

Curriculum Overview for the entering class 2024

[**Watch our Curriculum Overview**](#) presented by:

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<http://njms.rutgers.edu/admissions/documents/AdmissionsCurriculumOverview.mp4>

The NJMS curriculum focuses on 4 major themes:

- Integrated patient organ system based curriculum
- Early integrated practice of clinical skills
- Service learning
- Individual professional identity development with a focus on the healthcare team

MISSION

Our educational mission is to prepare students from diverse backgrounds to be collaborative physicians, educators and researchers with a focus on the health of underserved and vulnerable populations.

CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Early exposure to patient care, clinical skills, and hands on simulation starting in Week 1
- Strong emphasis on service learning and a focus on the health of the underserved and vulnerable population through community partnerships
- Dedicated “integration and assessment” weeks throughout Phase I and Capstone courses to enhance critical thinking and problem solving through use of clinical case based discussions
- Protected ½ days weekly in Phase I for Individualized Learning and Student Wellness
- Ample time for electives that allow each student to explore career choices early
- Preparation for transition to residency that includes building of specialty specific skills that are tailored to fit the individual student’s career pathway

Curricular Threads highlight important areas of focus such as:

- Culturally Competent Care
- Patient Safety and Quality of Care
- Health Across the Stages of Life
- Prevention: From Individual to Populations
- Leadership and Health Care Systems
- Inter-professional Education

TEACHING MODALITIES AND ASSESSMENTS

The curriculum is taught using a variety of innovative and interactive learning formats such as:

- Team based learning (TBL)
- Flipped classrooms
- e-learning modules and podcasts
- Small group sessions using standardized patients and simulation
- Audience Response System with feedback

Problem-based learning, lectures and workshops remain an integral part of the educational experience. Exposure to clinical settings and patients through the longitudinal preceptorship program in Phase One provides opportunities for students to be engaged early in patient-centered care. In addition to summative and milestone assessments, the new curriculum has robust and frequent formative assessments to provide ongoing feedback to students that allows them to reflect and develop their life-long learning skills.

GRADING

Foundations of Body Systems (first medical school course) runs from Aug. through Dec. and will be graded as Pass/Fail.

- **Pass "P"** - This grade will be awarded to any student who has successfully demonstrated mastery of the course requirements, including learning objectives and professionalism standards.
- **Fail "F"** - Performance below acceptable minimum standards.

Preclerkship (Organ Systems) and Clerkship Grading

The standard grading system for the class entering in August 2024 will provide three levels of evaluation (Honors, High Pass, and Pass) for all preclerkship "organ systems" courses, third year required clerkships, fourth year required clerkships, and fourth year electives:

- Honors (H) Superior performance that reflects comprehensive achievement of course objectives
- High Pass (HP) Performance well beyond the basic course requirements, including learning objectives and professionalism standards.
- Pass (P) Satisfactory performance that meets basic course requirements, including learning objectives and professionalism standards.
- Fail (F) Performance below acceptable minimum standards.