**Academics Snapshot**

Year 1 and 2: Patient Presentation Curriculum (PPC)

*What does this mean?* “The PPC is based on the most common ways patients present to a physician.” (www.wvsom.edu) WVSOM uses class lectures, team-based learning (TBLs), the anatomy lab, simulators, and standardized patients. Students will also learn osteopathic manipulative medicine techniques and how to apply them to diagnose and treat certain conditions.

**Year 1**

- The year begins with a Foundations Course, which is designed to “provide basic mechanisms needed to understand the subsequent patient presentations and treatments.” (www.wvsom.edu). A few things that are covered during this course are biochemistry, biology, and basic anatomy.

- “The year continues with relatively simple presentations organized by organ systems” (www.wvsom.edu) that are called “modules”.
  
  - *What is a “module”?* Modules are typically 6 – 8 weeks long and consist of one organ system at a time. For example, Musculoskeletal (MSK) is normally the first module after Foundations. During this course, students will learn everything associated with this system, including anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pharmacology.

- Students will also complete ECEs during the year. *ECEs*, or Early Clinical Encounters, are when the students will shadow a physician in the Lewisburg area for a couple of hours. The physicians will complete evaluation forms on the students following the encounter.

- At the *Standardized Patient Clinic*, students will practice their clinical skills on professionals who act as patients. Students will have practice sessions as well as clinical exams. These sessions are recorded and the standardized patients also fill out evaluations on the students.

- WVSOM has *robotic simulators* that help students practice various medical procedures in a safe, secure environment. Students tend to work with the simulators more in Year 2 than Year 1, though first years do have some exposure to them.

**Year 2**
• Students will continue with the PPC, but will slowly be introduced to more complex concepts. Everything will build on information presented in Year 1.

• After Thanksgiving, students will go through site selection for 3rd year rotations. These are locations throughout the region where students complete in depth rotations with physicians.

• Formal lectures end for second years at Spring Break. They will still have several things they must complete, but the majority of the rest of the school year is dedicated to board prep. At the end of second year, students will take the COMLEX, also known as boards. These scores will be presented to residency programs in 4th year during the application and interview process.

**Year 3**

• During Year 3, students will complete their rotations. These tend to be between 2-8 weeks long and cover many areas of medicine, including Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Surgery, OBGYN, Pediatrics, and more. At the end of each rotation, students must complete exams, and they will be evaluated throughout the rotation.

**Year 4**

• Rotations continue during Year 4. During this time, students can also go on what are known as audition rotations. These are rotations completed in the specialty and at the residency sites that students are most interested in. They help give programs a look at the students in a hospital environment and give students a glimpse into what that program offers.

• During 4th year, students will also have to apply to and interview at residency programs. The match is the process during the last semester of medical school that matches students and residency programs together.