

Policy Title: Nexus Learning and Experiences	
Accountable Dean or Director: Senior Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs	
Reviewed By: Course Director Subcommittee Curriculum and Policy Subcommittee	Approved By: Executive Oversight Committee
Effective Dates: AY 2022-23	Review Dates: TBD

PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

First- and second-year students will not take courses or pursue activities for elective credit, but rather for their own professional development and learning.

Nexus Learning

Nexus Learning comprises a diverse range of courses geared towards first- and second-year medical students; the offerings build on the required curriculum and allow students to gain new insights, knowledge, and skills to enhance their practice of medicine. Students can explore topics in the humanities as well as courses in the sciences. While Nexus Learning courses are not for credit, students are strongly encouraged to take at least one of these courses. Nexus Learning is an opportunity to deepen knowledge in particular areas of interest or discover an entirely new discipline, as well as to engage with faculty and students with these shared interests.

Selecting and Registering for a Nexus Learning Course:

- From the online elective catalog review the available [Nexus Learning Courses](#), select the course you wish to take
- Enroll in the course through EMPOWER and the course coordinator will contact you with more information

Students who have met the minimum requirements of the Nexus Learning course, which are set by the individual course directors, should track their participation in their student portfolio. The Nexus Learning courses are not formally graded but rather a voluntary experience in keeping with the Icahn School of Medicine's philosophy.

Experiences

- Students in Years 1 and 2 are encouraged to pursue the following types of activities and experiences outside of coursework: research, teaching/education, service, extra-curricular and school leadership positions, clinical shadowing, ethics and humanities, and global health. We encourage students to craft, pursue and then track these types of experiences on their own. This can be done via the student activity portfolio in the student information system. Students are encouraged to track their experiences throughout medical school by title, position, dates, and time spent and to keep them updated each semester. The student activity portfolio allows students export their information which can be used to prepare a student's CV and to prepare their residency application in Year 4.
- Every student is encouraged to become involved in a community service project of their choosing. This is not a formally graded requirement but rather a voluntary experience in keeping with Icahn School of Medicine's philosophy.