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**DGSOM Discovery   
Areas of Concentration**

**Faculty-Mentored   
Scholarly Project Proposal Instructions**

**HEALS Curriculum**

**Submission guidance**

* **All Faculty Must have a UCLA Faculty Appointment to be considered for a Discovery AoC.**
* UCLA Faculty members may submit potential Area of Concentration (AoC) projects as part of the Discovery year. Please complete this template and email to Shamar Jones (SNJones@mednet.ucla.edu) and Jaime Jordan (JMJordan@mednet.ucla.edu)
* For questions related to the Discovery year please contact the course director Jaime Jordan (JMJordan@mednet.ucla.edu)
* **Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis**. Selected RFSs will be notified by the DGSOM Deans Office.

**Overview**

**DGSOM Discovery** is a required component of the M.D. curriculum to provide third-year medical students with a nearly year-long period of protected time for a deep and substantive creative and scholarly experience in an area of their interest. The program encourages the acquisition of attitudes and skills for self-directed, lifelong learning and scholarship. DGSOM Discovery can include enrollment in a concurrent master’s degree program offered at UCLA or participation in the **DGSOM Discovery Area of Concentration (AoC) Program**. We invite submissions for faculty-mentored scholarly projects for medical students as part of the **AoC Program**.

**DGSOM Discovery** is one of the pillars of the new curriculum. It delivers on the school’s mission to “create world leaders in health and science” by leveraging and engaging our tremendous faculty to guide and mentor students into areas of creative inquiry. It is our collective vision that these experiences will instill in all of our students an inquisitive mind and life-long habits of rigorous inquiry that will become the hallmark of the DGSOM MD graduate.

**The Opportunity.** This program is an exciting way for you as our faculty to contribute to the training of our medical students in ways that align with your own passions, expertise, and experiences.

**DGSOM Discovery Area of Concentration Program** is a faculty-mentored, scholarly experience. There are eight DGSOM Discovery AoCs, developed by the DGSOM Discovery curriculum redesign planning committee which included 31 faculty, staff, and student members. Areas of concentration include a broad range of disciplines to align with student interests and better prepare students to impact the future of healthcare. Opportunities unique to Los Angeles and specific strengths of UCLA were also taken in consideration during planning. Key points include:

* The core part of DGSOM Discovery takes place during the MS3 year, from late October through early June (nearly 8 months).
* During DGSOM Discovery, students will have approximately four (4) days per week to devote to their scholarly work. One day per week will be reserved for “Longitudinal Clinical Experience (LCE),” a continuation of clinical training in a specialty of the student’s choice. The day of the week for LCE shall be flexible.
* Students will select their projects from a catalog compiled from successful faculty submission to this RFS process; these selections will be made by the Spring of their second year.
* DGSOM Discovery will occur in three phases:
  + *Explore*: planned activities to introduce students to the opportunities available to them for Discovery
  + *Prepare*: series of foundational seminars to introduce students to knowledge and skills that will be needed in the next phase
  + *Discovery*: the substantive creative and scholarly experience
* Each submission should have a concrete scholarly deliverable that will mark successful completion of the program. The deliverable should be appropriate to the project and should be determined by the faculty submitter.
* During **DGSOM Discovery AoC** projects, students will be enrolled and receiving financial aid (scholarship, loan, etc.), hence the faculty member does not have to provide any funding for the student, except for any incidental project-related expenses.
* Though most students will select a project from the DGSOM Discovery catalog, there will be a pathway for students who wish to develop an independent, customized project, as long as they can provide a suitable project plan and have a clearly identified mentor.

Here are the eight DGSOM Discovery Areas of Concentration.

**Areas of Concentration (AoC):**

1. **Basic, Clinical, & Translational Research:** Students work with faculty to design and implement a project from multiple areas to frame clinically relevant questions, develop strategies for answering the questions, analyze their findings, and present their results.
2. **Global Health:** Gives students an understanding of the spectrum of challenges—from political, to sociological, to biomedical—that limit provision of health care to the world’s people. Provides students with the skill-set to function effectively in any global healthcare setting, often within resource-limited environments.
3. **Social Science & Medical Humanities:** Using cross-disciplinary methods such as those from philosophy, social science, film, literature, art, and law, students examine the meaning and implications of medicine and medical research. Explores the moral, social, and humanistic dimensions of medicine and biomedical science.
4. **Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** Learn entrepreneurship approaches and how to move a health innovation idea from concept to reality. Design meaningful solutions to the current pressing needs in health care.
5. **Health Justice & Advocacy:** Empowers student physicians to be advocates for justice through instruction in human rights and social determinants of health, mentorship opportunities, applied advocacy, and research experiences.
6. **Bioinformatics & Data Science:** Provides insights into big data, information management, computational methods of structuring and analyzing biomedical data, and the opportunity to conduct large-scale data analysis along the entire biomedical research pipeline.
7. **Medical Education & Leadership:** Prepares students for engagement and leadership in the field of medical education through training in learning theory, curricular design and delivery, evaluation and assessment, teaching and education, and implementation of novel tools and techniques.
8. **Health Delivery Improvement Science:** Combines didactic, seminar, clinical, and research components with the goal of providing students with skills to function more effectively in any healthcare setting. This quality improvement work involves not only individual patients, but also health systems and institutions.

**Request for Submission:** For the Discovery Year to be successful, we seek individual faculty and/or teams of faculty interested in mentoring students in specific projects that fall into these areas of concentration (AoCs). We invite submissions for faculty-mentored scholarly projects for medical students as part of the AoC Program. \*\*Faculty must have a UCLA Faculty Appointment\*\*

You are invited to submit projects individually or in partnership with other faculty with complementary areas of expertise. Collaboration is strongly encouraged but not required.

Successful submissions will become part of a catalog of opportunities from which second year medical students will eventually select their AoC experience.

Once you are ready to submit the Proposal,   
please submit the Proposal Form [**HERE**](https://forms.monday.com/forms/d0f235edcc8815f79402918af4561818?r=use1).

**DGSOM Discovery Areas of Concentration Proposal TEMPLATE:**

1. **Lead faculty (***Must have UCLA/DGSOM Faculty Appointment***):** Click or tap here to enter text.
2. **Title of proposed project:**
3. **Department affiliation(s):**
4. **Medical specialty/subspecialty affiliation(s) if any:**
5. **List all faculty and mentors who are part of this submission:**
6. **Provide email addresses for all who will receive notification related to Discovery:**
7. **Select the most appropriate AoC for this submission:**

Clinical, Basic, Translational Research  Global Health

Social Science & Medical Humanities  Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Health Justice & Advocacy  Bioinformatics & Data Science

Medical Education & Leadership  Health Delivery Improvement Science

1. **Provide a brief** description of project(s), opportunity, or creative/ scholarly direction, including description of the student’s role in the work**.** This description will be added to the Discovery catalog. Recommended 250 word limit.
2. **What academic years would you like this opportunity to be available for (you may also select continuous)?**
3. **Please describe any Exposure/Orienting Discovery activities** in Year 1 by which you would introduce your project and AoC to all medical students to assist their early exploration and choice of mentor.
4. **Please describe any Preparation Discovery activities in Year 2** that would help students begin the Discovery Year oriented and ready to begin (e.g., IRB Training, fundamental coursework/readings)
5. **Describe any required formal coursework or training for your project.** These activities would occur in the Discovery period, which is within the third year of medical school.
6. **What is your student capacity for this project/s (range is ok):**
7. **Describe your plan for mentorship and support of student(s) (please keep in mind that at a minimum we expect mentors to meet with their students 2-3 times per month for approximately 30-60 minutes each):**
8. **Describe key deliverables and final project requirements to be expected at completion of the Discovery period (7-8 months).**

**Please include with this RFS:**

1. CV or Bio sketch for all faculty listed in the RFS.
2. Any other supporting documents to support the RFS.