6.2 Years 1 and 2 Curriculum

The first two years of the CUSOM curriculum focus on teaching students fundamental principles of biomedical science with significant emphasis on clinical science, elements of clinical practice, and professionalism. Historically, the first two years of medical school instruction have been viewed as “pre-clinical” with the remaining two years being viewed as “clinical”. At CUSOM, the curriculum is integrated to provide a core of strong biomedical principles in addition to a robust foundation in clinical sciences and osteopathic principles, principles of clinical practice, and professionalism.

Curricular Content Overview

All semesters of the first and second year are partitioned into two 9-week Blocks, with the exception of ten (10) weeks for Block 4 and eleven (11) weeks for Block 8. Within the first two Blocks, students are introduced to the biomedical foundational concepts of Anatomy, Biochemistry/Cell Biology, Microbiology/Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Physiology. Anatomy continues throughout the first year, integrating wherever possible with the systems approach of the remaining three semesters of the first two years.

In Blocks 3 through 8, the CUSOM curriculum follows an organ-system approach to medical education. Faculty utilize instructional materials that go beyond the basic biomedical principles mastered during the first semester. Biomedical faculty, primary care physicians, and sub-specialty physicians collaborate to deliver integrated content relating to the particular organ system.

The Clinical Skills and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine courses address content that will allow CUSOM students to learn integrate and apply the basic philosophy, principles, and practice of osteopathic medicine. Hands-on diagnosis and treatment is the foundation of osteopathic whole-person healthcare. Lectures and labs incorporate state-of-the-art instruction. Additionally, Simulation and Standardized Patient experiences, allow students to enhance their clinical skills such as physical exam techniques, interviewing, counseling, and medical reporting skills necessary to progress to the third and fourth years.

The Foundations in Medical Practice (FMP) courses provide CUSOM students a broad overview of biostatistics, evidenced-based medicine, epidemiology, population health, research methodology, and experimental design. The students are exposed to the calculations and strategies required to appropriately locate, interpret, design and complete a research/scholarly paper with clinically relevant knowledge related to competent medical practice.
The Professional Core Competencies (PCC) courses are presented through all semesters of the first- and second-year curriculum, and are designed to teach the core competencies necessary for caring, compassionate, effective and holistic practice of osteopathic medicine throughout the physician’s career. The use of lecture, discussion, and other unique activities, introduces students to medical humanities, biomedical ethics, medical law and jurisprudence, quality improvement and patient safety, global health issues, and professionalism.