

Mechanisms of Human Disease 2026-27

Course Goals

Specific educational objectives will be found with each learning exercise - lecture, small group session, laboratory session or independent learning activity.

As active participants in the Mechanisms of Human Disease Course, students will be expected to:

Medical Knowledge

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the principal pathologic processes, including neoplasia, inflammatory mechanisms, immunological mechanisms, tissue renewal, regeneration and repair, and adaptation and cell death. (SSOM Competency 1.2)
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the epidemiology, etiology and pathogenesis of common and prototypic diseases including the genetic and molecular basis of disease. (SSOM 1.2)
3. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the morphology (gross and histopathologic) of normal organs. (SSOM 1.1)
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the morphology (gross and histopathologic) and abnormal function (pathophysiology) of diseased organs. (SSOM 1.2)
5. Demonstrate ability to correlate the pathology of disease with its clinical manifestations. (SSOM 1.2)
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the epidemiology, etiology and pathogenesis of common and prototypic infectious diseases. (SSOM 1.2)
7. Demonstrate ability to develop basic diagnostic and treatment strategies for common diseases. (SSOM 1.2)
8. Identify factors which may lead to disparities in the diagnosis and management of common and prototypic diseases. (SSOM 1.5)

Patient Care

1. Apply critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills in developing a prioritized differential diagnosis when provided with a patient clinical history, physical exam, pertinent diagnostic data, and/or morphologic (gross and histologic) findings. (SSOM 2.2)

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

1. Communicate effectively and collaborate effectively about common and prototypic disease entities with student peers and faculty during laboratory case presentations and small group case discussions. (SSOM 3.3)
2. Contribute to the education of peers by actively engaging in small group sessions. (SSOM 3.6)
3. Contribute to the education of peers by diligently preparing for and clearly presenting assigned cases during laboratory sessions. (SSOM 3.6)
4. Contribute to the education of peers by actively engaging in laboratory sessions. (SSOM 3.6)

Practice Based Learning and Improvement

1. Critically evaluate one's performance in the course to identify strengths and personal limitations in either knowledge of course content or study methods; develop learning goals to address any deficiencies and actively seek out assistance from appropriate and available resources, to successfully remediate deficiencies. (SSOM 4.1; 4.2; 4.3)
2. Identify learning needs by developing questions based on course activities, including small group clinical scenarios and lab case scenarios, and locate, evaluate, and effectively use the information found from appropriate resources and relevant information technology to answer the questions. (SSOM 4.4; 4.5)

Professionalism

1. Demonstrate professionalism by interacting with course staff and faculty and peers in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. (SSOM 5.1)
2. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability by punctually attending all required course activities, including small group sessions, laboratory sessions, point of care ultrasound sessions and exams. (SSOM 5.2)
3. Demonstrate professional behavior by requesting any absences from required course activities as outlined in the SSOM Academic Policy Manual. (SSOM 5.2)
4. Complete course evaluations in a timely manner and provide constructive feedback to course faculty and the course director in a professional manner. (SSOM 5.1; 5.2)
5. Demonstrate professional behavior by reading course-related Outlook email communications and Sakai Announcements on a regular (ie daily) basis. (SSOM 5.2)

6. Respond to Outlook email communication from the Course Director and Course Coordinator in a timely fashion (within 24 hours). (SSOM 5.2)
7. Demonstrate professional and ethical behavior by honestly completing course examinations and assignments without attempting to seek advantage by unfair means and by reporting any unethical behavior of peers to the course administration. (SSOM 5.2; 5.6)

Systems Based Practice

1. Summarize the role of autopsy services in furthering knowledge of disease and improving disease management decisions. (SSOM 6.2)

Inter-professional Collaboration

1. Develop an understanding of the practice of anatomic and clinical pathology and how this field can contribute to patient care. (SSOM 7.2)