

MD Curriculum: Phase-I Overview

Dr. Maha Z. Al-Riyami

Phase-I coordinator

Assistant Professor, Biochemistry Department

The mission of College of Medicine and Health Sciences, SQU

- To **produce competent medical doctors** and health scientists who are life-long learners, able to pursue further specialization and continuous professional development.
- To create a scholarly environment that supports innovation and excellence in teaching, research and postgraduate education.
- To deliver, through Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, quality patient-centered care that responds to community needs and major global health problems.

The vision & core values of College of Medicine and Health Sciences, SQU

- Vision:

We aspire to international prominence in medical education, advancement in biomedical sciences and health research.

- Core values:

Excellence

Quality Service

Creativity & Innovation

Respect

Integrity

Transparency

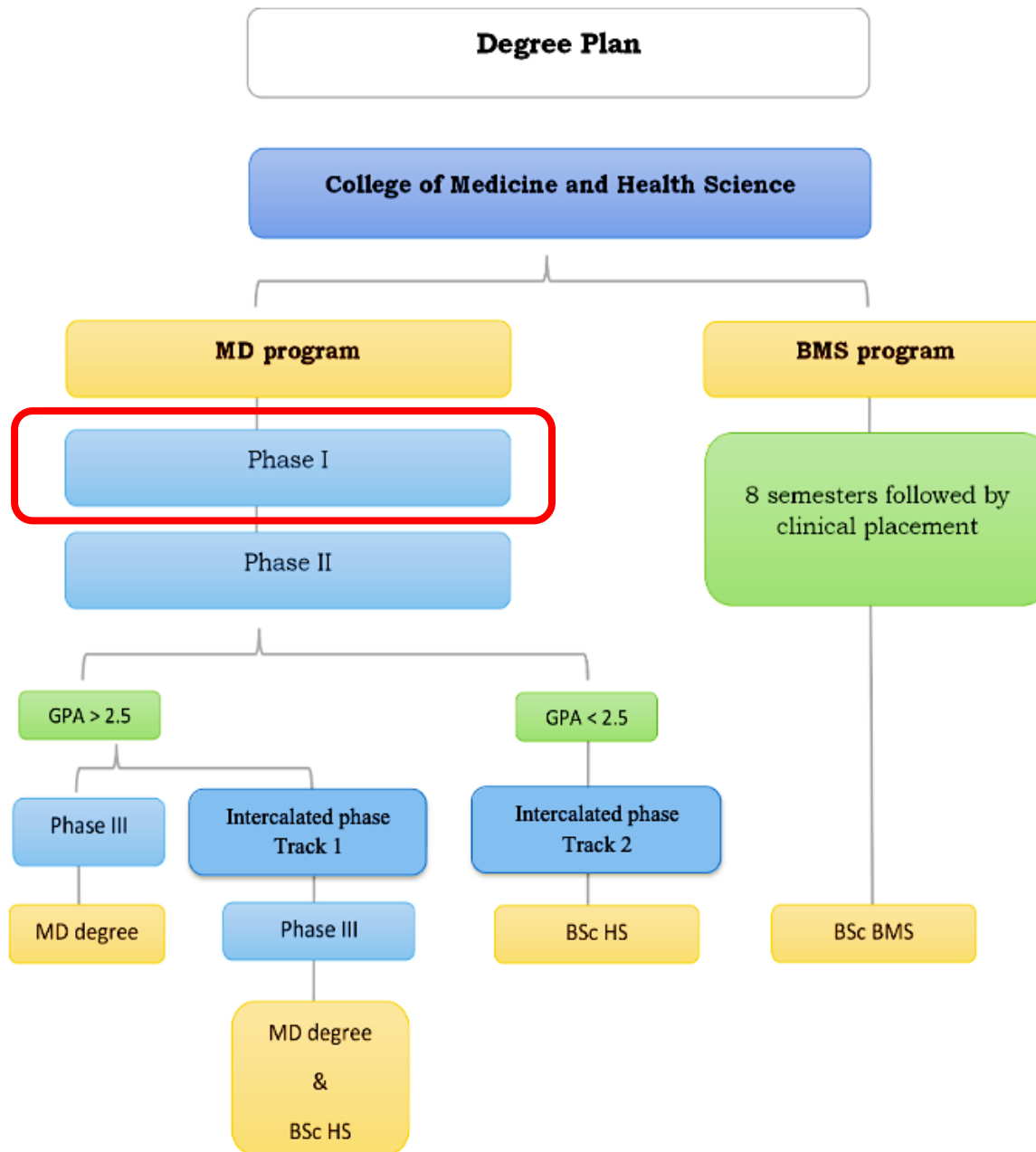
Team Work

Collaboration

Flexibility

Accountability

Public Trust & Confidence



Phase-I duration:
2-3 semesters for direct
entry and
after the Foundation
Program Courses

The aim of Phase-1

- Provide the students with a number of complementing courses that are appropriately time-tabled to assess students' ability to acquire essential and fundamental concepts that will appraise his/her ability to study medicine.
- Phase-1 plan;
 - University Electives [6 Cr],
 - University Requirements [6 Cr],
 - Academic English for Medicine [3 Cr],
 - Medical Informatics [2 Cr].

Table 1A: Phase I Plan (Direct Entry)

Semester 1 (Fall) Total 17 Credits					
#	Title	Code	Credits	Cat	Pre-requisites/ Co-requisites*
1	Arabic	ARAB1060 ARAB1019 (Non Arabic speakers)	2	UR	
2	Oman State & People	SOCY1005 (Omani Students) SOCY1007 (Non Omani Students)	2	UR	
3	University Elective		2	UE	
4	University Elective		2	UE	
5	Academic English for Medicine	LANC2033	3	CR	FPEL0600 or FPEL0601 or FPEL0602 or FPEL0603 or FPEL0604 or FPEL0560 or LANC0601 or LANC0602
6	Chemistry for Medicine	CHEM2110	4	CR	FPMT0105 or LANC0600 or LANC0601 or LANC0602
7	Medical Informatics I	MEDI2100	2	CR	FPCS0101
Semester 2 (Spring) Total 17 Credits					
8	Oman and Islamic Civilization	HIST 1010	2	UR	
9	University Elective		2	UE	
10	Introduction to Human Anatomy	MEDI2106	4	AR	LANC2033
11	Introduction to Human Physiology	MEDI2107	4	CR	LANC2033
12	Enzymology and Metabolism	MEDI2108	3	CR	LANC2033 CHEM2110
13	Cellular Communications	MEDI2109	2	AR	LANC2033

Table 1B: Phase I Plan for Students who require one semester of Foundation Program Courses

Foundation Program Courses Semester 1 (Fall) Total 0 Credits					
Semester 2 (Spring) Total 9 Credits					
#	Title	Code	Credits	Cat	Pre-requisites/ Co-requisites*
1	Arabic	ARAB1060 ARAB1019 (Non Arabic speakers)	2	UR	
2	University Elective		2	UE	
3	University Elective		2	UE	
4	Academic English for Medicine	LANC2033*	3	CR	See Table 1A on Page 10
Semester 3 (Fall) Total 12 Credits					
5	University Elective		2	UE	
6	Oman and Islamic Civilization	HIST1010	2	UR	
7	Oman State & People	SOCY1005 (Omani students) SOCY1007 (Non-Omani Students)	2	UR	
8	Chemistry for Medicine	CHEM2100 *	4	CR	See Table 1A on Page 10
9	Medical Informatics I	MEDI2100 **	2	CR	FPCS0101
Semester 4 (Spring) Total 13 Credits					
10	Introduction to Human Anatomy	MEDI2106 ***	4	AR	LANC2033
11	Introduction to Human Physiology	MEDI2107****	4	CR	LANC2033
12	Enzymology and Metabolism	MEDI2108 ****	3	CR	LANC2033 CHEM2110
13	Cellular Communications	MEDI2109 ****	2	AR	LANC2033
	These courses are offered every:	* Fall & Spring. ** Fall & Summer *** Spring & Summer **** Fall, Spring & Summer			

Admission & Progression regulations:

- Admission to Phase- I of the MD program is subject to Ministry of Higher Education and University Regulations.

Course Load:

- A minimum of **9 credits per semester**.
- Students may register for one course if they are exiting a Phase of the MD program or if their score is “C+” or below in that particular course.

The Minimum Satisfactory Credit rule for Phase I of the MD program as approved by the University Council:

- Students who do not achieve the minimum satisfactory credit will be asked to withdraw from the University.
- Student must take measures to improve the number of earned credits and be aware that the following does not increase the earned credits:
 1. Failing a course
 2. Repeating a passed course

Semester in SQU with No Foundation Course	University Minimal Satisfaction Credit
1	0
2	1
3	10
4	22
5	34
6	46

Progression Standards to Phase-II:

- A **focused GPA (fGPA) of 2.50** (currently 20 credits) is the required pass standard at the end of Phase I.
- fGPA is calculated based on the following specified core courses:
 - Academic English for Medicine
 - Chemistry for Medicine
 - Introduction to Human Physiology
 - Cell Communication
 - Enzymology and Metabolism courses
 - Introduction to Human Anatomy
- Phase I duration is from **two to five semesters**.
- If a student exceeded the max duration of 5 semesters without obtaining an fGPA of at least 2.50 will be withdrawn from the college of Medicine and may transfer to another college if they meet the transfer requirements.

Summer semester regulations

Students who are expected to progress to Phase-II by the end of summer are eligible to study courses in the summer semester.

In the summer semester, students in phase I can take **up to 3 courses** with **maximum of 8 credits** provided that:

1. The student is not under probation.
2. The student status after the spring semester is not suspended due to failure in 50% or more in the spring semester.

Summer semester regulations

- Availability of UE and UR courses depends on the offering colleges, and students need to check if they will be available in the summer.
- For courses from the College of Medicine, the following usually offered in summer semesters (subject to change):
 - Medical Informatics I
 - Introduction to Human Anatomy
 - Introduction to Human Physiology
 - Enzymology and Metabolism
 - Cellular Communications

Eligibility criteria for summer registration:

- MD Phase-I students can register only if he/she has remaining 8 credits in phase-I or below.
- Students on second probation or who have failed 50% of courses in spring are not allowed to register.
- Students who have withdrawn or postponed a course or have less load in fall and spring will be given less priority depending on the available slots.
- MD Phase-1 maximum credits allowed 8 CR (3 courses).
- Students may register only one university requirement or university elective.

Grade Scale:

Each grade carries numeric value for the purpose of computing a weighted average on a 4-point scale.

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7

C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0
FSP	0.0

Available Services for students

Medical library:

- A separate building in the College of Medicine where students can borrow medical resources or spend their break time there to study. The library can also be accessed off-campus (online).
- Various medical journals, books and resources can be accessed for free through the SQU libraries website (<https://squ.edu.om/libraries>).

Academic advisor:

- Assigned to each student to guide them during the pre-clinical.
- To know your academic advisor, sign in to the SQU portal system, then navigate to Personal > Personal Information.

Available Services for students

Support services:

- University Student Counselling Centre.
- Student Clinic.
- Student Well-Being Clinic (SQUH).

Modes of referral to Student Well-Being Clinic

- Referrals from FAMCO or the Student Clinic at SQU.
- Referrals from the Student Counselling Centre, SQU.
- Referrals from Assistant Dean's Offices of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Student Support & Feedback

Concerns related to Phase-I curriculum in general:

- Phase-I coordinator – Dr. Maha Z. Al-Riyami (mahazr@squ.edu.om)
- Curriculum Committee Chair – Prof. Reem Al Abdwani (rabdwani@squ.edu.om)

Concerns related to Phase-I assessment in general:

- Phase-I coordinator – Dr. Maha Z. Al-Riyami (mahazr@squ.edu.om)
- Examinations Committee Chair – Dr. Maryam Al Shukri (mariamn@squ.edu.om)
- Examinations Committee Deputy Chair – Dr. Halima Al Balushi (halima07@squ.edu.om)

Logistical and other MD program-related issues:

- *Asst.* Dean for Undergraduate Studies - Dr. Arwa Al Kindi (arwank@squ.edu.om)

Highlights of Phase-I Regulations

Credit Hours

- Credits hours of a course determines its weight when calculating the GPA.
- Typically, in the college of medicine, the credit hours of a course are the number of lectures, practical sessions and tutorials the course has per week. For example, Introduction to Human Anatomy is a course with 4 credit hours, having a total of 3 lectures and 1 practical session per week.
- The Minimum Satisfactory Credit rule for Phase- I of the MD program as approved by the University Council is shown below:

Semester in SQU with no foundation course	University minimal satisfaction credit
1	0
2	1
3	10
4	22
5	34
6	46

- **Total No. of Credits in Phase I (34 credits):**
- University Requirements (6 CR)
- University Elective (6 CR)
- College & Major Requirements (22 CR)

Focused Grade Point Average (fGPA)

- GPA is the grading system used in SQU, ranging from 1.00 to 4.00 and calculated by dividing the weighted sum (grade value × course credit hours) of the grades of all courses of a given semester by the number of courses.
- The calculation for fGPA involves only the following courses:
 - Academic English for Medicine.
 - Chemistry for Medicine.
 - Introduction to Human Anatomy.
 - Introduction to Human Physiology.
 - Enzymology and Metabolism.
 - Cellular Communication.

- Students should complete **34 cR** and secure a fGPA of **≥2.5** within the maximum semesters allowed (**5** regular semesters).

Phase- I Duration

- **Minimum: 2** semesters.
- **Maximum: 5** semesters.
- If a student exceeded the maximum duration of 5 semesters without obtaining an fGPA of at least 2.50 will be withdrawn from the college of Medicine and may transfer to another college if they meet the transfer requirements..

Summer Semester Regulations

- Students who are expected to progress to Phase II by the end of summer are eligible to study courses in the summer semester.
- Availability of UE and UR courses depends on the offering colleges, and students need to check if they will be available in the summer.
- For courses from the College of Medicine, the following usually offered in summer semesters (subject to change):
 - Medical Informatics I
 - Introduction to Human Anatomy
 - Introduction to Human Physiology
 - Enzymology and Metabolism
 - Cellular Communications

- Eligibility Criteria for Summer registration:
 - MD Phase- 1 students can register only if he/she has remaining 8 credits in phase- I or below.
 - Students on second probation or who have failed 50% of courses in spring are not allowed to register.
 - Students who have withdrawn or postponed a course or have less load in fall and spring will be given less priority depending on the available slots.
 - MD Phase-1 maximum credits allowed 8 CR (3 courses).
 - Students may register only one university requirement or university elective.

Available Services

- **Medical library:** A separate building in the College of Medicine where students can borrow medical resources or spend their break time there to study. The library can also be accessed off-campus (online).
- Various medical journals, books and resources can be accessed for free through the SQU libraries website (<https://squ.edu.om/libraries>).
- **Academic advisor:** Assigned to each student to guide them during the pre-clinical. To know your academic advisor, sign in to the SQU portal system, then navigate to Personal > Personal Information.

- **Support services:**
 - University Student Counselling Centre.
 - Student Clinic.
 - Student Well-Being Clinic (SQUH).
- **Modes of referral to Student Well-Being Clinic**
 - Referrals from FAMCO or the Student Clinic at SQU.
 - Referrals from the Student Counselling Centre, SQU.
 - Referrals from Assistant Dean's Offices of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Full details regarding the program and the regulations are available in the student handbook.

Full details regarding the program and the regulations are available in the student handbook.