

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**

*Revised 9/6/07*

**A Program to Decompress the First Year Medical School Curriculum**

The Decompressed Program permits a small number of first year students to take two years to complete the academic requirements of the M-1 year. The program introduces considerable curricular flexibility primarily for those students who are less well prepared for medical school, and for students who may need additional time to complete first-year requirements.

Students may apply for the program (1) prior to matriculation, (2) upon matriculation, or (3) no later than five working days after the time the second examination results are distributed to students in the fall semester. Students admitted to the program will be permitted to carry a reduced M-1 course load, and if requirements are met each year, will be given two full years to complete the M-1 curriculum and to pass all required M-1 courses. The College of Medicine Committee on Admissions may require some students to enroll as decompressed student as part of their admission to the College. Any student having a low score on the first and second progress examinations of the fall semester will be encouraged to apply for admission to the program. For students already enrolled, however, the final decision to seek entrance into the program rests with students and may not be mandated by the College of Medicine.

Entrance

Applications for the extended time program will be made to the Associate or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs by individual students after consultation with Campus Faculty Advisors, and the UHP Academic Skills Specialist (for UHP students). A written petition for the program must be submitted no later than five working days after the time the second examination results are distributed to students in the fall semester. The final decision to admit students to the program will be made by the Associate Dean for Academic Student Affairs after consultation with the Student Progress and Promotions Committee. Successful candidates must demonstrate that admission to the program would be of substantial academic or personal benefit. Students admitted to the program would immediately enter into a defined, decompressed, program of M-1 course study. Even though students in the program are participating in a reduced curriculum load they are expected to use the available time to achieve a strong knowledge base in the M-1 courses taken. Students will be counseled to participate in campus and/or College resource programs devoted to the improvement of study, reading, and time-management skills (e.g. the Lifelong Learning Course). They may also be advised to enroll in Urbana campus courses that will strengthen their preparation for the study of the basic medical sciences. As directed, students will participate in available tutorial experiences in each of the basic science areas.

Below is the suggested sequence of courses for students in the two-year program. Admitted students may request other sequences. However, students in the program are expected to participate in approximately fifty percent of the curriculum each year.

Year 1A

Fall

Anatomy (3)  
Histology I (2)  
Embryology (2)  
Genetics (2)  
Medical Statistics (2)

11 semester hours

Spring

Anatomy (3)  
Histology II (1)  
Behavioral Science (2)  
Neuroscience (4)

10 semester hours

Summer 1A

Supervised remedial work and make-up examinations, if needed, or participation in campus courses to prepare for the second year in the program.

Year 1B

Fall

Introduction to Human Disease I (1)  
Physiology I (3)  
Microbiology/ Immunology (3)  
Biochemistry (3)

11 semester hours

Spring

Introduction to Human Disease II (1)  
Physiology II (3)  
Microbiology/Immunology (3)  
Biochemistry (1st half of semester) (1)

7 semester hours

Summer 1B

Supervised remedial work and make-up examinations, if needed.

Academic Requirements For Students In The Decompressed Program

Students in the COM-UC Decompressed Program (M-1 Year) will be allowed only one repeat year. To qualify for the repeat year, students must pass all but one course, having passed all previous courses. If a student fails one discipline in Year 1A they qualify for a repeat year – retake all 1A courses. A failure in Year 1B of the Decompressed Program will require a repeat of the entire M-1 year (all courses in year 1A and 1B). If a student fails more than one course after the makeup opportunity, they will be dropped from the College.

How this works:

**1A**

|  |   |                  |
|--|---|------------------|
| If pass all courses after<br>Make-up Exams       | → | 1B               |
| If fail 1 course after<br>Make-up Exams          | → | 1A               |
| If fail more than 1 course<br>After Make-up Exam | → | Dropped from COM |

**1B**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| If pass all courses after<br>Make-up Exams        | → | M-2   |
| If fail 1 course after<br>Make-up Exams           | → | Retake Entire M-1<br>Providing there was no other repeat year |
| If fail more than 1 course<br>After Make-up Exams | → | Dropped from COM  |

Monitoring of Progress

Progress of students in the two year program will be closely monitored by their Campus Faculty Advisors, the UHP Academic Skills Specialist and the Associate and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The Student Progress and Promotions Committee, after consulting with appropriate faculty members, advisors, and the Associate or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, shall, at regular intervals, review the academic performance of students in the two-year program and shall determine whether a student in the program is making satisfactory academic progress.

Student Status

Students will be assessed tuition based on their hours of enrollment and subject to deadlines for reduction of tuition printed in the appropriate University of Illinois at Chicago Timetable.

*Office of Student Affairs - 8/6/93, Revised - 8/31/94,  
11/29/95, 8/5/97, 7/8/98, 8/11/98, 7/6/99, 8/24/00, 11/18/03, 5/5/05, 9/6/07.  
W:/sa/policies/Proposed Policies/Proposed\_Decompressed\_Program\_2008.doc*

*Approved COM-UC Executive Committee 9/26/07  
Approved Educational Policy Committee 9/18/07  
Approved Basic Science Subcommittee 9/6/07*