

CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS

Credit: Selective C or Elective

Location: Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Revised: 7/1/07

Applications will be accepted beginning February 1st of Year III on a first-come, first-serve basis

DIRECTOR:

Thomas M. Mack, MD

E-mail: tmack@usc.edu

PHONE #:

323-865-0445

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

1. Create and maintain a simple database.
2. Select appropriate statistical analyses for different types of data and to answer different types of clinical questions.
3. Perform and interpret basic statistical tests.
4. Create and label appropriate tables and graphs.
5. Collaborate effectively with epidemiologists and bio statisticians.
6. Design an epidemiological study or a clinical trial.
7. Recognize design and analysis practices that do not meet acceptable requirements for medical research.

REPORT TO: NOR 4444 at 9:00 a.m.

PREREQUISITE: None

DURATION: 4 weeks for selective; 6 weeks for elective

DATES OFFERED: July-August or September-October

Rotations scheduled: by calendar month

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 6-8 for July-August; up to 20 for September-October

SUPERVISION:

100% Faculty

VISITING STUDENTS: Yes

DESCRIPTION:

By the end of this clerkship, students will have learned the methodological and logistical requirements for the conduct of clinical or epidemiological research in an academic medical setting, including the basic skills of data collection, data management, data analysis, and scientific writing. They will have an opportunity to participate in one or more aspects of a specific clinical or epidemiological research project.

EVALUATION:

Students will be informed of expectations and methods of evaluation both by handout and verbally during the orientation to the clerkship. A formal review of methodology will be evaluated as follows: 50% homework assignments (assessed by teaching faculty) and 50% oral discussion (assessed by preventive medicine mentor). Mentored research experience(s) will be evaluated as follows: 50% Primary faculty mentor and 50% PM co-mentor. All faculty mentors will fill out student evaluation forms. The PM mentor (or co-mentor) will be responsible for making sure these forms are forwarded to the Course Director. The Course Director will assign a grade of credit or unsatisfactory to each student. Students will be given feedback based on review of methodology. Faculty mentors will be responsible for communicating to students any unsatisfactory behaviors or other problems they observe in the student's performance of intended actions for their research project.

***Selective Attendance and Illness Policy**

In order to insure adequate clinical exposure, no more than 3 days of excused absences (to include official Holidays) can be accepted during a selective. This policy does not imply that absences are guaranteed; absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty. Absence due to illness must be reported to the faculty or his/her designee as soon as possible. In case of extended absence (2 days or more), a note from a physician (who is not a relative) is required and the absence will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. A physician note may be requested for any absence, at the discretion of the faculty.

Students will generally be required to make up days before a passing grade can be assigned. All absences must be excused and any planned absence must be registered with the preceptor prior to the first day of the selective. Students should take vacation time if he/she anticipates a need for more than 3 absences during a selective. USMLE and BLS/ACLS will not be considered excused absences.