

Transfer and Award of Academic Credit (MD)

In recognition that the educational program leading to the MD degree requires specific knowledge, skills, and abilities, consideration of the transfer of credit is undertaken from medical colleges or medical schools with Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation only, as recognized by the US Department of Education. CUSM-SOM has not entered into an articulation or transfer agreement with any other college or university. CUSM-SOM MD program does not award credit for prior experiential learning, etc. and does not accept transfer students at this time. At such point that CUSM decides to move forward with the acceptance of applications for transfer into our curriculum, the following policies will become effective.

Policies and Procedures for Transfer and Award of Academic Credits

Transfer from an LCME-Accredited Institution

Transfer of students into the CUSM-SOM educational program leading to the MD degree will be permitted in rare circumstances when the class size is below the LCME-approved capacity and only under the aegis of LCME accreditation. i.e., students requesting to transfer into the CUSM-SOM MD program must be leaving an LCME-accredited institution in good academic standing. Transfer at the beginning of year 3 is the only option.

Transfer into Year 3: A student wishing to transfer will be assessed by the CUSM-SOM admissions committee. The student must fulfill all entrance requirements for matriculation to CUSM-SOM, including submitting the required admissions documents, attending an interview, and paying the required fees. In addition, the student must submit additional documents (see Implementation Practices section below) including proof of passing the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 exam. In addition, all transfer students will be required to undergo a clinical skills assessment, under the direction of the Director of Clinical Skills and Simulation at CUSM, to determine that they hold equivalent skills with our regularly enrolled students. Remediation of noted skills deficits will be required before being allowed to participate in the clinical curriculum.

Credit from Foreign Institutions

CUSM-SOM will not consider transfer credit from a foreign institution of higher education unless accredited by the LCME.

Maximum Credit Allowed

Transfer into Year 3: Year 1 and 2 academic credits at the student's home institution may be applied toward the CUSM-SOM MD program after (1) passing the CUSM clinical skills assessment, (2) the CUSM-SOM admissions committee's evaluation and approval, and (3) passing Step 1 of the USMLE. The maximum number of transfer credits will not exceed the total credit number of the CUSM-SOM Year 1 and Year 2 courses. See below for details.

Implementation Practices for the Transfer and Awarding of Academic Credit

CUSM-SOM has established the following practices for the transfer and award of academic credit. Maximum consideration for the individual student will be the intent, with compassion for individual circumstances compelling the student to seek a transfer to CUSM-SOM.

Transcript evaluation by the CUSM-SOM admissions committee will be required using the following criteria:

1. The student wishing to transfer to CUSM-SOM must request an official transcript of record from the home medical school, with complete application materials appended (MCAT scores, academic grades for undergraduate coursework, original application to medical school or AMCAS materials, etc.). The student must also submit the results of the USMLE Step 1 Exam and a “mini” Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) from the student’s home institution.
2. CUSM-SOM will confirm that the student’s home medical school is LCME-accredited.
3. The CUSM-SOM admissions committee, in consultation with the Executive Vice Dean for University Relations and Admissions, will review course descriptions from the home/awarding institution, with a copy of the catalog and/or syllabus and any course outlines or other information necessary to validate that learning outcomes are comparable to CUSM-SOM requirements.
4. CUSM-SOM must receive written confirmation from the Dean of the medical school from which student is transferring that the student is in good standing academically and has exhibited no tendencies or behaviors that would make her/him unfit for the practice of medicine.
5. A statement from the student explaining reason/s for transfer, i.e., spousal relocation, family considerations, or other circumstances.