THIRD YEAR ELECTIVE TITLE
THE PROMISE CLINIC CONTINUITY ELECTIVE PART III

COURSE NUMBER
MDC 8806

LOCATION
The Promise Clinic at St. Johns Clinic Abeel Street, NB

ELECTIVE DIRECTOR
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BLOCKS AVAILABLE
Year-Long

DURATION/WEEKS
52 weeks

HOURS PER WEEK
4 to 6 hrs per week

STUDENTS
20-45

LECTURES/SEMINARS
Yes

OUTPATIENT
Yes (100%)

INPATIENT
No

HOUSESTAFF
No

NIGHT CALL
No

WEEKENDS
No

LAB
No

EXAM REQUIRED
No

OVERALL EDUCATIONAL GOAL OF ELECTIVE
To prepare medical students for a lifelong career of service and foster an interest in primary care and working with the underserved. This will be accomplished through a series of both clinical and didactic experiences. Students will learn to appreciate the concept of continuity of care, its advantages and challenges.

OBJECTIVES
- Develop an understanding of the medical, political and social context of the clinic and its patient population.
- Learn about the healthcare needs of the homeless population, their barriers to healthcare, and the social services available to them.
- Learn about and begin to utilize other local resources that community clinics depend on for providing cohesive care.
- Develop an understanding of the use and efficacy of preventive and screening services.
- Improve clinical skills and knowledge.
- Foster a commitment to social responsibility and activism within health care.
- Develop a spirit of service and activism

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
Third year medical students will work on a team with a 1st, 2nd and 4th year medical students. Each team will be assigned to the care of one patient. All patients are clients at Elijah’s Promise Soup Kitchen and will be screened at the soup kitchen to determine whether they are eligible for clinic services. The healthcare team will provide primary health care for their patient throughout their years at Piscataway/New Brunswick campus. They will be responsible for arranging an initial thorough visit with their patient, as well as arrange follow-up appointments with their patients as needed. The appointments will be scheduled during clinic hours, which are once a week on Thursday evenings. At each visit, the student doctor team will gather the history, perform the physical exam, come up with an assessment, and develop a plan. Each student's responsibilities will be appropriate to their knowledge and ability level.

OVER
The team will then present their patient to the volunteer physician preceptor for the evening and will adjust their assessment/plan as needed. In addition to volunteering as a student doctor in the clinic, students will be required to attend one training session that will provide students with increased understanding of the issues pertinent to working with the homeless population and the needs of the indigent, homeless, and uninsured population in our community, while fostering a spirit of service and activism. Another component of the elective will be a didactic lecture series, which will cover various clinical topics relevant to the patients served by the clinic, as well as, topics related to social, cultural, and political issues related to the underserved. There will be a total of 10 lectures throughout the year and students will be required to attend at least 6. Finally students will be required to hand in a 1 to 2 page paper about their patient, describing the patient's initial circumstances, how the patient got referred to the clinic, reason for presentation, and his/her progress over the course of the year. The students' papers will be compiled and ultimately sent to state officials to illustrate the deficits in healthcare access and need for improvements and support of organizations providing care to the underserved.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION**

**The Promise Clinic Elective Requirements**
1. Attend a training session.
2. Attend a minimum of 10 patient visits over the course of the year.
3. Attend a minimum of 6 out of 10 lectures/didactic sessions held over the course of the year.
5. Complete all WebCT evaluations.

Students will also be required to follow-up with patients regarding labs, medications, and diagnostic studies appropriately and in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in their dismissal from being a student doctor and participating in the elective.

The electives are graded as PASS/FAIL. **Two unexcused absences will result in the termination of the student's participation in the elective.**

**ARE THERE ANY PREREQUISITES FOR THIS ELECTIVE?**  **No**