Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
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Deans
Executive Associate Deans
Senior VP of Medical Affairs, Dean
Academic Affairs
Clinical Affairs
Finance and Administration
Student Affairs
Deputy General Counsel
Associate and Assistant Deans
Academic Affairs
Curriculum and Medical Education, Associate Dean
Curriculum and Medical Education, Assistant Dean
Basic Research and Graduate Studies, Associate Dean
Clinical Research, Associate Dean
International Affairs and COM Development, Associate Dean
Clinical Affairs
Community and Clinical Affairs, Associate Dean
Graduate Education, Associate Dean
Medical Affairs
Diversity, Assistant Dean
Student Affairs
Admissions & Records, Assistant Dean
Counseling & Communities, Assistant Dean

Departments & Chairs
Cellular Biology & Pharmacology
Human & Molecular Genetics
Humanities, Health, & Society
Immunology
Medicine
Molecular Microbiology & Infectious Diseases
Neurology
Neurosurgery
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Ophthalmology
Orthopedics
Pathology
Pediatrics
Psychiatry
Radiology
Surgery

Directors
Accreditation
Admissions & Records
Advancement & Alumni Affairs, Associate VP
Assessment
Community Service Learning & NeighborhoodHELP™ Counseling

Mission Statement
The mission of the Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is to lead the next generation of medical education and continually improve the quality of healthcare available to the South Florida community. The College of Medicine will accomplish its mission by:

- Training physicians to serve South Florida’s diverse population through a patient-centered curriculum instilling cultural competence,
- Providing Florida students greater access to medical education, and
- Fostering research to discover and advance medically relevant knowledge.

History
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at FIU arose from a community need for access to medical education and a regional need to address a shortage of physicians. Establishing the college formally began July 5, 2004, when the university first proposed the concept to the Board of Regents. The decision was postponed until the March 2006 when the South Florida Board of Governors heard FIU presentations for the creation of a new Florida medical school. The decision was postponed until the March 2006 when the South Florida community was awarded a public College of Medicine in Miami at Florida International University. Faculties were recruited and in February 2008 the college received preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). The college accepted its first class of future doctors in the fall of 2009.

MD Program
The College of Medicine offers a program of study for the Doctor of Medicine degree. The program requires 200 credits divided into four successive periods of 32, 37, 48, and 48 weeks. Basic Medical Science, Clinical Science, Clinical Skills, Professionalism and Social Responsibility are the foundations of the curriculum. Service learning in healthcare delivery and in the community are major components of the program. The college has formal affiliations with healthcare providers in the community, providing settings for supervised clinical practice learning. These affiliations include Baptist Health South Florida, Broward Health, Cleveland Clinic, Jackson Health System (Public Health Trust), Leon Medical Centers, Memorial Healthcare, Mercy Hospital, Miami Children’s Hospital, Mount Sinai Medical Center, and several ambulatory healthcare clinics.

The goal of the MD degree program is to prepare graduates for advancement into postgraduate study and
for the practice of medicine in any medical specialty or primary care area. In addition to the 200 credits earned in the curriculum, the Doctor of Medicine program requires demonstrated clinical competency, passing of Step 1 of the United States Medical License Exam, consistent display of professional behaviors and values appropriate for the practice of medicine, and recommendation from the Medical Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee and the Dean of the College of Medicine.

**Admission**

Florida International University College of Medicine (COM) participates in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) application process (http://aamc.org/audienceamcas.htm). Applications verified by AMCAS are the first step in the COM applicant screening process. Following receipt and verification of the AMCAS application and its data, each applicant is invited to complete a Secondary Application provided they meet the minimum Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements (MCAT 25 and overall GPA 3.0 for Regular Admissions; MCAT 32 and overall GPA 3.7 for Early Decision; a Science/Math GPA of 3.0 for all applicants). A $30 non-refundable application fee is required with submission of the Secondary Application. The Secondary Application provides additional insight into the applicant, focusing on such issues as the candidate’s desire to become a physician, commitment to Florida, and interest in FIU. Applicants are invited for an interview based on academic factors as well as non-academic factors such as personal experiences in several of the following – clinical/patient care exposure, research, commitment to service, leadership, and other enriching qualities.

After the interview, the completed file is reviewed by the full Admission Committee. The Admissions Committee will then vote to accept the applicant, reject the applicant, or put him/her in the Final Pool. The Final Pool is then reviewed at a later date at which time the applicant may be rejected or put on the waitlist. An applicant may remain on the Waitlist up to the day of the FIU COM Orientation the beginning of August.

**Medicine & Society: NeighborhoodHELP™**

NeighborhoodHELP™ (Health Education Learning Program) is a key component of the Medicine & Society program, which runs longitudinally throughout the four years of medical school under the supervision of Family Medicine faculty. Students are assigned to households in medically underserved communities in Miami-Dade County, along with nursing and social work students. These interprofessional teams visit their households at least once a month to assess and address barriers to health and potentially impact health outcomes. The teams work with their households to develop a plan for improving the household’s health in a comprehensive manner through greater knowledge and connection to resources. Medical students also collaborate with public health, law, education, and rehabilitative science students as needed to empower participating households to achieve better health. NeighborhoodHELP™ is part of the vision of the College of Medicine to create a new model of medical education immersed in the local neighborhoods to improve the quality of learning for students while providing service to local communities.

**Clinical Services: Health Care Network (HCN)**

The FIU-HCN supports the educational and service mission of FIU College of Medicine by managing clinical practice locations where College of Medicine faculty are engaged in the practice of medicine. Florida International University through Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine has created a faculty group practice as a 501(c)(3) corporation that will have multiple practice sites throughout South Florida. The FIU HealthCare Network and its Faculty Practice Plan exists exclusively to support FIU’s mission, and medical education at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. The FIU-HCN provides various administrative functions to support the College of Medicine faculty. These functions include billing and collections, contract management with vendors and insurance companies, provider credentialing, and administration of practice operations. Through the College of Medicine’s strategic recruitment of exemplary physicians, the FIU HealthCare Network will manage practices that render to its patients contemporary and quality medical care in an environment that is conducive to learning for patients, medical students, residents, and peers.

**Research: Biomedical and Clinical**

Research universities and medical schools in particular perform the basic medical research that leads to breakthroughs in detection, diagnosis, treatment and eradication of disease and other health problems. FIU scientists will continue conducting important disease-related research. One of the objectives of the research program is to foster synergy between teaching and research. FIU medical students will be aware of the latest medical developments and work alongside researchers to develop research skills.

The College of Medicine has the overall goal of growing the research enterprise to advance FIU into the top-tier of research institutions nationwide. The college opened with a modest cadre of outstanding internationally recognized scientists, all with substantial research funding. This cohort is the foundation of a research enterprise that will develop major research programs in reproductive development, reproductive cancer biology, infectious diseases, and environmental health sciences of special relevance to South Florida’s.
Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes

BMS-Basic Medical Sciences

Courses in the College of Medicine numbered BMSxxxx are restricted to students enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6001 Genes, Molecules & Cells (7). This course covers fundamental principles of cell and molecular biology and human genetics and their role in clinical medicine as they relate to health and disease. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6002 Human Structure & Function (7). This is an introduction to essential concepts of human structure and function with integration of the anatomical and physiological basis of several important clinical skills and procedures. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6015 Clinical Skills I (5). This course focuses on teaching medical students the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed in areas such as communication, the physical examination and documentation. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6016 Clinical Skills II (5). Clinical Medicine is a longitudinal “strand” throughout the four-year medical school curriculum. The strand is designed to provide students with the foundations of patient care that will prepare them for their clinical clerkship years. It will also provide them with the tools that will foster a lifetime of clinical competence. Prerequisite: Enrolled in College of Medicine.

BMS 6063 Foundations of Health Care (1). This course will provide the student with a population-based approach to understanding the delivery systems of healthcare. It will provide an understanding of economic, social and environmental forces facing our health care delivery systems today. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6064 Health Care Policies and End of Life Care (1). Introduction to Health Care Policies: This course will bring students the awareness they need of all interested parties and how each one of them shapes healthcare policy which in turn will affect all involved in health care. Among other things, this course invites you to examine Florida and U.S. Health Care Policies to determine which major health care issues physicians confront today.

End of Life Care: This course teaches the basic concepts associated with end-of-life care for older adults. Emphasis is placed on symptom management, preparation for death, and support to older adults and their families. The goal is to develop knowledge of specific strategies to support end-of-life care planning among older patients, families and healthcare professionals. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6065 Quality Improvement, Law and Evidence Based Medicine (2). Quality Improvement in Health Care: Improving the quality of health care in the U.S. is a public health emergency. This course is designed to convey a sense of urgency and instill a commitment to lifelong quality improvement. A broad quality platform will be presented from the viewpoint of relevant stakeholders. Learners will be armed with critical tools to meet QI responsibilities throughout clinical practice. Medical Jurisprudence: This course incorporates the basics of two professions, Medicine and Law. Physicians meet the law face to face every day, which is why students must be clear as to what purpose the law serves and how it affects medical practice. What are the patient's rights, what are your legal obligations? This course will provide students with framework for understanding the U.S. legal system's structure and the application of law to the practice of medicine. Evidence Based Medicine: This course will teach students a methodology that allows them to combine evidence, clinical expertise and the patient's own values or preferences, to provide the best possible patient care. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6072 Foundations of Community and Team Partnerships (1). The course provides students with the basics for community based collaborative practice to address health disparities. Students will learn the principles of community based participatory research and ethical research practice for health, and develop skills for working with people of diverse communities. They will establish relationships with community partners in the neighborhoods and conduct a community asset mapping project to familiarize themselves with the history of the communities they will serve and identify the strengths and resources within the communities for addressing social and health needs. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6073 Community Health in Practice (2). The course provides medical students the opportunity to further develop student team skills for a community based approach to health. Students will implement the principles of community based participatory research, service learning, and ethical research practice, and develop skills for working with household members. Students will build on their role as patient advocates and facilitators to health care. They will implement the plan developed during their course on "Communities, Culture and Health" to improve health outcomes and facilitate access to resources, addressing the social determinants of health. They will conduct home visits in interdisciplinary teams and monitor household needs, resources, and progress. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6300 Microbiology, Infection & Immunology (3). This course introduces the general principles of infections, host responses and pathogens, and is relevant for a foundation in clinical medicine and important
to human disease. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6400 Pharmacology (4). This course introduces medical students to the basic principles of pharmacology and to the primary classes of drug therapy including the prototypic agents. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6600 Cellular & General Pathology (4). Cellular and General Pathology is designed for first year medical students as an introductory course in the study of disease emphasizing the general pathologic concepts and vocabulary. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6631 Hematopoietic and Lymphoreticular Systems (3). This course is designed to provide the fundamental ground knowledge as it relates to the understanding of hematologic diseases, the clinical approach to a patient with an oncologic disease and the initial approach to the use of various chemotherapeutic drugs. Discussions related to: the mechanisms of disease with an understanding of the molecular bases that explain the disease process; the clinical features of the different disorders - genetic or acquired - as well as a description of the morphologic features of these diseases based on the most current available and clinically applicable information will be undertaken. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6632 Endocrine/Adrenal Systems (3). The Endocrine Systems course will: (1) Building upon the specific topics discussed in the course Human Structure & Function, introduce medical students to the abnormal processes and principal therapies of endocrine disorders; (2) Advance their knowledge and comprehension of the aforementioned disorders and therapeutic modalities including the influence and effects of gender, ethnicity, and behavior of patients on specific endocrine diseases. To provide an interactive teaching and learning environment, the course will include ‘question & answer’ sessions interspersed during the lectures as well as case discussions. A solid understanding of normal endocrine processes including the anatomy and function of endocrine organs, hormone synthesis, secretion, action and metabolism are required to successfully master this course. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6633 Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems (6). The course is an introductory learning opportunity to gain the basic concepts of cardiac and pulmonary medicine. The course will review the cardiopulmonary structures and anatomic and physiologic relationships and their integration to clinical medicine. The course will cover abnormal cardiovascular and pulmonary structures and physiology and the associated mechanisms of the related diseases. The clinical manifestations of derangements of the cardiopulmonary system will be reviewed. The student will be introduced to the diagnostic and therapeutic interventions in cardiopulmonary disease. Case based approach, group discussions, simulations and didactic presentations with some exposure to clinical skill will be used to achieve course objectives. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6634 Gastroenterology and Nutrition (4). This course is designed to introduce second year medical students to the principles of diseases affecting the human body’s digestive system. The course will cover conditions affecting the hollow viscera (esophagus, stomach, small intestine and colon) as well as solid organs that are part of the digestive system (liver and pancreas). Clinical cases will be used to introduce students to critical medical thinking and problem-based learning. Integration of anatomy, physiology, immunology and histology will be emphasized. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6635 Musculoskeletal Systems and Skin (5). This course is intended to familiarize the medical student with the normal development, structure and function of the musculoskeletal and integumentary systems. Common pathologic conditions that are congenital and acquired will be presented. The affects of environment, nutrition, exercise and aging on bone and joint homeostasis is emphasized. The opportunity to develop and enhance history taking and physical examination skills is provided. Basic prescribing and interpretation of diagnostic tests and correlation with pathoanatomy will be presented. Practical clinical skills such as joint and soft tissue infiltrations as well as reduction and stabilization of common fractures and dislocations will be taught. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6636 Nervous Systems: Brain and Behavior (10). The Nervous System Brain and Behavior course is designed to build upon vocabulary and concepts learned in Period One. The course will expand upon essential concepts in human structure and function leading to the introduction of growth and development of the human nervous system including embryological, cognitive and emotional aspects, clinical psychiatry, and clinical neurology. The course will integrate the concepts introduced in structure and function with their clinical application. Didactic lectures, small groups and independent study will be utilized as learning opportunities. Virtual patients and computer based simulations will be used as appropriate. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6637 Reproductive Systems (3). Reproductive Systems provides an overview of the development of the male and female reproductive systems with a focus on abnormalities of sexual differentiation and function, the physiology of control of the menstrual cycle, conception, infertility, menopause and pregnancy. In addition, the pathophysiology of the male reproductive system will be covered. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6638 Renal Systems (2). This course is an introduction to the study of the Renal System. It will help the student integrate what they have learned in previous courses (e.g. Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Genetics, Epidemiology, Histology, and Pharmacology), and with the Renal Minute e-mail, lead to an understanding of the mechanisms of disease involving the kidneys. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6820 Preparation for Medicine and Society (2). This course challenges students to understand the global (east vs. west) interpretation of compassion, explore complementary & alternative medicine and issues regarding medical jurisprudence. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

BMS 6826 Ethical Foundation of Medicine (1). The course covers the social and moral foundations of modern
It will review major medical codes, the ethical basis of decision-making, and case studies that exemplify ethics in practice. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

**BMS 6827 Introduction to Social Medicine: Addressing Health Disparities (2).** This course is an introduction to the social determinants of health, basics of cultural competence, and policy issues for addressing health disparities in an ethical and socially responsive manner. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

**BMS 6828 Interdisciplinary Approach to Health (1).** This course will provide students with the basis of the professional cultures they will come into contact with in their health care practice (including nursing, social work, law and public health). Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

**BMS 6880 Epidemiology and Biostatistics (1).** This course introduces students to the study of biostatistics and descriptive epidemiology in order to prepare these students to give a scholarly analysis of medical and public health literature. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

**BMS 6881 Epidemiology and Evidence Based Medicine (1).** This course continues from BMS 6880 and is an introduction to evidence-based medicine and discussing the role of evidence-based medicine in providing quality health care to individuals. Prerequisite: currently enrolled in the College of Medicine.

**BMS 8910 Directed Study (1-3).** Medical students engaged in individual research under the supervision of the COM faculty. Prerequisite: Enrolled in the College of Medicine.