

The Narrative Medicine Track of Distinction

Sophie Davis / CUNY School of Medicine

Track Director: Samantha Barrick

What is it?

The Narrative Medicine Track of Distinction is a longitudinal, focused yet flexible concentration of study and practice rooted in the Principles and Practices of Narrative Medicine. We nurture and employ the tools of close reading and reflective writing within the equity seeking framework of the CUNY School of Medicine.

The foundational philosophical and practical elements of this track are established in the undergraduate years. The later undergraduate and early medical school years are time for self-directed experiential practice and renewal of established skills.

Students will be offered appropriate evaluations, feedback & support at each of the 4 Phases to sustain their enrollment in the track and eventual award of distinction upon completion of requirements.

Programmatic details

REQUIRED COURSES

- Narrative Medicine Freshman Inquiry Writing Seminar (FIQWS) [Phase 1]
- Narrative Medicine for Mentors [Phase 2]
- M₄ Elective (not required if all activities and Capstone are completed beforehand) [Phase 4]

SELECTIVE MODULES & ACTIVITIES [Phase 2 &3]

During phase 2 & 3, students engage in a variety of selective Narrative Medicine activities that build upon the foundational skills and knowledges established in phase 1 & 2. These activities cultivate further development of the following skills; small group facilitation, creative self-reflection, and collaborative creative projects.

Students engage average of 7 hours per semester & over the summer for a total of approximately 45 hours

FINAL WORK [Phase 4]

- Capstone Project
- Final Portfolio

Curricular Overview of the Narrative Medicine Track of Distinction at The CUNY School of Medicine

This chart describes the typical flow of how most students will complete their training in the Track.

Students can enroll in the NM for Mentors Course (NM₄M) as early as Spring U₁ or late as Spring U₃. Student are assigned their professional mentor after successful completion of NM₄M.

Capstone projects may begin any time after a professional mentor is assigned.

Taking time off from Track Activities is totally acceptable as long as students communicate with the Director and their mentors.

Phase	Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1				Prematriculation Program: Student participants
	U1	Narrative Medicine Seminar Freshman Inquiry Writing Seminar (FIQWS) 6 credit required course	Narrative Medicine Activities: Optional	Prematriculation Program: Optional: NM Small group facilitator; Assistant
1-2	U2	Narrative Medicine Activities: Optional	Narrative Medicine for Mentors 3 Credit Elective, requirement for Track Students *FORMAL ENTRANCE INTO TRACK OF DISTINCTION*	Prematriculation Program: Optional: NM Small group facilitator; Assistant or Leader
3	U3	Engage in Narrative Medicine selective activities and independent study modules <i>Average of 7 hours per semester</i>		Prematriculation Program: Optional: NM Small group facilitator; Leader
	M1	Engage in Narrative Medicine selective activities and independent study modules <i>Average of 7 hours per semester</i>		Prematriculation Program: Optional: NM Small group facilitator; Leader
	M2	Engage in Narrative Medicine selective activities and independent study modules Begin Capstone Proposal and Timeline	January 15: Final Capstone Proposal Due February 15: Dedicated Step 1 Study time	Prematriculation Program: Optional: NM Small group facilitator; Leader.
4	M3	Focus on Clinical rotations Independent Work on Capstone Projects & Portfolios with Mentors		
	M4	4 Week NM Elective offered Blocks 4-9 Independent Work on Capstone Projects & Portfolios with Mentors	March 15th: Final Portfolio and Capstone Submitted April 15th: Recommendations for Award of Distinction determined	MAY: GRADUATE WITH AWARD OF DISTINCTION



MENTORSHIP

In addition to the mentorship of Track Director, Samantha Barrick, all students will be assigned a mentor from the Narrative Medicine Track Committee; usually after the completion of the Narrative Medicine for Mentors course, usually after the spring of U2. But like we said in last slide, there is flexibility.

FAQ

- What are the requirements for entry into track?

After successful completion of the Narrative Medicine Freshman Seminar (FIQWS), students may register for the Narrative Medicine for Mentors course thereby declaring their interest in entering the Track of Distinction. The Director will complete an intake of their FIQWS coursework and interview the Narrative Medicine faculty that taught the student's particular section of the Narrative Medicine FIQWS course.

- When may students enter?

Students may enter the track as early as Spring U1 and as late as Spring U3 but the majority will enter Spring U2.

- How long is it?

Students may be involved in the Track and the related Narrative Medicine experiences for the entirety of their Sophie Davis/CSOM experience. The minimum is a total of 3 semesters in addition to the Narrative Medicine FIQWS course & NM for Mentors, but that would require much concentrated time and energy devoted to training requirements and experiences. This would be possible if a student was on academic leave.