

Enrichment Electives: Frequently Asked Questions

What are enrichment electives and why should I take them?

Enrichment courses are offered to UT southwestern students on an elective basis and are meant to enhance the education beyond the confines of the traditional curriculum. The courses cover a wide array of topics, and often offer a unique perspective on the healthcare field. Although not for academic credit, students who complete electives will receive transcript acknowledgement for all enrichment electives completed. **Students are not required to take Enrichment Electives for Pre-Clerkship nor for Clerkship.**

These electives are the product of faculty and students who are providing them out of the goodness of their own heart. That is, there are no funds supporting these electives, and many hours are spent preparing them for the benefit of our students. **Therefore, out of respect for these efforts, students are expected to attend classes once they have signed up.**

How do I register for an enrichment elective?

When electives are open and available for registration, an email will be sent to students along with instructions about how to register for a course. Course descriptions can be reviewed at: https://d2l.utsouthwestern.edu/d2l/lms/fag/view_external_Faq.d2l?ou=6606

Medical Spanish is an exception to the above protocol. Registration for Medical Spanish can be done in person or over the phone (**214 860-2226**) directly with the El Centro College (Dallas County Community College District) personnel. El Centro also charges a fee for registration and books. All other enrichment electives are available at no cost to the students.

What's the time commitment for a typical enrichment elective?

All electives offer a minimum of 10 hours of classroom time, with most courses ranging around 12 hours. However, the courses may vary in organization. For example, some courses will meet for 6 sessions, each lasting ~2 hours and some courses will meet for 10-12 sessions lasting one hour in duration. In addition, be aware that some courses are offered for one semester, while others are year-long commitments.

If I am enrolled in an elective, but I don't finish it... will I be penalized?

No. Upon successful completion of the elective, the Committee will submit your name to the Office of Enrollment Services for transcript acknowledgment. If you do not complete the course, your name will never reach the Office of Enrollment Services. No penalties. It will **not** show up on your transcript.

However, for classes with waiting lists or a cap on enrollment, it is strongly encouraged that students only sign up if they feel confident they will be able to complete the course so they do not take away a spot from a student who would be able to fulfill the commitment.

What if I can't attend one or more sessions?

You will be marked absent and you will not receive credit for attending that session. For courses with a maximum number of participants (capped), it is your responsibility to find a replacement. E-mail the name of your replacement to Betty Shaw, Enrichment Electives Coordinator at Betty.Shaw@utsouthwestern.edu at least 24 hours prior to the session.

Will I receive a grade when I complete the elective?

These electives are Pass/Fail. If you pass the elective, you will ONLY receive transcript acknowledgment.

What is a student representative?

The student representative will work closely with the faculty sponsor in the facilitation and implementation of the enrichment elective. Typically, if the course is established, this role is filled by a student who has already taken the course. Students or faculty may initiate proposals for new enrichment electives. If the course is new, this student or faculty member will seek out a faculty/student partnership based on an interest in the topic.

Who do I contact for more information about enrichment electives?

Contact members of the Enrichment Electives Committee.

MS2024 Representatives:

- Meredith Kim: Meredith.Kim@UTSouthwestern.edu
- Christian Lumley: Christian.Lumley@UTSouthwestern.edu

MS2025 Representatives:

- William (Will) Chan: Will.Chan@utsouthwestern.edu
- Karen Shore: Karen.Shore@utsouthwestern.edu

Faculty committee member(s):

- Dan Sepdham, M. D.

Enrichment Electives Coordinator(s):

Betty R. Shaw: Betty.Shaw@utsouthwestern.edu

Deidra West: Deidra.West@utsouthwestern.edu

La Trelle Cambridge: Latreille.Cambridge@utsouthwestern.edu

If you are interested in creating an elective, please see instructions regarding starting a new Pre-clinical Elective. You may contact an Enrichment Electives Committee member for more information.