

AY 2026-27 Medicine and the Mind

The MS III MEDICINE and the MIND block will cover a full semester in which the student will have an opportunity to integrate teaching experiences across multiple disciplines, learning and understanding the interface between medical and psychiatric conditions affecting patients across settings from the emergency department and hospital (inpatient and consultation liaison service) to the ambulatory clinic. The specialties of Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Neurology and Emergency Medicine will be integrated into a full-time clinical rotation in the format of a blended longitudinal integrated clerkship. The schedule will contain concentrated block time for inpatient rotations, consultation liaison rotation and blocks for ambulatory experiences. Parallel streaming of experiences during the ambulatory blocks is built on the concept of interleaving in adult learning theory. Open space is flexible time built into the calendar and can be used for study, follow-up of continuity patients or personal time.

Block Goals and Objectives

- Function effectively on a health care team that has implemented an interdisciplinary approach to patient care (7.2, 7.3)
- Communicate effectively with health care professionals both orally and in written documentation (4.2)
- Describe the interface between psychiatric and medical conditions(2.5)
- Perform the basic evaluation and develop an initial management plan for patients who have concomitant medical and psychiatric conditions in various treatment settings (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
- Demonstrate patient centered care in the co-management of medical and psychiatric conditions (2.5, 1.6)
- Recognize psychiatric presentations of medical illness and medical symptoms and presentations that may be caused by a psychiatric condition and apply this knowledge to form a broad differential diagnosis and treatment plan (2.1, 2.2, 2.5)
- Apply evidence-based principles of clinical sciences in diagnostic and therapeutic decision making in various treatment settings (2.3)
- Maximize patient outcomes by providing collaborative care across specialties in medicine and with other health care professionals (7.2)
- Describe barriers at the health care system level that impact consultation and referral practices (6.4)

- Use data derived from the history, physical examination, imaging/ and or laboratory investigation to categorize the disease process and generate and prioritize a list of diagnostic considerations and develop an treatment plan (1.3)
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of these teaching and learning experiences with good performance on the Internal Medicine, Psychiatry and Family Medicine NBME shelf-exams. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)

Block Scheduling

Discipline-specific concentrated rotations in this block include Psychiatry Inpatient, Psychiatry Consultation Liaison Service, Neurology Inpatient, Internal Medicine Inpatient Wards and Subspecialty selective. The remainder of the time is spent on rotations that are ambulatory and integrated across the five specialties in a parallel streaming model with the goal of continuity with supervising residents and faculty. Family Medicine experiences will be concentrated in this block but will contain some longitudinal experiences in the other semester with OB-GYN/Pediatrics/Surgery. Emergency Medicine experiences will be integrated across the year, with clinical shifts focused on care of the adult during this block and clinical shifts at El Paso Children's Hospital in the other semester. Psychiatry experience derives its foundation from biopsychosocial model for all rotations. Didactics in each block will be integrated across disciplines to the extent possible. This block achieves the goals by weaving block (shared) activities with clerkship specific activities.

Within any given week, there will be some events that all students in the rotation, regardless of where they are in the block schedule, will be expected to attend. These include the weekly didactic sessions.

Overview of the Block Schedule

Preceding the clinical activities of each semester, there will be one week of Intersession with orientation and shared activities to prepare you for the clinical rotations.

Following the completion of the spring semester, all students will participate in a 2 week Intersession Course that will include common learning experiences and end of year testing (not shown in the diagram below)

Please note that students will rotate through the experiences in a different order with small groups of their colleagues.

Orientation/ Procedures	IM wards 2 weeks	IM Specialty 1 week	Internal Medicine*	Internal Medicine	Psychiatry 1 week inpatient or CL	Psychiatry 2 weeks inpatient or CL	Neurology Inpatient 1 week	ILP 1 week	Internal Medicine	IM Ward 3 weeks	Testing/ NBME/ OSCE	
			Neurology	Neurology					Neurology			
			Psychiatry	Psychiatry					Psychiatry			
			Family Medicine	Family Medicine					Family Medicine			
	FM Longitudinal (goal of 4 sessions per week of ambulatory)											
	Emergency Medicine Longitudinal (goal 4 shifts 8 to 9 hours each)											
	Individual Learning Plan											

Academic Success and Accessibility Office

Office of Accessibility Services

TTUHSC EP is committed to providing access to learning opportunities for all students with documented learning disabilities. To ensure access to this course and your program, please contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) by calling 915-215-4398 to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting accommodations in the classroom and clinical setting. Accommodations are not provided retroactively, so students are encouraged to register with OAS as soon as possible. More information can be found on the OAS website: <https://el Paso.ttuhsc.edu/student services/accessibility/default.aspx>

STATEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

To support the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso offers reasonable modifications based on the student's particular needs. Any student who is pregnant or parenting a child up to age 18 or has conditions related to pregnancy are encouraged to communicate their needs with their faculty and/or program for academic support. Students may also contact Norma Fuentes, the Manager of Accessibility and Student Advocacy, to discuss support options. She will work with the institution's designated Pregnancy and Parenting Liaison to ensure equal access to the University's education program or activity. Please email norma.fuentes@ttuhsc.edu or call 915.215.4398. Students may also submit a [Pregnancy & Parenting Support form](#) to request assistance.

For more information, please refer to [Texas Tech University System Regulation 07.15 – Pregnancy and Parental Status](#).

Counseling Assistance

TTUHSC EP is committed to the well-being of our students. Students may experience a range of academic, social, and personal stressors, which can be overwhelming. If you or someone you know needs comprehensive or crisis mental health support assistance, on-campus mental health services are available Monday- Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., without an appointment. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 915-215-TALK (8255) or emailing support.elp@ttuhsc.edu. The offices are located in MSBII, Suite 2C201. Related information can be found at <https://el Paso.ttuhsc.edu/student services/student-support-center/get-connected/> Additionally,

the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached by calling or texting 988.

Reporting Student Conduct Issues:

Campus community members who observe or become aware of potential student misconduct can use the [Student Incident Report Form](#) to file a report with the Office of Student Services and Student Engagement. Student behaviors that may violate the student code of conduct, student handbook, or other TTUHSC policies, regulations, or rules are considered to be student misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, harassment, drug use, or theft.

TTUHSC El Paso Campus CARE Team:

The university CARE Team is here to support students who may be feeling overwhelmed, experiencing significant stress, or facing challenges that could impact their well-being or safety. If your professor notices any signs that you or someone else might need help, they may check in with you personally and will often connect you with the CARE Team. This is not about being “in trouble”—it’s about ensuring you have access to trained professionals who can offer support and connect you to helpful resources. Additionally, if you have any concerns about your own well-being or that of a fellow student, please don’t hesitate to reach out to let your professor know. You can also make a referral to the CARE Team using [CARE Report Form](#). Your health, safety, and success are our top priorities, and we’re here to help.

[Intersession/ Orientation Week](#)

Preceding the clinical activities of each block, there will be one week of orientation and shared activities to prepare students for the upcoming rotations. Topics to be covered will vary by semester and will include the following:

- Orientation to each clerkship
- Electronic Health Record introduction and training
- Clinical Terminology
- Clinical reasoning session
- Introduction to the Individual Learning Plan
- Psychiatric Interview in Children and Adolescents
- Biopsychosocial Formulation
- Scales Training
- Patient Interviewing and Assessment
- Updates in Basic Sciences

[Block Assignments](#)

Individualized Learning Plan: One week per semester is reserved for an Individualized Learning

Plan. Three weeks before their scheduled ILP week, the student will need to turn in their ILP Sheet. Students will need to generate a prioritized list with 4 areas of improvement and/or Professional Development. The student will also need to generate how they plan to achieve their list and upload it to Elenra. The Student is expected to meet with their assigned Faculty/Resident/Fellow a minimum of one week before their ILP to discuss their ILP Sheet. The student will need to generate a 5 minute annotated PowerPoint presentation and provide it to the Faculty/Resident/Fellow for review and approval. Once it is approved it will be uploaded by the student to Elenra for the other students who are in the same ILP week to review and comment. Please refer to additional directions provided by the clerkships and criteria.

Additional Online Resources Available to Students

- Online Med Ed/Archer
- Aquifer/WISE MD
- UWorld
- CoreUltrasound
- NBME vouchers for subject exams

Appendices

Appendix A: Block Core Didactics and Objectives

- **Combined Didactics will be held every Wednesday afternoon throughout the Clerkship (generally 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.). All necessary reading material will be provided prior to scheduled lecture via email or on Elenra.*

Appendix B: Quick guides and Assignment Guidelines

Appendix C: Block Op-Log Guidelines and Requirements

Appendix D: Assessment forms

Block Directors/Assistant Directors & Coordinators

- Internal Medicine:
 - Director: Dr. Saul Ramirez (Saul.Ramirez@ttep.edu)
 - Assistant Director: Dr. Rebecca Corey (Rebecca.Corey@ttep.edu)
 - Coordinator: Marissa Tafoya (marissa.tafoya@ttep.edu)
- Neurology:
 - Directors: Dr. Isabel Narvaez-Correa (isanarva@ttuhsc.edu)
 - Coordinator: Maria Elena Barcenás (Maria.Barcenás@ttep.edu)

- Psychiatry:
 - Director: Dr. Patricia Ortiz (Patricia.E.Ortiz@ttuhsc.edu)
 - Assistant Director: Dr Dayle Alonso (dayalons@ttep.edu)
 - Coordinator: Valeria Diaz (Valeria.Diaz@ttep.edu)
- Emergency Medicine:
 - Director: Dr. Mike Parsa (michael.d.parsa@ttuhsc.edu)
 - Assistant Director: Dr. Patrick Popieluszko (papopiel@ttuhsc.edu)
 - Coordinator: Lisanne Vera (lisanver@ttep.edu)
- Family Medicine:
 - Director: Dr. Luz Luna (luz.luna@ttep.edu)
 - Assistant Director: Dr Justin Wright through 7/2026 and then Dr Michelle Davis (Michelle.Davis@ttep.edu)
 - Coordinator: Vonntia Flores (Vonntia.Flores@ttep.edu)

Block Grading Policy Overview

- Assessment forms used during the clerkship are located in Appendix D
- Each clerkship director or assistant will conduct a mid-clerkship evaluation. It will consist of an in person meeting and is an opportunity for students to receive feedback to improve their performance and voice any concerns regarding the clerkship.
- Students will be scheduled on Elentra and will also receive a calendar invite with specific clerkship details and requirements needed by scheduled meeting date. Please refer to the Mid-Clerkship and Final Assessment forms in Appendix D for details.
- Please see the Common Clerkship Policies for more detail regarding final grades.