

Re-Imagining Medical Education enters the final phases of curriculum redesign

The Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) program at the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) has now entered the final year of the curriculum re-design driven by the [Re-Imagining Medical Education \(RIME\)](#) initiative. Work continues to operationalize the vision for spirality and integration of concepts in the new curriculum which will better prepare our trainees to provide high quality, patient-centred care to diverse populations. We are excited about the July 2023 implementation for this innovative curriculum when we welcome the Class of 2026.

The UME curriculum redesign began with a small team in 2018 and has engaged stakeholders across the CSM and beyond. The focus continues to be on the inclusion of principles of spirality, generalism, and structural competency throughout all aspects of the curriculum.

The work of the redesign has been driven by the RIME Sub-Committee to date, which is responsible for the overall planning and strategic implementation of the new curriculum. This group of education experts and leaders has overseen the working groups which have been instrumental in developing the new structure and schedule.

Introducing the new curriculum

The new curriculum has been organized into 12 Units based on clinical presentations and linked to Medical Council of Canada (MCC) objectives. It includes dedicated time for Anatomy, Clinical Skills and “Self, Society, and Social Accountability”, with reduced lecture time and a focus on experiential learning. The curriculum has been designed with learner wellness in mind, with more opportunities for self-regulated learning and fewer scheduled learning sessions, all while covering essential clinical content in a meaningful way.

The following is the working draft of the weekly schematic:

Blocks 1 & 2		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30	AM			Tutorial Groups A	Self, Society, & Social Accountability	Review: Putting It all Together
9:30						
10:30		Patient Presentation Lecture Time	Large group session	Tutorial Groups B		
11:30						
13:30	PM	Tutorial Groups A	Anatomy (Every 2nd Week)	Self, Society, & Social Accountability	Large group session	Self, Society, & Social Accountability
14:30			Clinical Skills (Every Week)			
15:30		Tutorial Groups B				
16:30						
Block 3		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30	AM	Patient Presentation Lecture Time	Tutorial Groups A		Tutorial Groups A	Review: Putting It all Together
9:30						
10:30			Tutorial Groups B	Large group session	Tutorial Groups B	
11:30						
13:30	PM	Self, Society, & Social Accountability	Self, Society, & Social Accountability	Anatomy (Every 2nd Week)	Large group session	Self, Society, & Social Accountability
14:30				Clinical Skills (Every 2nd Week)		
15:30						
16:30						

Course Leadership and Educators

Three Pre-Clerkship Block Directors have been recruited to oversee the 12 Units (organized into three Blocks), and Directors for Clinical Skills, Self, Society and Social Accountability, and Health Equity & Structural Competency have also joined the team. Recruitment is also underway for Pre-Clerkship Educators and Small Group Facilitators. This will be the core group of educators for pre-clerkship, and initial responsibilities will include the creation and ongoing refinement of all content for the assigned weeks based on clinical presentations.

Content Creation

Summer 2022 will be busy. The Pre-Clerkship Directors will create session objectives and operationalise the vision for spirality and integration in the curriculum. They will ensure that various domains such as: anatomy, clinical skills, Indigenous health, structural competencies, and activities under the portfolio of 'Self, Society, and Social Accountability' become longitudinally integrated into the curriculum.

"An incredible amount of work has gone into getting us where we are today – I want to thank everyone involved for their vision and enthusiasm as we prepare for the 2023 launch!"

Dr. Chris Naugler, UME Associate Dean

Once this work is complete, the Pre-Clerkship Educators will create the content for their assigned clinical presentations, including small group cases and facilitator guides, large group sessions, Cards, and assessment tools.

Faculty Development

Faculty development will be essential for providing the necessary training for course leadership and educators and will begin in Fall 2022.

RIME leadership and the Office of Faculty Development and Performance were awarded a grant from the Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning for a project to promote inclusive and transformative teaching practices rooted in critical pedagogy, and build capacity for teaching related to equity, social justice and structural competence. It will provide funding for external consultants with expertise in structural competency and critical pedagogy and will include a train-the-trainer workshop.

July 2023 Implementation

There is a lot of work to do before the curriculum is introduced in July 2023 for the incoming Class of 2026.

The curriculum structure was approved by the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee on June 24, 2022, and the CSM Strategic Education Council on June 27, 2022, and will now proceed through the approval process required by the University of Calgary and Alberta Advanced Education. Learner assessments will be developed in parallel to content creation, with more frequent and lower stakes exams, and a focus on all learner data when decisions are made regarding learner progression in the program. Program evaluation methods will be adapted to collect data that can best inform change and demonstrate program effectiveness. UME staff will work on the logistical requirements for the delivery of the new curriculum, while continuing to administer the current curriculum.

For more information on RIME, view the [RIME Overview](#) podcast.