

ELECTIVES DURING MF1

HORIZONTAL ELECTIVES

Horizontal electives, unlike Block Electives, are done on a part-time basis while students are in full-time studies, either during the Medical Foundations or Clerkship Rotations. MF1 is an ideal time to pursue Horizontal Electives.

Horizontal electives are completely optional and do not appear on the transcript. Many students find them a clear complement to their core studies or areas that they feel interested in exploring in more detail than has occurred in their tutorials. Some popular horizontal electives are anatomy, family medicine, ophthalmology and pharmacology, to name just a few.

- ◆ There are no guidelines or restrictions as to the number of horizontal electives a student should complete.
- ◆ Horizontal electives can range from a few hours in a clinic each week, to on-call experiences on weekends.
- ◆ Horizontal electives should be a minimum of 4 sessions or a total of 8 hours in length.
- ◆ We recommend that students not make any firm plans for horizontal electives until they have begun the Foundation during which they would like to do the elective. This is to allow students to get a clear idea of the time demands within the Foundation before taking on too many horizontal experiences.
- ◆ Horizontal electives need not be supervised by an MD, PhD or a McMaster Faculty member. They should however, not be supervised by an immediate family member. A paramedic could be a supervisor for an ambulance ride along, a pharmacist for pharmacology, a nurse for any number of electives, a physiotherapist or occupational therapist for an elective in rehabilitation, etc.
- ◆ OBJECTIVES FOR HORIZONTAL ELECTIVES MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE PRIOR TO THE START DATE OF THE ELECTIVE. HORIZONTAL ELECTIVE OBJECTIVES FORMS DO NOT NEED TO BE HANDED IN TO THE MD PROGRAM OFFICE OR SIGNED BY THE STUDENT ADVISOR OR PRECEPTOR.
- ◆ Although it is not necessary for the student advisor to sign horizontal elective objectives sheets, students are always advised to consult their student advisor for guidance.
- ◆ If a student completes a horizontal elective and has not filed an Objectives Form online prior to their departure, the elective will not be covered by malpractice insurance and will be considered invalid. Neither the supervisor nor the student will receive credit.
- ◆ Students **MUST** be evaluated by their supervisor using a Summary of Student Performance Form. This form must be submitted to the MD Program Electives Coordinator in order for the horizontal elective to be noted as completed and valid. This evaluation ensures that your preceptor receives credit for their teaching contribution.
- ◆ Students must also evaluate the elective online.