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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entering PURCH</td>
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<td><strong>FOM1:</strong> Fall semester, by the end of the first week</td>
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<td>(“opt-in”)</td>
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<td><strong>FOM1:</strong> Spring semester, by the end of the first week</td>
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<td><strong>FOM2:</strong> Summer before FOM2 or by the end of the first week of the FOM2 Fall semester</td>
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<td><strong>CCE:</strong> No later than 3 weeks before the first clerkship</td>
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<td><strong>AS:</strong> not permitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaving PURCH</td>
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<td><strong>FOM1:</strong> Fall semester, by the end of the first week</td>
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<tr>
<td>(“opt-out”)</td>
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<td><strong>FOM1:</strong> Spring semester, by the end of the first week</td>
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<td><strong>FOM2:</strong> Summer before FOM2 or by the end of the first week of the FOM2 Fall semester</td>
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<td><strong>CCE/AS:</strong> Permitted but students would complete rotations and courses as previously assigned at BHS</td>
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