



Cairo University Faculty of Medicine

Program Specifications for Masters Degree in Dermatology

Program type: Single

Department offering the program: Dermatology Department

Program Code: DERM 800

Total credit points: 140 credit points

Academic year: 2015/2016

Date of Approval: July 2015

Program Coordinators: Prof Hoda Rasheed, Prof Wedad Mostafa, Ass Prof Akmal Saad, Prof Mona Abdel-Halim, Prof Heba Mashaly

External evaluators: Prof Mahira Hamdy Al Sayed, Professor of Dermatology and Venereology, Ain Shams University.

I. Program aims

To produce skilled and competent graduates specialized in diagnosis and management of diseases of skin and its appendages. Candidates will be trained and monitored to follow basic medical ethical attitudes and respond to the health demands and needs of the community. Graduates should be capable of utilizing national and international standards in patient care while following evidence based medical practice. Graduates will be encouraged to learn and practice continuous education and self learning and will be introduced to basics of scientific medical research.

II. Intended learning outcomes of program (ILOs)

- 1. Knowledge and understanding: By the end of the program the candidates should be able to develop a knowledge and understanding of:**
 - a. The basic sciences related to human skin and its' appendages.
 - b. The etiology, pathology, clinical features, natural history and prognosis of dermatological conditions in all age groups.
 - c. Guidelines for differential diagnosis of various dermatologic presentations.
 - d. The histopathological features of the main inflammatory and neoplastic skin conditions.
 - e. The psychological basis of dermatological conditions.
 - f. The basic concepts of dermatologic office, diagnostic and laboratory procedures, their indications, limitations and complications.

- g. The principles, indications, precautions and side effects of various therapeutic modalities for dermatological conditions including pharmacological, procedural, nutritional and psychological therapies.
- h. The principles, indications, precautions and side effects of phototherapy, basic dermato-surgical procedures, laser and cosmetic procedures.
- i. The principles of health education, disease prevention, amelioration of suffering and disability and rehabilitation where relevant.
- j. The principles of common internal diseases and their management.
- k. The role and scope of Dermatology practice including accountability, confidentiality, responsibility, legal-ethical issues and professional development.

2. Intellectual skills: By the end of the program the candidate should be able to:

- a. Interpret, analyze, integrate and document the history, symptoms, physical examination to reach an appropriate provisional diagnosis and differential diagnosis for common dermatological conditions.
- b. Design an appropriate diagnostic plan and select the most appropriate and cost effective investigations and diagnostic procedure.
- c. Interpret and analyze the results of investigations including histopathology and laboratory findings and integrate them with the history, symptoms and physical examination to reach a correct diagnosis of dermatological conditions.
- d. Combine the clinical and investigational database, with evidence-based knowledge to reach proficiency in clinical problem solving.
- e. Plan management and design rational therapeutic strategies with the appropriate involvement of the patient and family.
- f. Appreciate the need to recognize when a clinical problem exceeds their capacity to deal with it safely and efficiently and the need to refer the patient for appropriate help from others when required.
- g. Corroborate the advances in knowledge which will occur in his work over his entire career.
- h. Address the changing health needs of the society in a manner consistent with scientific advancement and trends in health care delivery systems.
- i. Develop skills of decision making in different aspects of patient care.
- j. Logically and scientifically interpret and criticize medical evidence.

3. Professional and practical skills: By the end of the program the candidates should be able to:

- a. Take a tactful, accurate, organized and problem-focused medical history and relate this to the general medical condition of the patient.
- b. Perform a reliable and appropriate dermatological examination and relevant general physical examination.
- c. Choose from the repertoire of clinical skills those which are appropriate and practical in a given situation.
- d. Competently carry out different therapeutic modalities for different dermatological disorders as indicated in the procedural Dermatology curriculum.
- e. Perform simple diagnostic procedures and histopathological examination for different dermatological conditions.
- f. Recognize patients with life-threatening conditions requiring critical care and outline an initial course of management.
- g. Apply sterile, safe techniques and infection control guidelines according to international principles.
- h. Monitor the efficacy of therapy by assessing the patient's response according to the relevant clinical and investigative parameters and re-evaluating management plan accordingly.
- i. Communicate opinion in oral and written form

4. General and Transferable skills: By the end of the program the candidates should be able to:

Communication skills with patients:

- a. Demonstrate respect to all patients irrespective of their socio-cultural or religious status.
- b. Conduct patient interview with patience, attentive listening and respect.
- c. Adequately and clearly explaining to the patient and/or his relatives the nature of the illness, diagnostic and therapeutic plans, possible complications and outcomes.
- d. The ability to counsel sensitively and effectively, and to provide information in a manner which ensures that patients and families are adequately informed when being advised of their diagnosis and/or consenting to any procedures or treatment.
- e. Handle appropriately difficult situations such as conveying bad news or dealing with patient and family anger.
- f. Efficiently and clearly documenting patient records.
- g. Discuss the progression of the patient's condition, therapeutic outcomes and professional mistakes if any, in a way that promotes patient trust and confidence.

- h. Desire to achieve optimal patient care, ease suffering and in the same time appreciating the cost effectiveness of the whole treatment program to allow maximum benefit from available resources.
- i. Awareness of the need to communicate with patients and their families, and to involve them fully in planning management

Communication skills with health care providers:

- j. Show willingness to work effectively in a team with other health care providers, and to acknowledge and respect their opinions.
- k. Practice cost effective health care through proper resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care.
- l. Work with health care managers and health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve patient care.
- m. Acknowledge medical errors and help in the development of operational systems to prevent them.
- n. Communicate effectively with other health care professionals to maximize patient benefit.
- o. Respect contributions of other health care providers regardless of degree and occupation.
- p. Seeking formal and informal consultations from colleagues.
- q. Performing appropriate referral to other health care practitioners when necessary.

Continuing medical education:

- r. Appreciate the importance of continuing medical education in upgrading his/her knowledge and professional skills.
- s. Self assessing his/her knowledge and skills and acquiring feedbacks from colleagues and supervisors continuously.
- t. Use different sources of biomedical information to remain in contact with the recent advances in dermatological practice.
- u. Participate in research projects and help to develop research protocols.

Skills related to the health needs of the Egyptian community:

- v. Identify the Egyptian community health needs and properly utilize the given tools to provide high quality and cost-effective patient care.
- w. Understand and utilize appropriate health care quality concepts.

III. Academic standards

1- Academic Reference Standards:

The academic standards of dermatology program is adopted and accredited by departmental council

2- External References for Standards:

- a- European Union of Medical specialists (UEMS).
- b- Joint Committee on Higher Medical Training (UK).
- c- Australasian College of Dermatology (Australia).

IV. Program admission requirements

According to the bylaws of the faculty of medicine Cairo University applicants should have MBChB or equivalent degree. According to Cairo University requirement, all applicants for postgraduate studies should fulfill preliminary courses on the following subjects: (Basic Medical statistics I offered by the medical education center (MEDC) – English language (*Toefel or equivalent degree*) – Computer skills (ICDL) or equivalent computer course offered by the MEDC. Training prior to registration may be credited according to departmental and hospital evaluation. Admission for the program is open during July and January.

V. Program structure and contents

Program duration: Three years.

Program structure: Total Credit points 140

- **First part: 1 year (table 1)** **50 credit points**
 - Compulsory courses:
 - Basic sciences courses (5 courses, 1 credit point each) 5 credit points
 - Internal Medicine course 2.5 credit points
 - General surgery course 0.5 credit points
 - Elective courses:
 - (Two courses to be chosen, 0.5 credit points each) 1 credit point
 - Scientific activities: 1 credit point
 - Residency training program “Phase 1”: 40 credit points

- **Second part: 2 years (table 2)** **70 credit points**
 - Compulsory course: (Dermatology course- 4 modules) 12 credit points
 - Scientific activities: 3 credit points
 - Residency training program “Phase 2”: 55 credit points

- **Master Thesis:** **20 credit points**

Table 1: (First Part)

Program component (Title/code)	Course modules	Total Credit points	ILOs	
Compulsory courses (One academic year)				
BASIC SCIENCES	Skin Physiology (DERM 804)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General physiology • Physiology of the skin 	1	1) a, f
	Skin Biology (DERM 803)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Molecular Biology • Genetics 	1	1) a, f 2) b, c, d 3) e
	Histopathology the skin (DERM 808)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic pathology of the skin 	1	1) a, d, f 2) b, c, d 3) e
	Medical Microbiology & Immunology (DERM 806)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General microbiology • Microbiology & Immunology of the skin 	1	1) a, f 2) b, c, d 3) e
	Basic Psychiatry & Psycho-dermatology (DERM 817)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic psychiatry • Psycho-Dermatology 	1	1) a, e, g 4) a-e, g-i
Internal Medicine (DERM 811)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Medicine • Critical care Medicine • Emergency Medicine 	2.5	1) j 2) a-f 3) a, b, f 4) n-q	
Principles of General Surgery & Dermatologic Surgery (DERM 812)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Surgery • Dermatologic Surgery 	0.5	1) h 2) c, f 3) a, b, d, f 4) n-q	
Elective Courses (MEDC): 2 courses to be chosen (each course=0.5 credit points)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MEDC 1: Critical reading ○ MEDC 2: Scientific writing ○ MEDC 3: EBM ○ MEDC 4: Medical statistics II ○ MEDC 5: Medical ethics ○ MEDC 6: Hospital administration 		1	4) a-u	
Scientific activities		1	4) a-u	
Residency training program "Phase 1" (Basic Training) (DERM 812 C1)		40	1) k, h 2) a, f 3) a, b, d, f 4) n-q	

Table 2: (Second part)

Program component (Title/Code)	Course Modules	Credit points	ILOs.
Dermatology (DERM 815 T)	Dermatology (DERM 815 Ta)	10	1) a-j 2) a-j 3) a-i 4) a-w
	Venereology (Sexually transmitted diseases) (DERM 815 Tb)	1	
	Laser Basics (DERM 815 Tc)	0.5	
	Basics of cosmetology and dermatosurgery (DERM 815 Td)	0.5	
Scientific activities		3	4) a-u
Residency training program "Phase 2 " (Specialty Training) (DERM 815 C2)		55	1) a-k 2) a-j 3) a-i 4) a-w

Scientific Activities:

The students should attend & actively participate in the scientific activities of the departments including:

- *Journal club.*
- *Seminars.*
- *Scientific meetings arranged by the department & other national, regional & international dermatological societies.*

Each activity will be monitored and given credit points registered in a special section in the residency-training logbook. The student should collect the required points before allowed to sit for the final examination.

Residency Training Program

- **Basic Training:**

According to the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University Bylaws for Post Graduate Programs (July, 2015), all students should have a basic training in internal medicine and surgery for 6 months. During this period students will attend the basic science courses as well as the internal medicine and surgery courses. Students are also expected to complete elective courses.

- **Specialty training:**

All students should complete the specialty part of the residency training program in the Dermatology department. They should spend 30 months in order to acquire the needed credit points. Students are expected to attend the outpatient clinics, inpatient section, the phototherapy unit and other specialized units under the supervision of senior staff members in the Dermatology department. During this period, the students will participate in the scientific activities of the department and complete the specified Dermatology courses.

NB: The details of the training program are illustrated in separate document

Master Thesis

All master-degree students should prepare a thesis within the field of Dermatology. The department and the ethical committee must approve the research protocol. The thesis is supervised by one or more senior staff members from the Dermatology department and may include other specialties according to the nature of the research. The thesis should be evaluated and approved by a committee of three professors including one of the supervisors and an external professor.

Dermatology Masters Degree Program Matrix

Courses	1 Knowledge and Understanding											2 Intellectual Skills											3 Professional and Practical Skills											4 General and Transferable Skills																						
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w		
Skin Physiology (DERM 804)	x					x																																																		
Skin Biology (DERM 803)	x					x								x	x	x																																								
Histopathology of the skin (DERM 808)	x			x		x																																																		
Medical Microbiology & Immunology (DERM 806)	x					x																																																		
Basic Psychiatry & Psycho-dermatology (DERM 817)	x				x		x																																																	
Internal Medicine (DERM 811)																																																								
Principles of General Surgery & Dermatologic Surgery (DERM 812)																																																								
Elective Courses (MEDC)																																																								
Dermatology (DERM 815 T)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x																																														
Scientific activities																																																								
RTP	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

VI. Regulations for progression and program completion

According to the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University Bylaws for Post Graduate Programs, after collecting the required credit points for the respective courses, the first phase of residency training and the scientific activities, the student will be eligible to sit for the first part examination in basic sciences and internal medicine and surgery before proceeding to the second part. In case the student fails to pass the examination, he/she may proceed in the clinical training and can resubmit for the next examination. After passing the first part, the student is allowed to submit a protocol for the Master Thesis at the beginning of the second part. Before submitting to the final examination, he/she should finish and approve his/her thesis, complete phase 2 of Dermatology training program and collect the required credit points. The student will receive his/her degree after passing the final examination. Master degree should be obtained within a maximum of 6 years after registration date.

VII. Evaluation

According to the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University Bylaws for Residency Training Programs, professors are entitled to carry continuous assessment during the program. A residency training logbook and scientific activities logbook will be kept for each student to document all his/her clinical, laboratory and/or operative/procedural activities as well as his/her participation in different scientific activities. The head of the department should allow the students to undergo the final examination when they complete their training program and collect the credit hours needed for scientific activities.

Final Examination "Part I":

Basic sciences

- Skin physiology and Skin biology: 3-hours written examination (2 papers) + oral examination.
- Histopathology of the skin: one and half hour written examination + practical examination.
- Medical microbiology and immunology: one and half hour written examination + oral examination
- Basic psychiatry and psychodermatology: one and half hour written examination + oral examination.
- Internal medicine: 2 hours written examination + oral examination+ clinical examination.
- Principles of general surgery and dermatologic-surgery: one hour written examination.

Final Examination "Part 2":

Dermatology: Three written examinations (3-hours each) including short essay questions and MCQs + Clinical and Practical examination + Oral examination

Written examinations will be held on three days

This will be followed by the clinical, practical and oral examinations on separate days

N.B: It is mandatory to pass each of the three papers of the Dermatology examination separately.

Marks allocated to courses (50 marks for each credit point)

Course	Written	Oral	Clinical/practical	Total
First part				400
Skin physiology Skin biology	30+30	20+20	-	100
Histopathology of the skin	30	-	20	50
Medical microbiology & immunology	30	20	-	50
Basic psychiatry & psycho-dermatology	25	25		50
Internal medicine	60	30	35	125
Principles of general surgery & dermatologic surgery	25	-	-	25
Second part				550
Dermatology	300	100	150	

VIII. Evaluation of program intending learning outcomes

Evaluator	Tool	Sample
1. Senior Students	Evaluation forms at the end of the program.	All the Postgraduate students
2. Alumni/Alumnae	The faculty is currently developing an alumni/alumnae office for postgraduates	Not yet determined
3. Stakeholders	A meeting will be arranged during the annual conference of the department	Available representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army hospitals • National medical insurance • Medical syndicate • Ministry of health
4. External Evaluators	Review of the program and courses. Participation in the final examination.	Once before implementation
5. College Quality Assurance committee	Annual program review	

Date of approval by department:

December 2016

Program coordinators:

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Prof Wedad Mostafa
Ass Prof Akmal Saad
Prof Mona Abdel-Halim
Ass Prof Heba Mashaly

Head of Department:

Prof. Bakr Al Zawahry