



University of the Virgin Islands School of Medicine

Policy Name and Section: <i>Required Electives Policy</i>	Effective Date:	UVISOM Policy Number: <i>010</i>
Responsible Authority: <i>Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs</i>	UVISOM Documents where Policy Available:	Approval Body and Date: <i>Executive Council, Self-Study Committee, Curriculum Committee</i>

Academic and Career Counseling is offered by the Office of Student Affairs, who will coordinate with the Office of Clinical Affairs to connect students with clinical faculty to provide more specific career advising and ensure that students take a electives beyond their desired specialty. Electives are selected in consultation with their faculty advisor and clinical chairs. By the end of M-3, students are required to submit a form to the Office of Student Affairs to indicate their list of elective choices and their geographical locations. Electives may be pursued at UVISOM, in the affiliated hospitals, in associated community institutions, or in approved, off-site clinical rotations or preceptorships at other institutions. Electives offered locally will be developed by the faculty, recommended by the M-3/M-4 Working Group, recommended by the Curriculum Committee and approved by the dean. As electives are approved and finalized, they are added to a *M-4 Curriculum Brochure* which will be made available to students online.

Students are required to complete 26 weeks of electives in M-4, which they may meet through opportunities in clinical medicine, MPH course requirements, and independent study and research. UVISOM seeks to strengthen its research focus in the areas of tropical infectious disease, and public health and health disparities. Through collaboration with the VI Department of Health, UVI's Center for Exploratory Research, and targeted hiring of faculty in these areas, UVISOM aims to build a critical mass to support student research opportunities that also support locally relevant issues.