



Lincoln Memorial University – School of Medical Sciences –
Doctor of Medical Science

CATALOG 2025-2026

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Harrogate, Tennessee
Volume VIII, June 26, 2025
<https://www.lmunet.edu/dms>

This catalog/handbook is a supplement to the Lincoln Memorial University General Graduate Catalog, which students should consult for information on matters not covered in this document.

This handbook is designed to serve as a guide to the rules, policies, and services of the University; therefore, it is not intended to establish a contract, and the University reserves the right to amend, modify, or change regulations, policies, and financial charges stated in this handbook throughout the year. In such a case, the University will make reasonable efforts to notify the University community, in a timely manner, of any changes in policies and regulations. The notification shall be made via MyLMU, the University website, or to University issued e-mail accounts as deemed appropriate.

LMU Annual Security & Fire Safety Report

The LMU Annual Security & Fire Safety Report (ASFSR) will be published online by October 1st of each year and can be found at: [Campus Police and Security \(lmunet.edu\)](#)

The LMU ASFSR contains three previous years of crime statistics, campus policies and procedures, including: alcohol, drug, weapons, sexual violence, etc., and law enforcement authority. This publication is required to be in compliance with the Clery Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)

To request a paper copy, contact the Clery Act Compliance Coordinator at 423-869-6301 or in person at: Tex Turner Arena, 330 Mars/DeBusk Parkway, Harrogate, TN 37752.

General Information

Mission and Purpose of Lincoln Memorial University

For information regarding Lincoln Memorial University's Mission and Purpose, please see the following website: [Heritage & Mission](#)

Institutional Goals

For information regarding Lincoln Memorial University's Institutional Goals, please see the following website: [Institutional Effectiveness](#)

Title IX Policy and Procedure

For information regarding Title IX Policy and Procedure, please visit the [Office of Institutional Compliance website](#).

Administration, Faculty, and Staff

Information regarding the University Administration can be found here: [Administration | LMU President's Office Leadership](#)

Information Regarding University Faculty and Staff can be found here: [LMU Undergraduate Catalog](#)

School of Medical Sciences Mission

The School of Medical Sciences seeks to improve access to high-quality medical and health care services to underserved communities within rural, underserved regions with its primary focus on Appalachia, thereby improving the quality of life and satisfaction required to sustain these communities.

Doctor of Medical Science Mission

The mission of the Lincoln Memorial University Doctor of Medical Science program is to equip qualified clinicians and medical educators with evidence-based, advanced knowledge and skills to meet the needs of primary care, to develop leaders in the medical profession, and to promote scholarship, mentorship and discipline-specific expertise.

The DMS program seeks to achieve this mission by focusing on these goals:

1. Attract high-quality medical and education specialists who are experts in their field
2. Promote and model the highest standard of professionalism, mentorship and moral values
3. Employ the most effective technologies for teaching
4. Advance medical knowledge and critical thinking skills

5. Leverage current professional and or clinical settings to advance student competencies
6. Promote leadership in evolving medical education effectiveness and strategies

Reviewed and Affirmed 03/18/2025

Office of Admissions and Student Advancement

The Office of Admissions and Student Advancement, located in the School of Medical Sciences, is responsible for admissions, recruitment, retention, securing financial services, student health insurance, records, tracking of outcome data, and counseling for students. The Office commitment is to create an environment that is conducive to learning so that all DMS students fully reach their academic potential. The Office works closely with various college and university committees to create an environment that facilitates student learning. The Office has an open-door policy, and students are encouraged to come by the Office at any time of the day to ask questions, bring up concerns, or to simply stop in and say hello.

The Lincoln Memorial University Office of Student Services will provide students with information on parking, meal plans, housing, events, ticket sales, etc. in cooperation with the Office of Admissions and Student Advancement.

Admission

Please direct admissions questions to DMSadmissions@lmunet.edu, or 423-869-7415.

Admissions Criteria

Admission criteria: The established qualifications and standards that applicants must meet to be considered for acceptance into the program. These criteria ensure that candidates possess the necessary academic background, professional certification, and potential for success in a rigorous doctoral-level curriculum. Meeting these criteria does not guarantee admission but establishes the minimum eligibility requirements. The admissions criteria include:

1. A graduate of an ARC-PA accredited program or international equivalent;

2. Current physician assistant certification (NCCPA or other); or unencumbered licensure as a physician assistant in the U.S.A. or international jurisdiction within nine (9) months post matriculation;
3. Demonstrated potential for success in an advanced rigorous doctoral-level program (e.g., GPA & extracurricular activities);
4. No history of self-reported negative legal, administrative, or licensure action related to the practice of medicine or medical education;
5. An applicant whose native language is not English needs to submit scores from the combined TOEFL and TSE examination unless the applicant is a graduate of a U.S. college or university. The minimum required score for the IBT (Internet Based Testing) is 79 and a minimum score of 26 is required for the speaking component.

Candidates are encouraged to continue practicing clinically as a PA or actively teaching in graduate medical education while enrolled in the program, though this is not required.

Medical Education Major applicants without 2 years of full-time academic experience are recommended to start the program in the Fall semester; however, it is not required.

Please see the DMS Academic Recruitment, Admissions, and Enrollment Policy in the DMS Student Handbook for further information.

Application Process

The DMS Admissions Committee oversees the admissions process, ensuring that all applicants are evaluated fairly and consistently.

The DMS program follows a rolling admissions cycle. As a result, applicants who submit their application materials earlier have a higher likelihood of securing admission.

Application Submission: Prospective students submit applications through DMS admissions website by the specified deadline. All application materials are submitted online via the official website.

Application Materials: The set of required documents submitted by applicants to be considered for admission to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the applicant's academic, professional, and personal qualifications. Required materials include application submitted online via the official website, official transcripts from all previously attended institutions, DMS Applicant Recommendation Forms, personal statement, Curriculum Vitae, professional licensure relevant to the DMS program,

and National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) Certification or equivalent. A combined Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Test of Spoken English (TSE) is required for international applicants whose native language is not English, to demonstrate proficiency.

Application Review: All applications are initially screened and scored by the DMS Admissions Coordinator using a standardized rubric to determine who is offered an interview. If the number of applicants exceeds the current enrollment capacity, applicants in the Guaranteed Professional Admissions Pathway, followed by applicants with the highest scores, will be interviewed first.

Any uncertainties regarding an applicant's eligibility will be referred to the DMS Admissions Committee for final determination.

Interview Process: Qualified applicants meet with at least two DMS faculty/staff members for a structured interview. Candidates are scored using standardized rubrics, and scores are averaged. Interviewers provide qualitative feedback, and norm-referenced scoring is used to rank applicants. Interviewers submit admission recommendations to the DMS Admissions Committee for review and decision. In the case of any disagreement or tie, the Admissions Committee Chair makes the final admissions decision. If the number of interviewees exceeds the current enrollment capacity, applicants in the Guaranteed Professional Admissions Pathway will be accepted first.

Admission Decision: Applicants are notified of admission decisions via the e-mail address provided on their application. The candidate will either be offered a seat, placed on a wait list, or declined a seat. Decisions are typically communicated within two (2) weeks following the completion of the interview process. Admissions ranking is not shared with the candidates. Applicants who are not admitted may be offered a place on a waitlist or encouraged to reapply in the following semester.

Enrollment: All accepted students must complete onboarding (seat fee and enrollment package provided by the Admissions Coordinator) within thirty (30) days of acceptance or by the first day of class, whichever comes first. If the onboarding and enrollment requirements are not completed by the deadline, then the candidate may be asked to reapply.

Academic Planning: All enrolled students will meet with the Admissions Coordinator prior to matriculation to determine course schedule and to create a Student Advising Worksheet.

Non-U.S.A Citizens

Non-U.S.A. citizens must furnish evidence demonstrating means of financial support while enrolled at the University. All above documentation must be received and admission granted before issuance of an I-20 form, necessary for obtaining a student visa. The international student granted admission to LMU-SMS will receive a letter of acceptance; the letter and the I-20 form furnished by the University must be presented to the Consular Officer of the United States to whom the student applies for a student visa. LMU-SMS will not enroll any student not approved by the Department of Homeland Security; LMU-SMS will not enroll students issued visas for enrollment at other colleges or universities.

Recruitment

The SMS-DMS recruitment program has three goals:

1. *To increase the visibility of the DMS program to qualified Physician Assistant Candidates.* SMS is actively engaged in meeting with potential DMS candidates and the public to discuss the college and the goals of the DMS degree. Institutions and professional organizations are visited as often as possible on a rotating basis.
2. *To attract students from the Appalachian area who are committed to serving this area.* SMS will pursue qualified candidates, including recent SMS PA graduates, from the Appalachian region, with special attention to clinicians currently practicing in a primary care venue.
3. *To promote the advancement of higher education among qualified clinicians.* SMS will pursue clinicians ready for an academic challenge and in support of advancing health care in innovative ways.

Off-Campus Recruiting

Throughout the year, admissions staff, the faculty, and various administrators make visits to professional organizations, hospitals, conferences, and graduate school fairs. Anyone interested in having a representative from the SMS DMS program make a presentation at their school, conference or meeting should contact the Office of Admissions and Student Advancement.

Student Advancement

Academic Advisement

Each student will be given a course curriculum plan before matriculation. The admission coordinator will provide course registration instructions for each academic semester. The student bears ultimate responsibility for effective planning, progression, and completion of all requirements for the DMS degree, but the program will provide advisement to ensure successful course registration. The required course registration instructions can be found online at the [LMU Registrar's Office website](#).

Counseling (Psychological Services)

LMU counselors are available to help current students with personal, career and academic concerns that affect academic success and quality of life. More information can be found on the [LMU Mental Health Counseling Website](#).

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Program complies with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 1974, as amended. This law maintains that the Program will provide for the confidentiality of student education records. Identifiable information from a student's educational record will only be accessible to program faculty, staff, and other LMU employees with a legitimate educational need for the information. Student grades are recorded, stored, and secured with the LMU Registrar. All other student educational records are maintained by the Program. Please see (www.LMUnet.edu) for detailed information regarding FERPA and the list of disclosures that LMU may make without student consent in accordance with FERPA.

Financial Services

The Director of Financial Services is responsible for providing qualified students the appropriate documentation and counseling for securing financial assistance in the form of loans, scholarships, and grants.

Tuition and Fees

For the full cost of attendance, please visit the LMU cost of attendance website <https://www.lmunet.edu/student-financial-services/tuition-and-fees/graduate-and-professional>. If you have any questions, please call 423-869-6336.

Veterans

In accordance with the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, Section 367(e) of title 38 (Public Law 115-407), a student who is entitled to educational assistance under Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, or Chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill® *benefits shall be permitted to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the educational institution a Certificate of Eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or 33 (a Certificate of Eligibility can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs website- eBenefits, or a VAF 28-1905 form for Chapter 31) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

1. The date on which payment from the VA is made to the institution.
2. 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following receipt of the Certificate of Eligibility.

The university shall not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or require the student to borrow additional funds, in order to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding form VA under Chapter 31 or 33.

Beginning with the terms starting after December 17, 2021, students using their Post 9/11 GI Bill will be required to verify their enrollment at the end of each month. Students receiving the Montgomery GI Bill will not be impacted by this change. They are already required to verify their enrollment.

After December 17, 2021, all impacted students with a US mobile phone number on file with the VA will receive an opt-in text as their next enrollment period approaches. Students who do not have a mobile phone number on file will not be able to use text verify. They will be automatically enrolled into email verification.

* GI Bill is a registered trademark of the US Department of Veteran Affairs.

Payment of base tuition and fees or Certificate of Eligibility are required prior to the start of each semester. Completed and approved student financial aid for loans, grants, and scholarships will be applied to these charges. Registration for courses at LMU will be completed when all financial obligations are met.

If there is a balance remaining after financial aid has been expended, payment may be made in the form of cash, check, money order, VISA, or MasterCard.

LMU offers three options allowing graduate students to divide the cost of their education into more manageable monthly payments, free of any periodic interest charge.

All payments must be made in U.S. currency (no coin) .

Any additional charges incurred during the semester should be paid upon receipt of the next billing. The University reserves the right to change fees and charges without notice.

All purchases from the LMU bookstore must be paid for at the time of purchase.

Unpaid accounts that are more than 30 days past due are subject to the following:

- The account will be considered delinquent and will accrue interest at 1.5% monthly until paid in full.
- The student may not be able to register for the subsequent semester.
- The account may be turned over to a collection agency and subject to additional collection fees in the amount of 33.3% of the principal balance, including court fees, attorney's fees, interest, and service charges.
- The account may be reported to credit reporting agencies and appear on the credit report of all responsible parties.
- The student may be administratively withdrawn from Lincoln Memorial University for failure to pay. Lincoln Memorial University will NOT release final grades and/or may hold transcripts until balances are paid in full.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellation of enrollment must be made in writing or by electronic mail.

Students can terminate or cancel enrollment for any reason prior to the semester starting date and will receive a full refund excluding the payment plan enrollment fees, if applicable.

In the event a student drops one or more classes, withdraws, or is administratively dismissed from the University for disciplinary or for financial reasons after registration is completed and prior to the end of a semester of enrollment, the student's eligibility for a refund of appropriate institutional tuition charges will be prorated as indicated.

A student must complete a Change of Schedule form (obtained from the Office of the Registrar) for dropping one or more classes.

Any situation in which all classes are dropped is considered a withdrawal from the University. The student initiates this process by completing a withdrawal form (can be found online) and submitting this to the Registrar's Office.

Should the student fail to complete this process; all semester charges will become immediately due and payable (refer to "Withdrawal from the University").

The official withdrawal process begins in the Office of the Registrar. A withdrawal form must be completed, and all the necessary signatures obtained. Oral requests do not constitute official notification.

The University's official date of withdrawal used to compute the refund is based on the date the withdrawal form is recorded by the Registrar. Applicable institutional charges for fall, spring, and summer semesters will be refunded according to the following schedule:

During the first week of the semester	100%
During the second week of the semester	75%
During the third week of the semester	50%
During the fourth week of the semester	25%
After the fourth week of the semester	0%
No refund of institutional charges will be made after the fourth week of the semester.	

Specific dates affecting the schedule of refunds appear on the Registration Policies page of the electronic class schedule, WebAdvisor, which is available on the LMU web site by selecting the Current Students and Faculty link; and/or the Office of Student Services, the Office of the Registrar, and the Office of Finance. If it is determined that a refund is due the student, refunds will be disbursed within 30 days of the withdrawal date.

Refund schedules pertaining to summer are adjusted to the varying length of the terms. They are also available in WebAdvisor by selecting the given term.

Should a student choose to cancel an enrollment agreement; such cancellation must be given in writing or by e-mail. Cancellation submitted within 3 working days from the student signing an enrollment agreement eliminates any financial obligation, other than a book and supply assessment for supplies, materials, and kits, which are not returnable because of use. If registration has been completed at the time of cancellation, an official withdrawal form must also be completed, and the refund schedule above will apply. Email fnaid@LMU.net with any further questions about financial aid or cashier@lmu.net for student account questions.

The Return of Title IV Funds (Federal)

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 regulate how colleges and universities handle Title IV funds when a recipient withdraws from school. This policy is separate from the university's refund of institutional charges. The return of Title IV funds includes Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Unsubsidized/GRAD PLUS Loans. The policy states that up through the 60% point in each semester a pro-rata schedule will be used to determine how much Title IV aid the student has earned. For example, if the student has attended 31% of the enrollment period, the student has earned 31% of his/her Title IV aid and 69% of the aid must be returned to the federal government. After the 60% point in the semester, the student has earned 100% of the aid for which the student was eligible. Additional information on the return of Title IV funds available from the Office of Financial aid.

The official date of a student's withdrawal is the date that the Registrar receives the student's written notification of withdrawal. The percentage of time completed in the enrollment period is determined by calculations made with the department of education formula by the financial aid office. If 60% of the semester is completed, there is no return of Title IV funds.

Financial Commitment Policy

For value received the student will be responsible for paying to the order of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN the total of all costs incurred for their education while attending LMU, for all times of attendance.

Interest (1.5%) will accrue at the end of each month on all outstanding balances, except balances due from approved third parties. The student will also be responsible for paying attorney fees (if applicable) and all other costs of collection in the event the account is placed in the hands of an attorney or an outside collection agency. Graduating students must pay any outstanding account balance three weeks before graduation if paying by personal check. If paying by cashier's check, cash, money order or VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER/AMERICAN EXPRESS, payment can be made up to the date of graduation rehearsal. Accounts must be paid for in full before a student may participate in the graduation ceremony or receive a diploma.

Outstanding Balance / Collection

If a student account is referred to a third-party collection agency or collection by suit, the student will be charged reasonable collection costs or court costs or both. If this account becomes delinquent, the student will pay to LMU any principal amount as well as collection costs of 33.3% of the principal balance, including court costs, attorney's fees, interest, and service charges."

Academics

Institutional Accreditation

Lincoln Memorial University is accredited by the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges \(SACSCOC\)](#) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, educational specialist, and doctorate degrees. Lincoln Memorial University also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Lincoln Memorial University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

DMS Clinical Major Overview

The DMS curriculum is a professional medical education didactic program resulting in a Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) degree. The curriculum will stress the interdependence of the biological, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.

A physician assistant must be skilled in problem-solving and demonstrate expertise in diagnosis. The DMS

curriculum will advance students' medical knowledge and provide an opportunity for students to collaborate with medical experts for the advancement of problem-solving skills and diagnosis. The emphasis will be on educating clinicians to address primary care medicine in all health care settings and will employ the distinctive medical model for the maintenance of health and treatment of disease.

The curriculum will address both fundamental scientific concepts and advanced clinical medicine. The core curriculum will advance the student's knowledge of the anatomical, biochemical, and radiographic sciences, provide advanced clinical competence in nine (9) medical specialties, and prepare the student to navigate and produce publishable medical literature.

DMS Clinical Medicine - Medical Education Cognate

Degree Type

Doctor of Medical Science

(17 months, 4 Semesters)

1st Semester: Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-800	Research Design & Writing for the Healthcare Professional	1
DMS-916	Learning & Curriculum Design	4
DMS-918	Designing & Delivering Instruction	4

2nd Semester: Spring

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-821	Medical Science Module II - Neurology	3
DMS-826	Medical Science Module VII - Endocrinology	3
DMS-828	Medical Science Module IX - Infectious Disease	3
DMS-812	Medical Conference I	3
DMS-919	Assessment	4

3rd Semester: Summer

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-823	Medical Science Module IV - Pulmonology	3
DMS-822	Medical Science Module III - Psychiatry	3
DMS-825	Medical Science Module VI - Gastroenterology	3
DMS-889	Scholarship in Practice of Medicine I	1

4th Semester: Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-820	Medical Science Module I - Nephrology	3
DMS-824	Medical Science Module V - Cardiology	3
DMS-829	Advanced Clinical Rheumatology	3
DMS-900	Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine II	1

- Nine (9) credit hours per semester is considered a full-time course load.
- Medical Science Modules are taught in 5-week blocks.
- Medical Conference I: Hands-on-ultrasound training (45 hours scheduled over 5 days) can be virtual (remote) or on-campus.
- Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine: Presentation of scholarly project.
- *Spring Semester is 16 credits; you can extend the program for a total of 5 semesters, to finish in the Spring – please discuss with the Admissions Coordinator for the custom curriculum plan.

Total Credits	45
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DMS Clinical Medicine - General Medicine Cognate

Degree Type

Doctor of Medical Science

(12 Months, 3 Semesters)

1st Semester: Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-820	Medical Science Module I - Nephrology	3
DMS-824	Medical Science Module V - Cardiology	3
DMS-829	Advanced Clinical Rheumatology	3
DMS-800	Research Design & Writing for the Healthcare Professional	1

2nd Semester: Spring

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-812	Medical Conference I	3
DMS-821	Medical Science Module II - Neurology	3
DMS-826	Medical Science Module VII - Endocrinology	3
DMS-828	Medical Science Module IX -Infectious Disease	3
DMS-889	Scholarship in Practice of Medicine I	1

3rd Semester: Summer

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-822	Medical Science Module III - Psychiatry	3
DMS-823	Medical Science Module IV - Pulmonology	3
DMS-825	Medical Science Module VI - Gastroenterology	3
DMS-900	Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine II	1

- Nine (9) credit hours per semester is considered full-time course load.
- Medical Science Modules and Rheumatology courses are taught in 5-week blocks.
- Medical Conference I: On-campus training (45 hours scheduled over 5 days) can be virtual (remote) or on-campus.
- Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine: Presentation of scholarly project.

Total Credits 33

DMS Medical Education Major Overview

The Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) in Medical Education is a 1-year, 30-credit hour, 100% online program designed

by PAs for working PAs. The Medical Education major offers formal training in PA education to create a culture of educational excellence in the PA community at large. Candidates will acquire knowledge and skills to design high-quality educational programs for healthcare professionals, refine leadership skills, and develop their research and writing skills.

The DMS leadership team strategically crafted courses, incorporating technology and research literacy to promote lifelong learning and allow candidates to solve problems inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to educational expertise, the 30-credit hour program includes one elective clinical medicine course. Candidates can choose an elective topic of interest to enrich their existing medical knowledge and gain an edge on subject-matter course design.

DMS Medical Education

Degree Type

Doctor of Medical Science

(12 months, 3 Semesters)

1st Semester: Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-800	Research Design & Writing for the Healthcare Professional	1
DMS-916	Learning & Curriculum Design	4
DMS-918	Designing & Delivering Instruction	4

2nd Semester: Spring

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-915	Research and Statistics	4
DMS-919	Assessment	4
DMS-889	Scholarship in Practice of Medicine I	1

3rd Semester: Summer

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-917	Program Evaluation	4
DMS-920	Leadership and Administration	4
DMS-900	Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine II	1

- Nine (9) credit hours per semester is considered a full-time course load.
- Medical Science Modules and Rheumatology courses are taught in 5-week blocks.
- Medical Conference I: On-campus training (45 hours scheduled over 5 days) can be virtual (remote) or on campus.
- Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine: Presentation of scholarly project.

Elective Courses

Students will choose one elective, from one of the nine clinical science modules or DMS 812, the Ultrasound workshop, to equal a total of 30 credit hours for the Medical Education Major degree requirements.

Item #	Title	Credits
DMS-820	Medical Science Module I - Nephrology	3
DMS-824	Medical Science Module V - Cardiology	3
DMS-829	Advanced Clinical Rheumatology	3
DMS-826	Medical Science Module VII - Endocrinology	3
DMS-828	Medical Science Module IX - Infectious Disease	3
DMS-821	Medical Science Module II - Neurology	3
DMS-812	Medical Conference I	3
DMS-823	Medical Science Module IV - Pulmonology	3
DMS-822	Medical Science Module III - Psychiatry	3
DMS-825	Medical Science Module VI - Gastroenterology	3

Medical Education Major applicants without 2 years of full-time academic experience are recommended to start the program in the Fall semester; however, it is not required.

Total Credits	30
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Academic Calendar

DOCTOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE Fall 2025 – Summer 2026 SCHEDULE*

Fall 2025	
Fall Term	August 18 - December 12
Fall Break	November 24 - November 30
Scholarly Presentation Week	December 8 - December 12

Commencement	December 13
Spring 2026	
Spring Term	January 12 - May 8
Spring Break	April 27 - May 3
Medical Conference I	May 4 - May 8
Commencement	May 9
Summer 2026	
Summer Term	May 11 - August 14

*Revised 9-26-2025

Course Delivery Method and Setting

Course content is communicated via the Lincoln Memorial University Learning Management System (LMS) and Zoom. Information housed on the LMS may include but is not limited to, the syllabus, notes, PowerPoints, interactive and/or independent assignments, study information, reference materials, discussion boards, class announcements, journals, and assessments.

Online courses may include both synchronous and asynchronous modes of instruction.

Active course engagement, frequent participation, and professional communication are required.

Reading assignments may involve required course texts, articles, and other materials.

- *It is the student's responsibility to purchase any required texts before the course start date.*
- When able, reading assignments will come from freely accessible sources through either the online [Reed Health Systems Library](#) or the online [Carnegie-Vincent Library](#).

Academic Status (Grading)

The academic status or grading of the student's performance is determined at the end of each semester. Grades determined by averaging scores collected through assignment(s) scores, quiz(s), practical results, and course/system exams as outlined in the syllabus. Each course has a syllabus which will explain in detail how the grades are calculated.

Grades

Course Grades

The Program uses the following grading scale to determine letter grades for each course:

- A = 89.50 – 100%
- B = 79.50 – 89.49%
- C = 69.50 – 79.49%
- F = 69.49 and below

In Progress (IP) Grades

- In-progress grades are only offered for scholarly project courses (DMS 800, 889, and 900). Once an in-progress grade is submitted for a course, students have one (1) calendar year to complete the course, otherwise, the grade will be converted to an F. No other courses in the program are eligible for IP grades.

Incomplete (I) Grades

- If the request for an incomplete grade is approved, the work must be completed within the first six weeks of the following semester; otherwise, the grade is converted to the student's current grade in the course.

Course and Faculty Evaluation

Student feedback is essential to ensure the highest level of academic effectiveness. At the end of each semester, students are provided evaluation form(s) for the purpose of collecting feedback on the course and the faculty involved in teaching the course. Data from this evaluation is kept confidential and used for faculty and course developmental purposes. No punitive action is made to students completing the evaluation.

Progression

Students successfully completing each semester will progress to the subsequent semester as outlined by their Advising Sheet. Students repeating a course will work with the Student Progress Committee on an individual basis to determine the best course of action for progression. A repeat of a course will depend on the timing of the course's next offering, the student's progress in the curriculum, the

student's clinical or professional schedule, and the committee's opinion on the likelihood of success. See SPC policy in the student handbook for additional information.

*The scholarly project course series (DMS 800, 889, and 900) must be completed in order. Therefore, if a student receives an IP grade, or a final grade less than 70% in DMS 800 or 889, the course must be completed or repeated respectively prior to progressing to the next course.

Academic Information

Official Academic Records

The Office of the Registrar houses official academic records. The student's permanent academic record may contain the following:

- Name
- Social Security number (partial number since 1980) or numeric identifier
- Chronological summary of LMU coursework and grades
- Transfer credits, special credits (SC), and credits by examination (CE)
- Degree earned
- Date(s) degree requirements completed, and degree conferred

Students receive their grades electronically through WebAdvisor. Any student wishing to receive a printed copy of his/her grades must submit a written request to the Office of the Registrar before the week of final exams.

Electronic transcripts (including course grades) are retained permanently.

To receive due consideration, any challenge regarding the accuracy of a student's academic record must be submitted in writing by that student to the Registrar within one year of the term in question.

The student may obtain or have forwarded to designated parties' copies of his/her academic transcript by submitting a written request to the Office of the Registrar. The cost of each physical transcript is \$10.00. The fee for electronic transcripts is \$6.75.

Promotion and Matriculation

To maintain good standing and progress in the program, students must meet all academic, financial, and professional requirements at the conclusion of each academic term. Successful completion of all program

requirements is necessary for degree conferral. The maximum time allowed to complete the program is 4 calendar years.

Graduation

Graduation Requirements

The student must successfully complete all degree requirements in no more than 4 calendar years. Students with delayed graduation dates may walk across the stage with the next graduating cohort.

The student must complete the following requirements before earning the Doctor of Medical Science degree.

1. Complete all courses specified in the approved program of study;
2. Achieve a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 (C) for all coursework;
3. Ensure payment of all tuition and fees;
4. Have no outstanding financial obligation (parking ticket, transcript fee, etc.) to the University;
5. Demonstrate the ethical, personal, and professional qualities deemed necessary for the successful and continued study and practice of medicine and/or medical education;
6. Complete all course, faculty, and program evaluations;
7. Complete an Academic Evaluation Form;
8. Complete an Intent to Graduate form.

Student Transfers / Advanced Standing

Transfer Policy: The DMS program will collect and evaluate all transcripts and apply course credit if deemed appropriate. A student can request a maximum of nine (9) transfer credits.

For all course(s) in which applicants request transfer credit, applicants must submit official transcripts and course syllabi from the institution where the original course(s) were taught. The DMS Program Director will evaluate these materials to determine if the course(s) have similar content and competencies in order to award transfer credit.

Please see the DMS Academic Recruitment, Admissions, and Enrollment Policy in the DMS Student Handbook for further information.

Student Advisement

The DMS program maintains an open-door policy with regard to the students. All faculty, advisors, and administrators are available for advice and counsel. The input and opinion of the student are important. Students are encouraged to meet with faculty and staff as needed to facilitate success in the program. Students are encouraged to interact with faculty by e-mail, telephone, web conference, in person or by communication within the course. Any student who feels that they have a question or request that has not been addressed should notify the Assistant Dean and Program Director for the DMS Program.

Posthumous Degree

Upon the recommendation of the faculty, the LMU Board of Trustees may confer a posthumous degree or degrees the student was pursuing if all requirements were likely to have been completed during the final year for which the student was registered had it not been for the intervention of death.

Degree Conferred

Upon graduation from the LMU-DMS Program, students are awarded the degree of Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) in one of the following majors/concentrations from Lincoln Memorial University based on the course of study completed:

- Clinical Medicine - General Medicine
- Clinical Medicine - Medical Education
- Medical Education

Course Descriptions

Doctor of Medical Science

DMS-800 : Research Design & Writing for the Healthcare Professional

The purpose of this course is to help students develop and refine their knowledge about conducting literature reviews and action research projects centered on pertinent topics, issues, and concerns in the practice of health maintenance, the provision of healthcare services, or medical education. Students will identify a research topic, develop a problem statement and one or more high-quality research questions to guide their research. In addition, students will learn how to use Microsoft Word, Zotero, and style sets to help them develop and practice their skills in writing for the medical community.

Credits 1

DMS-812 : Medical Conference I

The student will have the option to attend on-campus or virtual training in the use of ultrasound and its application to common ultrasound guided diagnostics and procedures, such as a FAST exam, vascular access, and identification of DVT, pneumothorax, fractures, foreign bodies, retinal detachment, abscess I&D and more.

Credits 3

DMS-820 : Medical Science Module I - Nephrology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Nephrology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-821 : Medical Science Module II - Neurology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Neurology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-822 : Medical Science Module III - Psychiatry

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Psychiatry. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-823 : Medical Science Module IV - Pulmonology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Pulmonology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-824 : Medical Science Module V - Cardiology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Cardiology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-825 : Medical Science Module VI - Gastroenterology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Gastroenterology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-826 : Medical Science Module VII - Endocrinology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Endocrinology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-827 : Medical Science Module VIII - Hematology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Hematology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-828 : Medical Science Module IX -Infectious Disease

The course takes an advanced systematic clinical approach to Infectious Disease. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-829 : Advanced Clinical Rheumatology

The course takes a systematic approach to advanced clinical Rheumatology. The epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of system diseases, as they relate to primary care will be evaluated. The course will integrate relevant clinical anatomy, imaging, and pharmacotherapy to maximize the student's applicability in clinical practice.

Credits 3

DMS-889 : Scholarship in Practice of Medicine I

In this course, students will learn about survey research, the nature and structure of documents describing action research and literature reviews and will examine methodologies researchers in the medical field commonly use to conduct qualitative and quantitative research. Additional foci will include: (a) different strategies for collecting data; (b) using Excel as a data organization, manipulation, basic analysis, and preparation tool; (c) critiquing published research, and (d) the cautions and procedures required of researchers who conduct research that involves human subjects.

Successful completion of DMS 800: Research Design & Writing for the Healthcare Professional is a pre-requisite for enrollment in DMS 889: Scholarship in Practice of Medicine I

Credits 1

DMS-900 : Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine II

This course focuses on helping students execute their research by: (a) collecting, organizing, and analyzing their data; (b) organizing and documenting their findings; (c) completing at least one draft of their complete document and receiving at least one round of feedback from the instructor. During the course, the instructor will introduce students to various applications that help researchers analyze and interpret data collected through both qualitative and quantitative designs. Course topics will include issues surrounding professionalism and ethics as they relate to designing, conducting, analyzing, and reporting research related to the teaching and practice of medicine. The course will also include instruction in effective use of PowerPoint, which can be used in the presentation of the student's final research project.

Successful completion of 889: Scholarship in Practice of Medicine I is a pre-requisite for enrollment in 900: Scholarship in the Practice of Medicine II

Credits 1

DMS-915 : Research and Statistics

This course is designed to prepare students to interpret, evaluate, and use published educational research to improve instruction. Basic statistics, data types, and effective data presentation strategies will be reviewed. Different quantitative and qualitative study designs and data analysis techniques will be presented, with a focus on their application in medical education research. By the end of the course, students will be able to critically evaluate research studies, draw conclusions, and be able to communicate key findings in a manner appropriate for the audience.

Credits 4

DMS-916 : Learning & Curriculum Design

This course will introduce student learning and development theories and curriculum design approaches with a focus on best practices for adult learners in medical education. Multiple curriculum design strategies will be discussed, along with factors that influence those designs such as resources, research, and accreditation. Students will have the ability to build a curriculum that aligns with ARC-PA standards, program competencies, and course and unit learning objectives.

Credits 4

DMS-917 : Program Evaluation

This course is designed for students to gain knowledge of the evaluation process, including impact assessment, cost analysis, program effectiveness, and development of policy measures. Topics include how to evaluate strategic planning, the accreditation review process, curriculum, student advising and mentoring, clinical practice, and scholarship. Students will gain practical experience through a series of exercises involving the design of a curriculum evaluation plan to include both a process and impact evaluation.

Credits 4

DMS-918 : Designing & Delivering Instruction

In this course, students will learn to integrate the concepts of adult learning theory and curriculum design to develop all aspects of a course. Activities include preparing a course syllabus, developing lesson plans and instructional materials, evaluations, and assessments. Emphasis will be placed on selection and incorporation of instructional methods, technology, and resources that promote student achievement of the specific objectives.

Credits 4

DMS-919 : Assessment

This course will introduce foundational theories in educational assessment and their application in the design of sound assessments to measure and improve student learning. Different types of assessment methods and their role in providing feedback to students, informing future instruction, and making student progression decisions will be discussed. Participants will create assessments that measure learners' progress and achievement of specific learning objectives and be able to draw appropriate conclusions from assessment results. Participants will also learn how to identify at-risk students and implement various remediation strategies.

Credits 4

DMS-920 : Leadership and Administration

This course is designed to develop communication and problem-solving skills required for effective educational leadership. The primary format of the class will be discussion, group exercises, and individual presentations. There will be an emphasis on verbal and interpersonal communication, leadership theory, conflict resolution, and collaboration. Related ARC-PA Standards for administration will be reviewed and discussed throughout the course.

Credits 4

DMS-930 : Clinical Application in Primary Care

The course seeks to build on the clinical knowledge achieved in the medical science modules and to develop clinical reasoning skills for professional practice in primary care. A variety of clinical case scenarios of undifferentiated patient complaints will develop and enhance each practitioner's critical thinking skills and enhance the breadth and depth of medical knowledge. Students will be challenged to work through cases and provide their clinical reasoning to peers and faculty through discussion boards and video conferencing. These cases draw from a variety of clinical settings and have a broad application to patient care.

Credits 6

DMS-930E : Clinical Application in Emergency Medicine

The course seeks to build on the clinical knowledge achieved in the medical science modules and to develop clinical reasoning skills for professional practice in emergency medicine. A variety of clinical case scenarios of undifferentiated patient complaints will develop and enhance each practitioner's critical thinking skills and enhance the breadth and depth of medical knowledge. Students will be challenged to work through cases and provide their clinical reasoning to peers and faculty through discussion boards and video conferencing. These cases will require care from the emergency medicine clinician's perspective. The student will develop knowledge and skills for practice in the emergency room.

Credits 6

DMS-930I : Clinical Application in Internal Medicine

The course seeks to build on the clinical knowledge achieved in the medical science modules and to develop clinical reasoning skills for professional practice in hospital medicine. A variety of clinical case scenarios of undifferentiated patient complaints will develop and enhance each practitioner's critical thinking skills and enhance the breadth and depth of medical knowledge. Students will be challenged to work through cases and provide their clinical reasoning to peers and faculty through discussion boards and video conferencing. These cases will require care from the hospitalist's perspective. The student will develop knowledge and skills for practice in the hospital setting.

Credits 6

DMS-940 : Clinical Residency

This course is designed to enhance clinical competency related to medical topics beyond those addressed in the core curriculum. Reading, writing, recorded lectures, and activities will be utilized to encourage students to explore other medical topics of interest and ways to overcome common threats to successful clinical practice, such as provider burnout, professionalism, personal development, and more.

Credits 6