This required course is designed to provide an introduction or bridge from the Basic Science years to the Clinical Curriculum. The course will cover concepts, practices, expectations, and attitudes that will confront students on their clinical rotations. The information is both practical and hands-on. A Basic Cardiac Life Course (BCLS) is required as part of the course and is essential training in seeing and managing critical care patients. It is a prerequisite to obtaining future ACLS certification. In addition to BCLS students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with essential components of ACLS including exposure to airways, ECG static and dynamic recognition, defibrillation and Mega code. Students will review clinical policies and be provided an understanding of the expectations of all the required clinical clerkships, faculty, residents and nurses. Small group sessions will review issues of patient privacy & confidentiality, writing orders, prescriptions, SOAP notes, histories, physicals and the use of the computer. Practical sessions involving clinical skills such as PPD skin testing, drawing blood, suturing, obtaining arterial blood samples for ABG’s, interpretation of X-rays and ECG’s are included. Use of medical informatics through computers and palm operating PDA’s will be reviewed and demonstrated. A variety of viewpoints are expressed in the different subject areas from the fourth year medical students, deans, attendings, residents, nursing staff, pharmacists, primary care physicians and information specialists.

**Course Chairs:**

- Neil H. Parker, M.D.
  Professor, Medicine
  Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs

- Baxter Larmon, Ph.D., M.I.C.P.
  Associate Professor, Medicine
  Director, Pre-hospitalization Program