

Course:	<b><u>Special Topics in Family Medicine FAM 2199</u></b>
Department:	Family Medicine
Faculty Coordinator:	Dan Sepdham, MD
Hospitals:	Dependent on preceptorship site
Periods Offered:	2, 4-8
Length:	4 weeks (2 weeks clinical, 2 weeks independent study/scholarly project)
Max # of students:	2 per period Availability may vary based on numbers of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year student on FM Clerkship and 4 <sup>th</sup> years on ambulatory care rotation)
First Day Contact:	Arranged by student with preceptor
First Day Time:	Will be sent via e-mail specific to each site
First Day Place:	Will be sent via e-mail specific to each site
Prerequisites:	Successful completion of third year Family Medicine Rotation Course director approval
PLEASE NOTE:	This course is not open to visiting students. Registration for FAM 2199 is <b>not</b> available through open enrollment. Course director approval is required in order to register for FAM 2199. Students may complete only one of the "Special Topics split 2 week/2 week rotations" across disciplines.

This course cannot take the place of the family medicine clerkship rotation, which some students defer to the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

### **I. Course Description:**

FAM 2199 is a course setup to provide students with an experience of 2 weeks with a family medicine physician and 2 weeks of protected time to either complete an independent clinically oriented scholarly project (e.g. a case report) or series of online case simulations in family medicine, with the advance approval of the course director. The unique hybrid nature of clinical and independent scholarly requirements is designed to either:

1. Promote an opportunity for students to create educational content for junior learners / colleagues.
2. Or provide protected time for in-depth self-study of selected topics in Family Medicine through the completion of a series of nationally vetted, peer-reviewed online case simulations (<https://aquifer.org/courses/aquifer-family-medicine/>) (Student Cost=\$75)
3. Or provide protected time for students to submit a case report (or other manuscript) with appropriate faculty mentorship
4. And, in all cases, to provide students with an asynchronous learning environment to promote schedule flexibility to support interviewing for residency

Successful completion of the course requires two requirements.

1. Completion of 2 weeks with a community preceptor: Locate a preceptor through the Texas Statewide Family Medicine Preceptorship Program. Preceptors are located throughout Texas; there are opportunities to work in urban, suburban or rural

practices. Students wishing to stay in the Dallas area should expect some commute time, since many of the area preceptors are in nearby suburbs and not necessarily near the medical school. **Instructions:** A separate application form with physician choices selected from a list of approved preceptors **must be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the rotation**. The application process is completed online at <https://www.tafp.org/preceptorship>. The TSFMPP website has been designed to meet the needs of several groups of users – students, preceptors, school administrators, and the program administrator. The primary function of the website is to enable potential preceptors and medical students interested in seeking a family practice preceptorship to learn about the program, apply for a user ID, complete an application, match their interests, and complete a survey. Students are matched by their school administrator on a first-come, first-served basis. **ONLY STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR FAM 2199 WILL BE MATCHED.**

2. Completion of an independent scholarly project or self-study. This must be completed by the time agreed upon with the course director and will in no cases be later than the end of spring break of the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Examples of approved scholarly efforts might include (but are not restricted to):
  - a. Preparation of and submission of a manuscript (of which the student is the first author, either in the form of a case report). Students will be responsible for finding a mentor who will work with them on this case report prior to its approval.
  - b. Completion of 30 family medicine virtual patient simulation cases on med-u.org (<https://aquifer.org/courses/aquifer-family-medicine/>). There will be a cost of \$75 for 90 days of access to these cases. All answers to the cases are logged and will be spot-checked by Carolyn Lindeman and Dan Sepdham to document completion of these cases. All cases must be completed by the end of spring break of the 4<sup>th</sup> year.
  - c. Preparation of clinical educational content to contribute to medical student education in a format that must be approved by the course director. The quantity of work must reflect 2 weeks of productivity.  
Examples of approved products might include:
    1. Patient based cases publishable on the web
    2. Brief topic summaries to contribute to the creation of Family Medicine clerkship library for use by future students
    3. 10 multiple choice questions, with answers, with well-written explanations, and appropriate citations to the literature to contribute to the creation of a question bank for self-study by future students
    4. Other proposed products will be considered after individual review by the course director

## **II. Course Goals & Objectives:**

Course Goals:

- To introduce medical students to the concepts of family practice.
- To provide exposure to primary care role models and ambulatory clinical experience.
- To develop medical management skills for the most frequently encountered ambulatory illnesses.

Course Objectives: *The student is expected to:*

- Conduct a focused, appropriate history and physical exam in the time allowed.
- Demonstrate a fund of knowledge that is appropriate for his/her level of training.
- Establish appropriate rapport with patients.
- Use appropriately the community resources available for comprehensive patient care.
- Interact courteously and professionally with members of the staff and patients.
- Understand the familial nature of family practice.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship of the family practitioner to their community.

### **III. Methods of Instruction:**

*Didactic:* The student will be in a one-on-one instructional setting with a private family practice physician. He/she will also participate in medical conferences, hospital staff meetings, and teaching sessions attended by the preceptor.

*Clinical:* The student is required to participate in all clinical activities of the preceptor including office practice, hospital rounds, and night calls.

*Student Responsibilities:* The preceptor will assign responsibilities to the student. Students electing to complete a manuscript must self-identify a faculty mentor who is willing to provide appropriate mentorship and co-authorship. Students electing to create an educational product will receive direct mentorship from the course director (including a series of directed readings on adult learning theories) and must have their idea approved in advance of course registration.

### **IV. Method of evaluation of students:**

Evaluation is based on preceptor and independent scholarly project faculty assessment and will be addressed on a Pass/Fail scale.

### **V. Important Policies:**

- The supervising physician cannot be a family member or relative of the student.
- Maximum excused absences: 1 day. Any unexcused absence will result in failure of the course.