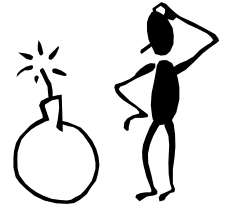


## Y4 - Student Misconceptions



***Misconception #1: If I take an elective during a recognized holiday like Christmas or Thanksgiving, I will automatically get that holiday off as a vacation day.***

If you decide to take part in an elective during calendar holidays, **you are responsible for participating in any and all activities that faculty deem necessary** to fulfill the course objectives. These activities may take place at any time, day or night, seven days a week regardless of any recognized State or University holidays. In order to avoid any confusion or conflict, it is wise to inquire at the beginning of an elective what the policy is concerning holidays, weekends, and required attendance.

***Misconception #2: Since it is necessary for me to interview in order to secure a residency, I am entitled to a certain amount of days off during an elective for travel and interview time.***

Although the faculty in charge of an elective **may** choose to grant time off to students to interview without penalty, this is by no means required of them. Faculty may decide not to grant you any credit or to award only partial credit for an elective if you miss too many days. At the discretion of the faculty, additional activities or assignments may be required to make up any time lost. You are given several weeks of unscheduled time during Year Four, some of which is intended for interviewing.

While faculty attempt to be accommodating and exceptions have been granted occasionally in the past with advance notice, this is completely at the discretion of the responsible faculty. Furthermore, students have had to make up days. Make-up days can be completed on nights and weekends. Therefore, you should plan your breaks accordingly and if granted an interview meet with faculty ASAP to inform them and make your request.

***Misconception #3: If I want to add an elective, that is my decision and the faculty member in charge is not required to give approval. (sign my add slip).***

This is definitely **Not True**. Granting permission for an “add” is the elective faculty member’s prerogative. Students may obtain faculty permission via e-mail or the add/drop form. Also, students are reminded that paperwork must be complete and in the office of the Y3/4 Registrar one week prior to the elective start date. **Students are not allowed to add a course after it has begun.** In summary, you must get permission from the faculty and submit the permission to the registrar at least 1 week before beginning the elective.

***Misconception #4: If I want to drop an elective, that is my decision and the faculty member in charge is not required to sign my drop slip.***

**This is true.** However, per Year 4 policy, student's must notify the Y3/4 Registrar **at least one week prior** to the elective start date so, appropriate notification can be given to the course faculty about the roster change. **Students are not allowed to drop a course after it has begun.** In summary, drop the elective by notifying the registrar at least 1 week before the elective would begin; no need to contact faculty.

***Misconception #5: As long as I do the work, it doesn't matter when I get my Individually-Designed or Extramural Elective approved.***

It is essential that all Individually-Designed Electives receive approval **before** work in the elective begins. On occasion, students will start an elective without official approval thinking they can get approval at a later date. Even if an elective faculty member has granted you permission to take part in his/her elective, all necessary documentation outlined in the Year Four Policies & Procedures must be submitted to Y3/4 Registrar, in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Policy 3.12. **Students MUST adhere to the deadlines in submitting the appropriate documentation. Lack of attention to this detail will result in denial or reduction of course credit.**

***Misconception #6: If I've submitted a VSLO for an away elective, then I don't need to submit the Individually-Designed/Extramural Elective documentation.***

**Not True.** An away elective through VSLO counts as an Individually-Designed/Extramural Elective, and you must receive Individually-Designed/Extramural Elective approval before the elective begins. Submitting your VSLO online is not a substitute for submitting your Individually-Designed/Extramural Elective paperwork to Y3/4 Registrar. You must submit the required documentation for an Individually-Designed/Extramural Elective in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Policy 3.12. Failure to do so will result in denial or reduction of course credit.

***Misconception #7: If I submit an Individually-Designed elective or request an elective, the necessary faculty signatures will be obtained for me.***

It is the **student's responsibility** to see that all faculty signatures are obtained. If you prepare the necessary paperwork and leave it for faculty to sign, it is best to check with faculty in a few days to see if this has been accomplished. Staff is not responsible for obtaining signatures. E-mail approval is OK.

***Misconception #8: I will receive elective credit for Doctoring Medical Humanities***

**No.** Although they are taken during Year Four, these Clerkships are required activities and are not considered electives. They are not factored into your required 30 elective credits to graduate. Reminder **No Time Off** is granted during Medical Humanities.

***Misconception #9: If I receive an 'Unsatisfactory' grade for unfinished work or for not dropping an elective on time, this will not show up on my transcript.***

**This is NOT true.** If you receive an Incomplete (or Unsatisfactory) for unfinished work or for not dropping an elective on time, this will result in a permanent 'Unsatisfactory' on your transcript, which may trigger problems for future licensure throughout your professional career.

***Misconception #10: The Fourth Year is a year for slacking off and none of what I'm doing currently will matter to residency programs.***

A common question asked of students interviewing during residencies is what 4<sup>th</sup> year electives they have taken and plan to take. While the general consensus among most students is that the 4<sup>th</sup> year is easier compared to 3<sup>rd</sup> year, this is at least in part because you have a great deal of control in taking courses that interest you and will benefit you come intern year. Residency Programs don't want to hear that you're going to have forgotten all medical knowledge by the time you enter because you've been taking basket weaving 101. In fact this may be the last time in your medical career you have to take a formal course in specialties like dermatology and radiology (unless those are your intended fields, of course). Nevertheless, remember that you are paying tuition for this year and should get your money's worth!

This list of student misconceptions is by no means complete, but it is hoped that it may help you avoid at least some possible confusion and conflict in the fourth year compliments of previous classmates.

Further questions regarding elective policies should be directed to **Year Four Curriculum Coordinator or Y3/4 Registrar in the Office of Education and Curriculum.**