Questions and Answers from Second Look

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Questions Related to Pre-Matriculation

Q: What opportunities will committed students have to connect with each other virtually in a formal setting?

A: For now, feel free to connect with each other via the DGSOM Class of 2024 Facebook group. Also, you were invited via e-mail to participate in the three-part Virtual Leadership Lab Series, including newly admitted students from DGSOM and three other UCLA graduate schools.
### Questions Related to Academic Advising & Support

**Q:** How are academic advisors assigned? Is it based on interests, key criteria, or random are they assigned randomly?

**A:** You will be assigned an assistant dean who will be your primary advisor. There are 4 assistant deans at The David Geffen School of Medicine and the one who becomes your primary advisor will then help you connect with specialty advisors based on your particular interests and career aspirations.

**Q:** Are the longitudinal preceptorships assigned based on specialty interest?

**A:** Yes, in MS3 year students can indicate their specialty of choice for longitudinal preceptorship.

**Q:** What kind of support is there to assist students in their residency application cycle?

**A:** There is a specialty team of faculty committed to supporting students throughout the residency application process. Dr. Lee Miller, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, meets with every student individually, as do the Society Deans and specialty advisors.

**Q:** What type of advising / programs are available to help students choose a specialty? How early does that begin?

**A:** Programs are available starting in year 1. You will hear much more about this later today and on our web site.

**Q:** Are there opportunities for academic help if you’re struggling with a particular block/subject? How approachable are professors?

**A:** Yes. Faculty love working with individual students, as do our academic support staff and peer tutors of course. There are many resources to help everyone succeed. We have an amazing student academic support team and a peer tutoring program, plus a team of anatomy tutors. Also, our professors LOVE to hear directly from students and are very approachable and available for help.

**Q:** What emotional support is provided during board exam testing season?

**A:** We have year ‘round emotional support for medical students provided by psychiatrists, psychologists, MFT’s and licensed clinical social workers trained and working exclusively with health professions trainees. https://medschool.ucla.edu/bwc. We also have academic support staff who help support students and provide tools and resources for exam stress and test anxiety: https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-learning-skills-office
### Questions Related to Academic Scheduling

#### Questions about Step 1 and 2

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Q:</strong> Will the structure of the MD curriculum redesign be affected by the shift of Step 1 to P/F</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td><strong>Q:</strong> Will we accelerate major curriculum changes due to Step 1 going P/F?</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Q:</strong> Is the allocated time to study for Step 1 going to include any prep?</td>
<td>Yes, there are workshops, review sessions, study groups and more that are set up during this time each year.</td>
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<td><strong>Q:</strong> With the change of Step1 to P/F, will the curriculum and or dedicated steady time after the preclinical section be changed?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q:</strong> Will there be dedicated time allocated in the new curriculum to prepare for STEP 2?</td>
<td>The MS4 schedule allows for flexibility for students that wish to have unscheduled time to take a block of weeks off to study.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Q:</strong> How much prep time is set aside for STEP 1 study?</td>
<td>7 weeks are reserved for independent study for Step 1.</td>
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#### Questions about Pre-Clerkship Curriculum

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<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Q:</strong> In what ways is the early authentic clinical experience different from Preceptorship?</td>
<td>The primary goal of the Early Authentic Clinical Experience (EACE) is to provide students with an immersive, authentic clinical experience from the start of your first year. The main difference is that with the EACE you’ll be participating as a member of an integrated healthcare team rather than working with one provider.</td>
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</table>
| Q: **Will the class schedule change with the introduction of the new curriculum—what does the day to day schedule look like?**
| A: A typical week will have Lectures in the morning M-F, with PBL on Monday and Friday mornings and you will also have afternoon labs and sessions Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays.

| Q: **What is the comprehensive assessment at the end of MS1 year?**
| A: The comprehensive assessment will be the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (CBSSA).

| Q: **Why is preclinical training one year only?**
| A: The pre-clerkship curriculum remains at ~ 18 months. The one year of pre-clerkship training for Foundations of Practice and Foundations of Science have been pushed back a year.

| Q: **Who are the updated preclinical contacts?**
| A: The HBD Curriculum Contacts can be found on our website here: [https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-curriculum-staff](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-curriculum-staff)

| Q: **What do the longitudinal clerkships in MS1 look like? Is there an opportunity for location preference for students not living close to UCLA?**
| A: We currently do not have any longitudinal clerkships in the MS1 year.

| Q: **What does a typical week look like in MS1 for our class?**
| A: A typical week will have Lectures in the morning M-F, with PBL on Monday and Friday mornings and you will also have afternoon labs and sessions Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays.

| Q: **What activities in the first semester/year are mandatory attendance?**
| A: Approximately 50%..

| Q: **Is the DGSOM committed to have representation of patients with disabilities in the clinical skills and doctoring component of the curriculum?**
| A: Yes, not only in clinical skills in Doctoring but also throughout the block content as well.
Q. How many students are currently placed together in the same clerkship rotation? Do you anticipate this number will increase with the 3rd year merge?

A. This varies greatly by site and clerkship. Faculty optimize learning by determining capacity based on patient load, size of clinics, etc. Sometimes you will be alone, sometimes you will be with a few other classmates.

Questions about General Scheduling Issues

Q. How frequently will the early authentic clinical experience occur during each block?

A. The Early Authentic Clinical Experience is currently scheduled to occur every other week.

Q. Will elements of the Early Authentic Clinical Experience continue through second year?

A. At this time we do not anticipate that EACE will continue through the second year although, we’re hoping to build in some time for discovery during the second year.

Q. Will students need to have access to a car for the early authentic clinical experience?

Dean Braddock’s answer: Your own car is not needed, but it may be necessary to be able to commute across Los Angeles. Carpooling or public transportation may be sufficient depending on the assigned location. For additional specifics, please check out our transportation policy here.

Student panelist answer: I personally didn't have a car for 1st and 2nd year. You just need to make friends with people who have cars! Also, most people are happy to drive if someone is in need.

Q. Are there be breaks between each block for holidays? Thanksgiving, New Years, etc.?

A. Some blocks have a 4 day weekend at the end, and some do not. There is a break for Thanksgiving and a break for winter break.

Q. How frequent are assessments during the blocks and how are they administered?

A. In person, online, over the weekend, etc. There are weekly self-assessments taken over the weekend that do not count towards your grade. In addition, there is a midterm in each block that is formative.

Q. Can you please speak more about threads and how they work?

A. Threads are interwoven into block activities including lecture and labs. Each thread has a chair who oversees the content throughout the first and the second year.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Q. Is there a fixed proportion of the class that can get honors or high pass on a clinical rotation?</th>
<th>A. We have a competency based grading system in which all of our students have an opportunity to achieve Honors. <a href="https://medschool.ucla.edu/workfiles/site-current/policies/MS3ClinicalGradingTool20182019.pdf">https://medschool.ucla.edu/workfiles/site-current/policies/MS3ClinicalGradingTool20182019.pdf</a></th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Q. The website lists a capstone component to the new curriculum: What is the Capstone course?</td>
<td>A. Our Capstone Course is called Assessment for Internship. It is a one-week skills-based assessment week and is administered right before Match.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q. What percent of classes have mandatory attendance?</td>
<td>A. 50% in the MS1 and MS2 year</td>
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<td>Q. For the Longitudinal Preceptorship, do you choose one specialty to explore and stick with it throughout all of MS3? Or can you change your preceptorship choice if you change your field of interest?</td>
<td>A. Currently, students switch at the half way point of the year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q. What is the difference during the first year between Clinical Skills &amp; Doctoring and the Early Authentic Clinical Experience?</td>
<td>A. The EACE is a community based experience while the CS and Doctoring sessions are typically facilitated in small groups with our faculty educators.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q. The Academic calendar has a start date of August 3rd. Are there any orientation activities that we ought to attend prior to that?</td>
<td>A. Our “Intro to the Profession” Course is our Orientation/Welcome to the Community and you do not need to plan on being on campus for required activities before that time.</td>
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<td>Q. What is farthest distance we could expect to travel for rotations?</td>
<td>A. We have sites as far as Venture and Bakersfield, but housing is provided for these. The furthest for daily commuting would be about 25 miles from campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q. What are the main hospitals students rotate through?</td>
<td>A. Reagan at UCLA, Cedars-Sinai, Harbor-UCLA, Olive View-UCLA and West LA VA are the major sites.</td>
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</table>
**Q. Are there opportunities for students from our class to get involved with medical education/the curriculum changes?**

A. Yes, many opportunities through class officer positions and other committees.

**Q. What types of electives are offered during the fourth year? What do those electives look like?**

A. There are about 300 different electives offered at DGSOM, along with the opportunity to take electives at other medical schools around the world. DGSOM electives are typically 3 weeks in length and exist in all specialties and at sites across Los Angeles. Students can also design their own electives in research or the clinical specialty of their interest.

**Q. When would be the typical time to pursue a dual degree (before the 3rd year or after the 4th year)?**

A. Typical is between years 3 and 4

**Q: How competitive are the clerkships amongst the medical students?**

A: Given the rich network of educational experiences at affiliate hospitals, community clinics and practices, the students have an opportunity to rank their grids according to their personal preferences.

**Q: Are there only a certain number of “honors” that are given for a clinical rotation?**

A: No, the grading system is criteria-based, so all students can get honors if they meet the standards.

**Q: Where are the clinical training sites and will transportation throughout LA county be an issue?**

A: For a listing of our sites, please reference our website here: [https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-clinical-curriculum](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-clinical-curriculum). Given the rich network of educational experiences at affiliate hospitals, community clinics and practices, all students at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA must have reliable transportation.

**Q: What does the capstone entail?**

A: Our Capstone Course is called Assessment for Internship. It is a one-week skills-based assessment week and is administered right before Match.
**Q: Can you cover grading and evaluation in some more detail? I.e. importance of shelf exams during major clinical year?**

A: Absolutely! Our Grading Policy can be viewed [here](#), as well as our Clinical Grading Rubric [here](#), and the Grading Tool for Core Clerkships [here](#).

**Q: Does the comprehensive assessment go on record for residency applications?**

A: Great question. No- this is purely formative assessment so it will not be included in the MSPE or Dean’s Letter.

**Questions about Prime and Dual Degrees**

**Q. If you want to take an extra year for research or another degree, how will that work since the class below will be on a different curriculum?**

A. We have concurrent degree programs with several masters programs at UCLA that would allow you to complete a masters in 1 additional year of enrollment. For masters at other schools or additional research years, you would likely take a leave of absence from the medical school.

**Q: How common is it for students to pursue a dual degree?**

A: About 25% of the class pursues a dual degree.

**Q: What sort of support does DGSOM offer for students pursuing an additional degree and what would the timeline look like?**

A: Typically, students go for masters degrees between MS3 and MS4 years. Funding opportunities are available, but exact details will vary year to year.

**Q: Does UCLA provide MD/MAS in clinical research option?**

A: This is not currently one of our concurrent degree options.

**Q: What is the timeline to apply for the MPP/MD joint program? What are some things I can be doing now to prepare?**

A: Students typically apply during the fall of their MS3 year. Please see our web site for additional details: [https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-articulated-concurrent](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-articulated-concurrent)
**Q. Are people outside of the PRIME program able to participate in PRIME activities?**

A. There are some activities open to all students. Also, the master's programs that PRIME students apply for are also open to all students. Non-PRIME students are invited to PRIME school wide events. There are some specific educational pieces and preceptorships that are specific to PRIME, but those that are open to everyone are advertised as such.

**Questions about Clerkship**

**Q. How many students are on one team during the clerkship? Will this go up for our year?**

A. The answer varies greatly by site and by clerkship. There are times when students are alone and there are times when they will be working in small teams.

**Q. How many days off do you get during third year? Do students work every day for consecutive weeks or does each rotation offer a day off regularly?**

A. Student panelist 1: There are no set number of days off, but the LCME requirements do apply. This also varies from rotation to rotation, but at the most, you will get 1-2 weekend days off and can ask for extra time off if you have a special event like a wedding or academic conference to go to.

Student panelist 2: You usually get one day off a week. Not guaranteed to be a weekend day, but at least one day. Clerkships are also very good about adjusting your schedule for important events like weddings and graduations if you ask far enough in advance (I went to an international wedding during my surgery rotation and it was all good!)

Student panelist 3: You shouldn’t have to work more than 8 days straight unless you specifically want to in order to group together your days off. Outpatient rotations (family, ambulatory) should have full 2-day weekends, plus any site-specific holidays. Inpatient rotations you can expect 1 day off per week, but sometimes with extra days. (IM is 1 day per week, neuro and psych give full weekends except for 1 or 2 weekend days, surgery is either 1 or 2 days off depending on the specialty, OBGYN also either 1-2 days depending on your site and rotation.

**Q. How are clerkship sites determined? Will transportation be an issue traveling throughout LA to various sites?**

A. Transportation will be important as you will likely get to experience the vast assortment of clinical training opportunities throughout the Los Angeles metropolitan area. There is a scheduling lottery for clerkship assignments.

**Q: How are clerkship sites determined?**

A: Students are able to submit rankings for their grids prioritizing location or specialty and those are entered into a lottery system.
**Questions about Research**

**Q:** Will there still be the continuity experiences for clerkships sites?

A: Yes, there will be some form of continuity in sites, but this varies by year and by student.

**Q:** What sort of research opportunities are present for students in preclinical years?

A: There are virtually unlimited opportunities: [https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-research-opportunities](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-research-opportunities)

**Q:** Do students pursue research (basic and/or clinical) in these years?

A: The majority of students are involved in research during the summer between their first and second year. There are some students who do engage in research during the academic year.

**Q:** How easy is it to get involved in research early on and find a mentor in different specialties to shadow?

A: It’s very easy to become involved in research! There are virtually unlimited opportunities [https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-research-opportunities](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-research-opportunities). Students have multiple opportunities to shadow in the clinical arena as well, primarily through our student organizations: [https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-career-specialty-interest-groups](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-career-specialty-interest-groups)

**Q:** How do students find research mentors? Do students typically cold e-mail or is there a list of projects that circulates?

A: We have a faculty unit that supports student researchers and helps connect them to mentors with research programs aligning with their interests.

**Q:** Do students typically begin research before the summer between year 1 and 2?

A: Many do, but not all.

**Q:** Does the medical school allocate time during the school year for research? (e.g., Monday 1-5 PM no class)

A: Yes, there is a lot of time available to pursue personal areas of interest.
**Q. What portion of the class tends to take the year off between M3 & M4 to pursue research / other interests?**

A. The last few years it had been about 25% of the class.

### Questions about COVID-19

Q: Do you anticipate school and classes will start as scheduled?

A: Yes, we anticipate that we will start classes as scheduled and that classes will be held in person as normal. However, given the fluidity of this situation, we are monitoring this daily and will inform you immediately of any changes

- Q. If not, how will DGSOM handle labs?
- A. We have been holding zoom classes and virtual labs, PBL’s, clinical activities have been moved to on line clinical learning modules.

Q: How are we handling the COVID crisis, specifically for 3rd and 4th year?

A: All components for the third year students have been moved online. Fourth year students are still participating in sub-internships as long as the service structure and patient load are appropriate for 4th year students and there is sufficient PPE (and the students are not assigned to see patients with confirmed or suspected COVID).

Q: What will happen to white coat ceremony if the start of classes is delayed or handled remotely? Can it be postponed until students are back on campus? Are we committed to having an in-person white coat ceremony celebration?

A: We expect that we will have an in person White Coat Ceremony, but we will be using our experience with graduation to assist in any potential remote event planning if that becomes relevant, or postponement would be considered.

Q. Instead of an online white coat ceremony, is there a possibility that the white coat can be postponed to an in-person event (if covid-19 continues to be an issue during summer)?

A. We certainly will (and are) discussing this option. It will be helpful to get input from students as the event gets closer

Q. Rather than a virtual white coat ceremony, have there been talks about postponing the event until it can be conducted in person?

A. Yes, this option will be considered if we are in that situation. It’s ensured that we will find a way to come together and celebrate the event as soon as it’s responsible to do so.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q. <strong>How will the changes in Step 1 due to COVID-19 be effect residency options later? How can students stand out to residency programs if they can no longer do so by scores?</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. This is just one component of your residency application. Many other factors will be considered, including clinical performance on clerkships, Step 2 scores, research experience, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q. <strong>What is the plan with independent study as it relates to changes due to COVID-19 outbreak and the new announcements about step 1?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>A. As of now, the independent study remains unchanged. We still feel it is very important to allow time to prepare for the exam, despite its transition to pass/fail.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q. <strong>Will the time frame/instruction schedule for first year students be changed if the current COVID-19 pandemic continues to effect the school this fall through stay-at-home orders? Will classes be taught virtually in such case? What is the contingency plan?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>A. The David Geffen School of medicine anticipates that our timeline will remain unchanged this coming fall. Our hope is that we will deliver in person instruction for all students this coming year, but, given the dynamic nature of this situation, we are prepared if needed to continue the remote curriculum that we are currently delivering to students. We will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q. <strong>Is there time set aside to study for STEP 2, given that STEP 1 is now Pass/Fail?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>A. There is time in the MS4 schedule to allow for preparation for Step 2. The schedule in MS4 year is flexible for students to decide when they want their time off.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q. <strong>Are the Student Run Free Clinic and Mobile Clinic still operating during the COVID-19 pandemic?</strong></th>
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<td>A. These activities have been paused right now and students are helping in other volunteer efforts.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q. <strong>If classes are online for a portion of first year, will students be required to be physically on-campus?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>A. It is too early for us to know at this point. Current MS1s are not required to be on campus for the curriculum taking place now.</td>
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## Financial Aid Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q: What is the timeline for receiving a final financial aid package (when will we get it)?</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: Provisional Award Letters (PAL) are being emailed now to those that have completed a financial aid application. Please contact the financial aid office at <a href="mailto:FAO@mednet.ucla.edu">FAO@mednet.ucla.edu</a> if you have already applied but have not yet received your PAL. Official Financial Aid Notification letters (FAN) will be available via MyUCLA (<a href="http://www.My.UCLA.edu">www.My.UCLA.edu</a>) starting July.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q: How does the financial indebtedness of graduates compare to other medical schools?</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: In addition to having an average medical school indebtedness way below the national average - $145K DGSOM 2019 grads and $200K National Average 2019 grads AAMC data, we have less borrowers overall – only 60% of the class of 2019 borrowed.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q: Is there a unit or base loan (minimum loan that must be taken out before institutional grants/loans kick in)?</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: No, you will receive need-based scholarship based on your annual financial aid application, and merit scholarships require no financial aid application or borrowing requirement.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q: Are there any DGSOM scholarships left that we could apply for?</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: Students can apply for need based scholarships throughout the year (we do not have financial aid deadlines for entering students). We do have a finite number of merit scholarships offered to entering students; these scholarships to not require a separate application. Feel free to email us with additional questions at <a href="mailto:FAO@mednet.ucla.edu">FAO@mednet.ucla.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q: Have all the Geffen scholarships already been awarded? What is the probability of other students still receiving a scholarship (i.e. an original recipient decides to commit to a different school)?</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: At the time of writing this, we have not yet finalized our merit scholarship awarding. We do plan on having it finalized by the end of April.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Q: When is financial aid typically disbursed?</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: Aid begins to disburse no earlier than 10 days before the start of instruction. First year fall 2020 semester is scheduled to start August 3rd, therefore fall aid is scheduled to disburse beginning July 24th.</td>
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</table>
**Q:** If my residency is in state, but I am classified incorrectly, who can I ask for help in correcting this?

**A:** Please contact UCLA’s Residence Deputy and review their full website as there is quite a lot of information to assist you: [https://www.registrar.ucla.edu/Fees-Residence/Residence-Requirements/Residence-Contacts](https://www.registrar.ucla.edu/Fees-Residence/Residence-Requirements/Residence-Contacts). The good news is, if you are classified by the resident deputy as a non-resident, you can establish CA residency during your first year of med school and starting in 2nd year you will no longer be charged nonresident tuition for the rest of your med school education. Please note that international students are classified as non-residents throughout medical school, and cannot establish in state residency for tuition purposes after their first year.

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### Housing Questions

**Q:** Is housing only guaranteed for 1 year?

**A:** Students are given a priority allocation to live in university housing for the first year on campus, and contracts are renewable for two additional years.

**Q:** Can any students recommend an apartment that is close to campus and allows a 50 lb. dog?

**A:** Current students may be able to provide specific information regarding nearby apartments. The best way to connect with students is through the DGSOM [Class of 2024 Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1464223629640673/).

**Q:** How many of the studio apartments at Weyburn Terrace are at the new Paseo building and what are the chances of getting a studio in Paseo?

**A:** Housing related resources and information are available on the Housing website at [https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/](https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/). Specific housing questions may be directed to uclahousing@housing.ucla.edu.

**Q:** Is there a way to request a studio in the Paseo building?

**A:** Housing related resources and information are available on the Housing website at [https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/](https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/). Specific housing questions may be directed to uclahousing@housing.ucla.edu.
Q. Will we still be able to move into UCLA grad housing in July if the work-from-home mandate is still in effect?

A. This should still be possible, but the UCLA Housing Administration will confirm in due time. Housing is still open to current students at this time, and we expect it to remain so, however please keep in mind that the situation is dynamic and we are taking things a day at a time.

Q. Does living in student housing vs. not living in student housing affect the student experience much? Are you more isolated from your class if you live off campus?

A. Student panelist answer: I live in off campus housing. Living in non-student housing definitely means you have to make a bit more of an effort, but you still get the same student experience. You are still invited to all of the same events, etc., just need to drive to campus area.

Q. If you are not going to be living in Weyburn (student housing), do you still feel like you can connect with other students outside of class?

A. Student panelist 1 answer: I lived off-campus every year except my first year and still was able to make awesome connections with classmates. Lots of people move off-campus and there are lots of activities to do with peers.

Student panelist 2 answer: I also lived off campus each year and still made great friends and felt extremely involved in the community. You have a lot of class time to bond with your classmates and I honestly enjoyed having a little space from school by living a bit farther away.

Miscellaneous Questions

Q. Outside the library or Geffen Hall, where do students study?

A. Student panelist answer: Local coffee shops! Coffee shops are great and we also have the biomed library with plenty of study space. Within biomed, there is the graduate reading room available to graduate students 24/7.

Q. Do professors, PBL facilitators, etc. have extensive teaching background? How easily can we provide feedback on instruction?

A. Yes, and you can give feedback for every session.

Q. Do students typically graduate with research publications?

A. Many do, but it is not a requirement.
Q. Is it possible for students to run their own research projects? What type of support exists for that endeavor?

A. Students can engage in research projects for periods of time that could last a summer or a lifetime. Here is a great resource for opportunities available: https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-research-opportunities.

Q. How are we placed into the 4 "houses" and when do we find that out?

A. Placement is random and happens this summer.

Q. How are students placed into Societies? Is this based on areas of interest?

A. Students are randomly assigned to one of 4 Societies, each working closely with one of our 4 Society Deans. All students in their respective Societies are aided in making connections with faculty and resources that are tailored to their unique interests and aspirations.

Question for student panelists: How did your actual experience at UCLA differ from your expectations as an incoming first year student?

A. I received LOTS more upperclassman support than I expected! They were some of my best resources throughout all four years, even now that I’m an MS4 and they’re residents. You’ll have a chance to talk with MS1s later today in smaller groups, so definitely get to know them today and if/once you arrive on campus!

Q. What are the ways in which DGSOM aids in student mental health/wellness during the stress of medical school?

A. UCLA has a wonderful the Behavioral Wellness Center. It’s a great resource that many students use and everyone should have a low threshold for seeking out support there.

Q. When making your final decision on a medical school, what was the #1 reason you went with UCLA over other choices (other top 10s)?

A. Student panelist answer 1: For me it was family! But also in support were the great access to good food, drink, and culture all close by. And the weather! Now that I'm here, I think the curriculum structure, time to recover and relax, and variety of clinical environments are also super key components of the school itself that I'm glad to have. But just as it was family for me, it's going to be very personal for each person, so think about what is most important to you (training, personal priorities) and then follow that!

Student panelist answer 2: Second Look really stood out to me, and my experiences as a student have only confirmed this.
Q. Could a current student share their transition to medical school?

A. Student panelist 1 answer: I’m Angie, a first-year medical student who worked for three years abroad (in Colombia and London) in education and technology prior to starting medical school. The transition back into education (especially given the pace and rigor of medical school) was definitely hard, but the variety of resources available really help. Some that come to mind are group/1:1 tutoring, individual appointments with the Learning Resource Center to help strategize your studying schedule, Behavioral Wellness Center for any emotional or mental health support, in addition to the peer support (academic resources from MS2s + beyond, social events put on by the MS1 leadership team, etc.). Medical school is a tough transition for most students and you’ll find that even students who are from the area (myself included) look forward to meeting and hanging out with the rest of the class. We’re all in the same boat!

Student panelist 2 answer: I’m from New York and took three years off before coming to UCLA. I found the transition surprisingly smooth—there’s such diversity of background amongst students in terms of geography, experience, etc., that you’ll find others in a similar boat. Also, I found it really great to have friends from the area or who went to UCLA to help introduce me to the city!

Q. Are there medical language classes?

A. There is currently a medical Spanish course and we are open to adding additional opportunities.

Q. I’m wondering how the community and faculty respect students with diverse religious beliefs?

A. We believe that religious beliefs are to be respected. There exist specific student groups that foster community for specific religious and cultural groups including the Christian Medical Dental Association (CMDA) and the Jewish Medical Student Association (JMSA) as well as a brand new Muslim Student Union (MSU) group formed this year. Per the Muslim Student Union, a group of students came together to fill a need and they were successful in advocating for a prayer space for Muslim students that should be available by the end of the year.

Q. What steps has UCLA taken to promote LGBTQ+ leadership within medicine and DGSOM in particular? Is there curriculum that addresses the special healthcare needs of this population?

A. There is a great Pride Alliance Affinity group, an active ally training group, a LGBTQ+ resource center on campus, and a health education group as well. The doctoring curriculum during first and second year includes modules on caring for LGBTQ+ populations and also trans/gender-nonconforming patients. In addition, there are multiple hospital committees at all of our rotation sites that you can be involved in as a student as well if you are interested in this work at a broader healthcare systems level.
Q. How to contact current students with additional questions:

A. if you email us at DGSOMEDI@mednet.ucla.edu. You email will be forwarded to the panelists and then they can reach out to you.

Question to student panelists: Do you feel like you see yourself (with all your diverse backgrounds) playing a role in the leadership of the school? Do you feel the administration and senior faculty represent the diversity of the student population and Los Angeles community?

Student panelist 1: While the faculty/staff is diverse, I think that there is still some room to grow in this area, but DGSOM has made big strides in diversity. I think one of the biggest ways DGSOM does this is through support of pipeline programs to bring in more diverse medical students and therefore have a more diverse medical faculty to choose from when it comes to leadership and faculty positions. Got to start building from the bottom and UCLA does a great job of that.

Student panelist 2: I agree. I will say that we are excited about the new Latinx, Native American faculty joining us!

Q. Are there any efforts to make clinical grading less subjective and more equitable given how it can be a major source of discrimination?

A. This is a topic of interest among the educational leadership and this is absolutely being examined - particularly in regards to recent literature about bias in AoA selection. One way that DGSOM changed is that we've introduced a grading rubric for the clerkships, which is meant to be a more objective way of grading students in combination with the shelf exams.

Q. Are students who have diverse views on issues at the beginning and end of life welcome? Are discussions about these issues balanced, inclusive, and respectful?

A. Dean Braddock’s answer: Regardless of topic, we believe it's essential to engage in respectful and inclusive debate. We know that this is often a very charged topic, however, we continue to work on the best practices for balanced and inclusive conversations and teaching.

Student panelist answer: Yes, we have definitely had many discussions both formally and informally ensuring that these different views are heard. There are student groups focused on this as well. These discussions, from my perspective, have always been balanced and respectful.
Questions about Student Organizations

Q: Can we connect with people in student run organizations, I’d like to talk with someone from SNMA.

A: Yes, please contact Mary Ann Triest, mtriest@mednet.ucla.edu, and she can connect you with the leaders of SNMA.

Q: What opportunities are there to serve underserved communities, in particular those experiencing homelessness?

A: **Mobile Clinic Project** is a student-run, nonprofit street-side clinic based in UCLA. Their physicians and volunteers provide medical and social services to individuals experiencing homelessness within the Greater Los Angeles Area. Every Wednesday night and every other Saturday morning, they operate a clinic with undergraduate, medical, and public health students in a collaborative effort to bring healthcare and social services to this population. In a safe non-judgmental environment, they provide a combination of direct medical services, health promotion and disease prevention activities, social support and case management, legal services, and referrals to medical and social resources.

The **Student Run Homeless Clinics** were founded in 1989-1990 under the direction of the Department of Family Medicine at UCLA. The clinics are solely run by DGSOM medical students and supervised by licensed UCLA faculty physicians. SRHC serves over a 1000 patients a year. Their services include preventive health, mental health, basic primary and urgent care, acute and chronic disease management, wound and foot care, social services referrals, immunizations and more. In addition to medical care, SRHC works to empower these communities with patient education. The mission of the UCLA Student Run Homeless Clinics (SRHC) is to provide respectful and compassionate health care services to homeless adults, families, and children living in the greater Los Angeles area. The individuals they serve benefit by receiving free medical care from UCLA medical students and faculty physicians. The founders and clinic participants are dedicated to the health of the community.

Questions about Student Life

Q: What does the day-to-day schedule look like for a first-year student? Do students feel they still have time to spend with spouses or significant others?

A: This is an excellent question for current students. If you email us at DGSOMEDI@mednet.ucla.edu, your email will be forwarded to the student panelists of Second Look and then they can reach out to you.
Q: What opportunities are there for students between years to connect with each other? What opportunities are there for interprofessional learning?

A: The Big Sib Lil Sib Program at DGSOM is designed to create small families of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th years who share similar interests, hobbies, and backgrounds in order to strengthen the bond between classes. Incoming first year students who choose to be a part of the program are "matched" with second year students who we feel will form a strong and lasting bond. The second-year students already have a family including at least one 3rd year and one 4th year medical student. These families are invited to quarterly events where they can catch up, hang out, share advice, and get to know the interesting and fun group of people at DGSOM.

A Sample of DGSOM Events Throughout the Year

*The Healthcare Symposium*, now in its’ 24th year, is an annual event hosted by the DGSOM Dean’s Office with sponsorship from UCLA Health and other campus and outside organizations. This is a student-led event organized by an inter-professional health school team from DGSOM, UCLA School of Nursing, and UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. The symposium highlights crucial and diverse topics of great importance in modern healthcare by inviting speakers to discuss solutions for our most-pressing healthcare matters. The 2020 Symposium topic is, Structural Vulnerabilities in Health: Medical and Public Health Solutions. Recently held symposium topics include Gentrification’s impact on healthcare and Immigration and healthcare.

*The Ethics Symposium*, now in its’ 9th year, is an annual event hosted by the DGSOM Professionalism Council and the Bioethics Interest Group. The symposium hosts healthcare professionals from DGSOM, UCLA School of Nursing, Law, and Ethics to share their knowledge and experience about medical ethics. This event is well attended by inter-professional health students and the inter-professional health community.

*The Annual Career Conference on Career Choices in Medicine*, now in its’ 31st year, is held every fall semester and open to students in all years. The event features a session with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs on the “Road Map to Specialty Selection and Residency”, followed by a “specialties mixer” which provides students the opportunity to network with physicians in various specialties and fields. This conference also has panels focused on different themes such as Academic Medicine, Global Health, Advocacy, and Addressing Health Care Disparities.

*Grad Games* is held each spring to encourage friendly athletic competition amongst the UCLA graduate schools. Students compete in an array of activities such as soccer, tennis, basketball and volleyball. In 2020, they will introduce a video and board gaming competition to Grad Games. The games conclude with a fun social event for all of the participants as a culminating community event.

*Alumni Reunion Weekend* has been added as an annual fall event and is in its third year in 2020. Students have the opportunity to meet and tour current DGSOM alumni throughout the medical
school spaces. Following their tours, students and alumni sit down and engage over lunch. Students are also invited to the evening “All-Class Dinner Reception” to continue networking with alumni, solidifying connections and strengthening the DGSOM cross-generational bonds.

DGSOM Student organizations collaborate with graduates students across UCLA campus to organize events and programs for the benefit of the community. One example is Sling Health at UCLA, a student organization that began as an informal health technology incubator with the vision of empowering medical students to solve relevant issues in healthcare. In their first year, they supported two teams: one focused on developing a tool to streamline pediatric care-coordination for the most vulnerable children within UCLA Health and another developing a meal kit delivery service to use food as medicine for pressing chronic conditions like diabetes. In the second year, the health technology incubator at UCLA merged with the national Sling Health network founded by medical students at Washington University in St. Louis to become Sling Health at UCLA. They have developed an innovative platform that (1) provides experiential training for the next generation of physician innovators and (2) enables creation of innovative technologies for pressing clinical needs. Each year, the organization first brings together top students in medicine, engineering, business, and other graduate specializations to form interdisciplinary teams, connecting them to clinicians and local entrepreneurs to develop novel solutions for healthcare issues. Sling Health at UCLA then provides the necessary infrastructure, training, and mentorship to create solutions to address identified clinical challenges and expose students to healthcare innovation.

You can read more about our many ways to get involved in organizations and events here: https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-career-specialty-interest-groups
https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-national-regional-organizations
https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-community-service-organizations

Questions about Residency

What is UCLA’s match rate to residency (e.g., ENT)?

You can view our match results online. Our Match rate is typically several % points above the national mean in the high 90s.

Questions about Summer Break and Pre-Commencement

Q. Are students encouraged to take some time during the “Break” after first year to actually take a break or are most people just using it as a time to work on extracurricular activities?

A. While the majority of students do engage in research experiences over the summer, we always do have some students who take a genuine break. Many students do use this time to engage in research or another area of their passion, but it is up to each individual to choose their priority.
**Q. Is there anything I should do this summer as prep?**

A. Student panelist #1 answer: There's not much prep to do. Spend time with your family and prepare for a move if you're making one. When you get here, there are tons of resources for tutoring or getting support that will keep you well prepared.

Student panelist #2 answer: I would say no need to! Enjoy your summer, travel if you can, rest, recuperate, and get your brain ready to jump into work in the fall. If you're feeling antsy, I would recommend maybe doing a non-medical thing for self-improvement (reading a book on health policy, listen to podcasts, learn some Spanish or another language!)

Student panelist #3 answer: If you’re able, I would definitely say travel! A lot of students do that before medical school as a last hurrah before bunkering down. More than anything, just have a great time.

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**Questions by International Students**

**Q: Please share some information about international students at DGSOM.**

A: The student Facebook group will be the best way to connect with fellow students and international students at the DGSOM [Class of 2024 Facebook group](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-outside-scholarships).

**Q: What forms of support (loan/scholarship) are available to international students at DGSOM?**

A: International students are eligible to receive institutional merit scholarship, external scholarships and private loans. All admitted students are considered for merit scholarships – no application is required. Outside scholarships are applied for directly with the agency, please see our publication of outside scholarship agencies: [https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-outside-scholarships](https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-outside-scholarships). Also, UCOP provides a Preferred Private Loan Lender list, which includes recommended private loans for international students. For this list go here: [https://www.elmselect.com/v4/school/162/program-select](https://www.elmselect.com/v4/school/162/program-select).

**Q: Are international students able to secure residency positions in the US after graduation?**

A: This varies by residency program and site. You can read more about program-specific criteria on their own web sites or FREIDA online. [https://freida.ama-assn.org/Freida/](https://freida.ama-assn.org/Freida/)
Q: How long does it usually take for F1 visa to be issued? Since my housing application and other matriculation processes are on hold while I wait for visa, is it possible for the hold status to be removed so I can apply for housing?

A: Please contact the International Student Services Office directly for assistance. You can find appropriate email addresses assigned to each unit at the Dashew Center.

Q: Since I am in Canada currently, if the border is not open by Fall, will there be any accommodations for students such as myself, who are unable to travel?

A: Absolutely. As all changes due to COVID-19 are fluid for the foreseeable future, this is a hurdle best dealt with as the academic year approaches.

Q: Are non-U.S. citizens (with a CoA scholarship so no funding is needed for medical school years) able to apply internally into the MSTP?

A: Yes.

Q: What are some of the funding options available to non-U.S. citizens to pursue a longitudinal research experience during medical school?

A: Funding options would be the same. No difference.

Questions about Parking

Q: How do students who live off campus obtain a parking permit, where do we park and how much does it cost?

A: The average cost for campus parking is included in your financial aid package and can vary depending on the parking permit. Here are the current UCLA parking fees: [https://www.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/ucla-parking-rates-and-fees](https://www.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/ucla-parking-rates-and-fees)