

FOUNDATIONS OF CLINICAL MEDICINE

Clinical experience is provided early at MCV, as early as the third week of the students' first year of medical school. The "Foundations of Clinical Medicine" (FCM) course is a two-year class that teaches basic clinical skills such as professionalism, medical interviewing, physical examination, and clinical reasoning. It is designed to correlate with the basic sciences curricula and consists of hands-on learning in both a small group setting, as well as a community based preceptorship.

FCM SMALL GROUPS

- Groups of 8 students meet on campus every other week throughout the academic year. First year (M1) small groups meet on Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, while second year (M2) small groups meet on Mondays or Tuesdays.



- Each Group is led by a primary care physician (Family Medicine, Pediatrics, or Internal Medicine) and a fourth-year medical student (M4).
- M1 small groups apply interactive learning methods, including role play and contact with professionally-trained standardized patients. M2 small groups use a case-based teaching format to foster clinical reasoning skills and diagnostic capability. M2 students have contact with patients in hospital and long-term care settings.

FCM PRECEPTORSHIPS

- Each student works one-on-one with a separate primary care physician (Family Medicine, Pediatrics or Internal Medicine) in a community-based clinical setting.
- Students work in their preceptor's office on an every other week basis, alternating weeks with their small group schedule on Wednesday or Thursday afternoon.
- Preceptorship sites are located within an 80 mile radius of MCV campus, and offer valuable insight and experience with a variety of clinical settings and patient populations.

