiology elective, which is a Type C), pathology electives, and radiation oncology.

Criteria to be considered in the definition of a Type B2 elective:

- Block of continuous time of at least four weeks.
- Attends regular didactic teaching session (a minimum of one per week).
- Follows course of patients as clinicians in this field do, with follow-up notes as appropriate to specialty.
- Obtain history and perform physical examinations on assigned patients as appropriate to specialty.
- Formulate diagnostic and therapeutic plan as appropriate to specialty.
- Present patients to preceptor or attending physician.
- Make regular rounds as appropriate to specialty.
- Perform procedures related to a specialty as appropriate.
- Review recent literature on diseases or problems encountered.

TYPE C: This type of elective encompasses all those elective experiences in where there is limited contact with patients, as in diagnostic or therapeutic fields where major reliance is placed upon information gather or therapy administered via sophisticated techniques such as radiology, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, etc. It can also include electives in the basic sciences. The only requirement is that there be some general relationship to the broad area of medicine and the medical sciences. In general, such electives will be in four week blocks but programs can be modified to achieve the equivalent of a 4 week experience. Electives applied towards graduation credit are normally advanced fourth-year courses taken after required third-year clerkships are completed. Electives taken for credit at other times during the student’s medical school career may be considered for graduation credit only with the approval of the Clinical Science Academic evaluation Board.