Successful Practices – Professional Enrichment Program
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (Contact person listed below)

The Academic Calendar was changed in 2009 to provide medical students more opportunities to demonstrate independent and self-directed learning. Students engage in a Professional Enrichment Program (PEP) after each two sections/courses in the curriculum during the first two years. This one to two week program embraces three components essential to the training and development of future physicians: service learning, community service, and independent learning.

Students participate in a variety of clinical experiences and service projects along with independent learning opportunities selected by students to enhance previously studied material or areas representing a new interest. During PEP, students are also exposed to current topics important in medical practice and patient care.

Students are required to complete 4 semester credits prior to beginning year three of training. Electives may be a semester long course or occur during PEP.

BASIC Format for PEP:
PEP I – The first PEP period is focused upon enhancing student learning skills and providing students opportunities to experience ways to minimize stress during the rigors of medical education. PEP I lasts one week. Students engage in service learning through Score One for Health and other activities. Core topics are introduced through lectures and electives providing students with an introduction to material important for practice and life-long learning.

PEP II – The second PEP provides students with the first opportunity to begin organizing a curriculum vita that will be an integral part of professional development and presentation. Community service and learning opportunities, including early clinical experiences, will be available and students may select electives to enrich their learning experience. Career choices will be explored and core topics will continue. PEP II lasts one week.

PEP III – The second year is an intense year of academic undertaking and three PEP periods are provided for students. PEP III two weeks. Students have a greater opportunity to engage in electives and career development activities to help develop interests prior to clinical clerkship training. Longitudinal core topics continue as well as newer topics that are more closely aligned with medical practice.

PEP IV – PEP IV extends second year experiences and lasts two weeks. Students may engage in service learning, community service, and electives while also attending classes addressing core topics for medical practice.

PEP V – This two-week period provides students with opportunities for electives, service learning, and community service. An important aspect of PEP V is a review of formative evaluations during preclinical training and enhancing skills required for assessments at the end of year two.

PEP-clinical is a two-week period in the summer semester that is devoted to special topics required for beginning third year clinical clerkship experiences. Among these are ACLS certification, CSA examination, review of licensing requirements, and OSHA and HIPAA training.
Benefits of Program:
- Students and faculty have a decompressed schedule
- Students demonstrate independent, self-directed learning
- Students become more involved in what curriculum is developed by suggesting elective topics
- Students who need to remediate a section/course can do so in a timelier manner; incomplete grades can be completed by the end of the semester.

Results during 2009-2010:
- Students overwhelmingly approve of program
- Students are less stressed and ready to start back to formal classes after PEP
- Students are requesting more electives and more sections of electives
- Second year students have created their own study programs for board preparation
- Remediations are more successful than with previous format
- Faculty and staff appreciate time to prepare for next section/course
- Faculty are energized with small group electives

For more information, feel free to contact:
Linda Adkison, MS, PhD,
KCUMB
ladkison@kcumb.edu