

MSCR

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2018

UMMS Capstone for Impact
Branch: Procedures Based Care

Project Summary

I am completing a dual degree Master's of Science in Clinical Research. My research in surgical outcomes and health services research involves studying surgical opioid prescribing practices.

Action Items/Outcome

I am in my final semester of the master's degree. I am still actively involved in multiple research projects related to surgical opioid prescribing.

Conclusion/Reflection

"The master's degree was very busy first semester because of application and interviews, but also because I did my emergency medicine elective in September and October, thus scheduling shifts between classes. I would not recommend combining the EM elective with classes, as it was too busy and I got pretty behind in class prior to interviews. I did 11 interviews this fall and it was manageable, but I did not often attend class. I still learned a bunch from my classes, but since I was gone a lot for interviews, I did not take as much as possible away from my fall classes. This is okay because much of it was review, some of the fall classes are poorly taught/redundant material, and I came in with significant clinical research experience. I think the combined MSCR/M4 is reasonable for people to do only if they have a substantial amount of clinical research experience prior to the degree. For example, I am able to take multiple upper level classes in biostatistics, an interest of mine. However, many of the classes are poorly taught and cover topics I am already familiar with, but for that reason it was not a big deal for me to be absent from those classes while traveling for interviews. If someone has little clinical research experience, they would benefit most from taking a year off to complete the degree, as you cannot extract full value from the degree when combining with M4/interviews. Also, if doing the combined track, one should be well plugged into a research lab already, as there is not much research time when doing both classes and interviews. This was not much of a problem to me as I was already established within my research lab so there were no startup costs/roadblocks for me. I would be happy to present at the March session."