

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE DEGREE IN MEDICINE AT THE COMPLUTENSE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID (UCM)

The degree program consists of 360 ECTS credits and, according to the Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (MECES), it is classified as a Level 3 qualification (equivalent to a Master's level). It is divided into 6 academic years, the first 2 of which are completed at the Faculty of Medicine. Starting in the third year, students are assigned to a teaching hospital, where they attend in-person classes and clinical rotations in various teaching units and similar areas within affiliated hospitals: the Hospital General Universitario 12 de Octubre (H12O), the Hospital Universitario Clínico San Carlos (HCSC), the Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón (HGUGM), and, more recently, the Hospital Universitario Infanta Leonor (HUIL). Additionally, students assigned to H12O also attend rotations at another UCM-affiliated hospital, the Hospital Universitario Infanta Cristina. From the third year onward, the instructors are clinical specialists from these hospitals (clinicians). All instructional activities in this program are in-person, and the practical component increases significantly once students transition from the Faculty to the clinical hospital settings. The program admits 320 new students each academic year.

General format of theoretical classes at the time of the survey (academic year 2023/2024)

Theoretical classes are 50 minutes long with a 10-minute break between them. Currently, in the first two years, classes begin at 8:30 AM and consist of three hours of theoretical classes (three sessions from 8:30 to 11:30 AM), followed by three hours of practical sessions either in laboratories or seminar rooms within the Faculty (from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM).

In the third year, from Monday to Thursday, students have four theoretical classes from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, followed by practical sessions or seminars. On Fridays, students participate in clinical rotations as “internal students” in the departments of their assigned hospital or affiliated centers.

In the fourth and fifth years, students begin with three intensive weeks of theoretical classes (from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM, six classes with a longer mid-session break). They also complete two two-month clinical rotations per year -one each semester- during which theoretical classes are held only on Fridays (six classes per day). For the remainder of the academic year, students have three theoretical classes daily at 8:00 AM, 12:30 PM, and 1:30 PM, with practical sessions from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

In the sixth year, students attend two intensive blocks of theoretical classes during the first semester (lasting 5–6 weeks total), either consecutively or separately depending on the hospital. During these blocks, they attend six theoretical classes per day. For the remainder of the year, students continue as internal students, with one day per week dedicated to theoretical classes (six sessions per day). In addition, during the final year, students prepare and present their Final Degree Project.

Please note that this is a general organizational overview and there may be slight variations depending on the hospital to which the student is assigned and the specific academic year. Updated academic calendars (in Spanish) can be consulted at: <https://medicina.ucm.es/docencia-medicina>