

# The Developmental Medicine Area of Distinction

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## Issue

- Significant lack of medical education on caring for individuals with different abilities and exposure to this patient population
  - 1 in 4 people in the USA identify as having a disability according to a 2022 CDC poll
- Results in residents/physicians who may lack skill set required to equitably care for such individuals
- Students are willing to learn, but don't know where to start

**Student Driven Curricular Change shows need for education in this area**

## Goals

1. Develop curriculum for increased competence working with individuals with different abilities
2. Propose curriculum to Rowan-Virtua SOM curriculum committee
3. Advertise curriculum to students and encourage participation and completion

## Area of Distinction

- Focused curricular area of interest
  - Currently Rowan-Virtua SOM has 11 AODs available for student completion
- Increased education and competence in chosen discipline
- Elective for students to complete
  - Allows students to pursue areas of interest that are not heavily included or directly included in the mandatory curriculum
- Completed over the course of the first 3 years
- Completion included in MSPE letter

## Why This Avenue?

- Quicker approval timeline than curriculum change
- Allows for student involvement in curriculum development
- Encourages various avenues of involvement and exposure to patient population
- Will provide the data necessary to bring up increased mandatory curriculum inclusion in the future

## Developmental Medicine AOD

4 Hours

### Lectures/Activities

Professional Society lecture based content related to Developmental Medicine and/or Healthcare for Individuals with Different Abilities  
Rowan-Virtua SOM AADMD Chapter Events (Non-Community Service)

6 Hours

### Didactics

2 Hours from pre-determined training resources (e.g. Mental Health Wellness for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from UT Health San Antonio)  
4 Hours from pre-determined training and/or approved conference lectures

20 Hours

### Community Service

Service with an organization that primarily serves individuals with different abilities (does not have to be medically related)  
*1 page reflection* on how these experiences will benefit them as a future physician

8 Hours

### Shadowing

4 hours Internal Medicine based shadowing at RISN  
4 hours Behavioral Health based shadowing at RISN  
Alternative experiences can be used but must be pre-approved  
Must be outside of clinical electives

1  
Presentation

### Scholarly Activity

Poster Presentation or Paper suitable for publication  
Topic must be related to AOD and pre-approved

250-500  
Words

### Final Reflection

How experiences working with individuals with different abilities and education/skills gained through completion of AOD will affect their practice as a future physician

## Conclusions

- AOD officially approved as of Fall 2024
- 25 students expressed interest
  - 9 students currently pursuing the AOD
  - 1 student has officially completed the AOD

**Student led curriculum change is possible and achievable**

## Limitations

- As of now, the AOD has only been official for 1 full semester
  - Only 1 student has completed the AOD to date
- No quantitative or qualitative data from students who are participating in the AOD
  - No data on how students feel the AOD helps their growth as a future physician
  - No data on how students feel the various components add to educational enrichment

## Future Directions

- Distribute a pre and post AOD completion survey to students
- Work towards increased mandatory curriculum inclusion of working with individuals with different abilities
- Encourage student competency with diverse patient populations

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## References

