The Elder Patient Navigator Program has been submitted for approval as an Optional Enrichment Elective.

Navigators work under the guidance of Geriatricians Dr. Gary Blanchard and Dr. Sarah McGee, learning from their expertise in the field.

Navigators repeatedly work with the same patients for longitudinal experiences across multiple specialties.

Membership in the Geriatrics Interest Group is not required to be a Navigator, but is highly encouraged.

Questions? Send us an email!
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In the Elder Patient Navigator Program, students receive training to become ‘Navigators’-- experts in guiding older patients through their medical appointments by taking notes and translating medical language.

Being a Navigator is one of the most extensive clinical exposures SOM I & II students can participate in.

Previous Navigators say the knowledge and skills learned in the Navigator program put them far ahead for their 3rd and 4th year clerkships.

The Navigator Program is composed of two parts: one is knowledge-growth and the other is clinical-development.

**Knowledge-growth:** Navigators receive a manual at the beginning of the year that contains learning modules about geriatric medicine. Three group meetings are held over the course of the year to go over sections of the manual.

**Clinical-development:** The manual contains training to prepare students for clinical experiences. Navigators use their training throughout the year to help ‘navigate’ elderly patients through medical appointments.

On the day of an appointment, a Navigator meets the patient 15 minutes prior to the appointment.

The Navigator goes through registration with the patient and then accompanies the patient into the appointment.

During the appointment, the Navigator takes notes about information the provider is giving the patient. This includes information about medical conditions, prescriptions, and follow-up information.

After the appointment, the patient and Navigator review the notes to discuss any questions the patient may have. The notes are for the patient to take home and use.