What is the Bridges Curriculum?

Bridges is the new UCSF School of Medicine curriculum, a major innovation to better prepare students for our rapidly changing healthcare environment. Bridges students acquire new knowledge incorporating novel science domains and technologies, and the skills to work in complex teams and systems. There are three phases in Bridges.

**F1**
**FOUNDATIONS 1**
Aug. 2016 - Dec. 2017

Integrated curriculum of Foundational Sciences, a new Inquiry Curriculum and a longitudinal Clinical Microsystem Clerkship dedicated to clinical skills learning and systems.

**F2**
**FOUNDATIONS 2**
Jan. 2018 - Dec. 2018

Core clerkships and new elective opportunities, with a longitudinal Family and Community Medicine clerkship and longitudinal experiences dedicated to foundational sciences and inquiry.

**CL**
**CAREER LAUNCH**
Apr. 2019 - May 2020

Tailored clinical experiences to prepare for chosen specialty, including sub-internships, a capstone curriculum and dedicated time for a mentored scholarship project.

How does this affect you?

Below are some differences you may find when working with Bridges students.

- They have learned a hypothesis-driven approach to history taking and the physical exam using clinical reasoning, and may present patients differently from what you are used to.
- They are used to getting, and asking for, actionable feedback.
- They have learned about healthcare systems, population science, informatics and other domains of science during the first phase of medical school.
- They do not take Step 1 until after the clerkships, so their foundational science knowledge is still evolving.

Please note: Bridges students will be gone one day weekly for their Family Medicine or Foundational Science Day.

Get Engaged!

This is an exciting opportunity to join an innovative approach to educating the next generation of physicians, and help us prepare our students to become excellent clinicians in an ever-changing healthcare environment. Visit us at tiny.ucsf.edu/bridgesFD to learn more.
INTEGRATED CURRICULUM
Learning of clinical skills and foundational sciences starts in the first year and continues throughout medical school.

INQUIRY
To generate curiosity and help students evaluate current knowledge and advance science, the Inquiry Curriculum spans the four years of medical school with problem-based learning cases, coursework in research methods and mentored projects.

EARLY CLINICAL LEARNING
Students participate in a longitudinal Clinical Microsystem Clerkship focused on clinical skill development and collaborative, continuous improvement work.

OUTCOMES-BASED ASSESSMENT
Frequent, formative assessments reported in an online dashboard help students reach outcomes delineated in Entrustable Professional Activities, Competencies and Milestones.

COACHING
All students have a coach, a faculty member who supports the student’s clinical learning, development of learning plans, career planning and resources for overall well-being.

Integrating Connecting Exploring
Students in the Bridges Curriculum continue to expand their learning of foundational sciences in the Foundations 2 phase of medical school, through a longitudinal experience known as FS-in-F2 days. Students will step out of their clerkships on Wednesday every other week, to explore a variety of topics ranging from cancer to genetics to congenital heart disease and many more, connecting foundational science knowledge to their clinical experiences in the clerkships.

Foundational Sciences-in-Foundations 2 (FS-in-F2)

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Longitudinal Family and Community Medicine Clerkship

Every other week, students spend one day (Tu/Wed/Thu or Fri) at their longitudinal family and community medicine clerkship, which allows them to develop longitudinal relationships with patients and with preceptors, and get an in-depth experience in primary care.

F2 LAUNCHES JANUARY 2018

F2 has six eight-week blocks and two week-long ARCH weeks.

Clinical Immersion Experiences (CIEx): CIEx are two- or four-week electives that provide opportunities for career exploration in areas other than the core clerkships, or a deeper exploration of a core clerkship specialty.

ARCH Weeks: Two ARCH weeks support professional development, allowing dedicated time to reflect on their progress and plan future learning.