

Discipline of General Practice Newcastle University

Overview of specific disciplinary aims within the curriculum

The broad aims of the Discipline are for the student:

1. To understand the basis of general practice.
 - The structure and characteristics of general practice
 - The role of the general practitioner.
 - The interrelation between the general practitioner, the primary health care team, secondary care and the wider community.
2. To learn the skills required in general practice:
 - Consultation skills
 - Holistic care of the patient
 - Problem solving skills.
 - Procedural skills
3. To learn about conditions that are commonly seen or managed in general practice.
4. To extend their medical knowledge.
5. To develop attitudes that encourage curiosity, problem solving skills and the development of life long learning.

The purpose of the curriculum is to allow the student to develop better and more advanced skills and understanding as he/she progresses through the course. This vertical integration is to ensure that students are exposed to general practice material in an intellectually ordered way so that their knowledge and skills acquisition builds in an organised way.

The Disciplinary aims for each year are as follows:

Year 1

- Become familiar with the general practice setting
- Practice medical interviewing in a general practice setting
- Be aware of the resources available to assist students and practitioners care for their own health.

Year 2 GP placements no longer happening so some of these obsolete

- Develop skills in the process of consulting in a general practice environment.
- Develop an understanding of the role of the general practitioner.
- Observe the common problems seen in general practice.
- Develop an understanding of the impact of illness on the patient from a biopsychosocial perspective

Year 3

- Develop skills in history taking and clinical examination.
- Develop clinical decision making skills.
- Understand the role of the patient's concerns, fears and expectations in management.
- Learn basic procedural skills.
- Observe the common problems seen in general practice.
- Understand the relationship between the general practitioner and the other health care services, including the role of care planning.
- Understand the differences between urban and rural health services.
- Recognise the sources of stress in the lives of students and medical practitioners.

Year 4 GP placements no longer happening, so some of these obsolete

- Further develop skills in history taking and clinical examination.
- Enhance clinical decision making and management skills.
- Understand the management of chronic illnesses and disability, in the context of the whole patient and their family.
- Continue acquisition of procedural skills.
- Further increase knowledge of the common problems seen in general practice.
- Understand coping mechanisms and resources available for role stress.

Year 5

- Acquire a broad understanding of general practice including the role of the general practitioner.
- Understand the role of the consultation.
- Further develop clinical and procedural skills.
- Understand the management of common conditions encountered in general practice.
- Understand the role of the general practitioner in chronic care.
- Understand the impact of social context on health care, with particular focus on health care in a rural community. This includes:
 - ◆ The differences between health care in a rural as compared to an urban setting
 - ◆ Role of a rural GP including their role as GP VMOs.
 - ◆ Occupational health and safety.
 - ◆ Sociology of a rural setting.
 - ◆ Aboriginal health care.