

April 16, 2018

PURCH Track Policies

Please direct any questions regarding the [PURCH Track](#) and/or policies around opting in or out to the Office of Admissions at admissions@umassmed.edu or 508-856-2323.

A. Opting-in to the PURCH Track:

Opting-in prior to matriculation

~ PURCH is a Track within the SOM. Hence, there is only one offer of acceptance into the SOM. As PURCH is a SOM Track, applicants to PURCH have two interview days: one at Baystate Medical Center with the PURCH faculty and the other at the main campus of the SOM. An applicant accepted to the PURCH Track will matriculate in that tract unless a request to opt out is granted (see below).

~ An applicant may choose to apply to the PURCH Track after having submitted an application to the School of Medicine (SOM). The applicant must contact the SOM Office of Admissions (admissions@umassmed.edu or 508-856-2323) to update their PURCH secondary application to reflect their interest in applying to PURCH. The applicant must submit secondary application materials required by the PURCH admissions process.

Opting-in after matriculation

~ An accepted applicant who did not apply to the PURCH Track and has matriculated into the SOM as an MD or MD/PhD student may apply to join the PURCH Track. The reasons for the request must be made in writing to the Vice Provost for Student Life by the end of the first week of the academic year.

~ Part of the decision process depends on the capacity of the PURCH Track to accept more students. The process for approval for transfer to PURCH is as follows:

- Student submits request in writing to the Vice Provost for Student Life (VPSL)
- Student's LC Mentor emails VPSL indicating that they have discussed the request with the student and that they support the request.
- The VPSL presents the student's request to the Associate Deans for Undergraduate Medical Education (ADUME) at UMMS Worcester and UMMS-Baystate, the Learning Communities Co-Directors and the Brightwood Learning Community Head of House (HoH), who collectively make up an ad hoc committee to respond to requests to opt in/out of PURCH. The student's written request and the LC Mentor email of support are provided to the ad hoc committee.
- If the committee approves the request, the proposal is brought to the Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs for final approval.

B. Opting-out of the PURCH Track:

Applicants may opt out of the PURCH Track through one of the following procedures and situations:

Opting-out prior to matriculation:

~ An applicant who has not yet been accepted into the SOM may elect to opt out of the PURCH Track after the interview/visit to UMMS and Baystate and still be considered a candidate for SOM admission. The applicant must contact the SOM Admission Office (admissions@umassmed.edu or 508-856-2323) to request this change in application status within 10 days of their PURCH Track interview. The applicant must state the reason(s) for the request in writing to the SOM Admissions Office.

~ An applicant who has already been accepted to the PURCH Track may later request to opt out of PURCH prior to matriculation and still remain in the SOM. The applicant must make the request and the reason(s) for the request in writing to the SOM Admissions Office (admissions@umassmed.edu or 508-856-2323). Decisions to grant such a request are made after discussions with the SOM-Baystate Admissions Subcommittee.

Opting-out after matriculation:

~ A student who has matriculated as a PURCH Track student may request to opt out of the PURCH Track and remain a student in the SOM. The reason(s) for the request must be made in writing to the Vice Provost for Student Life by the end of the first week of the academic year. The process for approval of a transfer out of PURCH following matriculation is the same as the process as outlined above for opting-in to PURCH after matriculation.

C. Timing of Transfers in and out of PURCH:

The PURCH Track is a longitudinal experience with integrated threads in the curriculum that are specific to the track. Additionally, students in the PURCH Track develop long-term mentoring and career development relationships with their LC Mentors. As such, transfer requests (in and out) must be thoughtfully considered and articulated with clear reasoning. These requests will only be entertained at specific times during the curriculum, to facilitate student progress and ensure student success within the PURCH Track curriculum.

Any request to opt in or out of PURCH must be made in writing with calendar year deadlines as noted in the table below. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis following the guidelines set out above. Any student who is approved to opt out of PURCH for the CCE and/or AS year(s) would complete clinical rotations and required AS courses at Baystate.

Note:

- At all transition points, students must articulate a clear reason for requesting the change
- Entry/exit from PURCH cannot be related to mentor issues
- Life-changing events may lead to change at other points than above, on a case-by-case basis
- Flexibility is important in particular for students admitted late off the wait list

	Timing	Rationale	Notes
Entering PURCH ("opt-in")	FOM1: Fall semester, by the end of the first week	DCS1 has not been firmly established so curricula remain similar	Later in the year the student will have a relationship with existing mentor; DCS1 and DOH curricula will be out of sync so students may review a topic twice or miss a topic
	FOM1: Spring semester, by the end of the first week		Transfer at this time will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances and with unanimous approval of the committee. Curricula will be out of sync, mentoring and LPP programs disrupted; if the choice is made to allow this timing, the request must address those issues
	FOM2: Summer before FOM2 or by the end of the first week of the FOM2 Fall semester	Curricula will align	Student must change mentor and will have missed some PURCH-specific sessions
	CCE: No later than 3 weeks before the first clerkship		Student will have missed all PURCH but would have to agree to spending the remaining 2 years in PURCH Track
	AS: not permitted		
Leaving PURCH ("opt-out")	FOM1: Fall semester, by the end of the first week	Students will not have made a mentor relationship or be deeply engaged in site specific curricula yet	
	FOM1: Spring semester, by the end of the first week		Transfer at this time will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances and with unanimous approval of the committee. Later in the year curricula will be off-cycle for DCS1; if a student switched later in the year s/he would keep LPP at PURCH for the remainder of the year
	FOM2: Summer before FOM2 or by the end of the first week of the FOM2 Fall semester	Limited impact on curriculum	
	CCE/AS:	Permitted but students would complete rotations and courses as previously assigned at BHS	Any site change requests would follow usual Office of Student Affairs process; need to define what are the PURCH-specific curricular differences for CCE and AS