This required course is designed to provide an introduction or transition 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. The Drew Undergraduate Core Curriculum, a component of the University Common Curriculum consisting of the six graduation competencies, palliative care, research and scholarly activities and evaluation and feedback will be reinforced. 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 (Advanced Cardiac Life Supprt) 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, nurses and other health professionals who participate in the healthcare team. Small group sessions will review issues of patient privacy & confidentiality, risk management, histories and physicals, writing orders, prescriptions and the use of the computer for patient care as well as scholarly activities. Practical sessions involving clinical skills such as tuberculin skin testing, drawing blood, simple suturing, obtaining arterial blood samples, and interpretation of X-rays and EKG’s are included. Use of medical informatics through computers and palm OS PDA's will be reviewed and demonstrated. A variety of viewpoints are expressed in the different subject areas from the fourth year medical students, residents, faculty, staff and information specialists.

**Course Chairs:**

Judith Sanchez, M.D.
Shobita Rajagopalan, M.D
Lorraine Smith, M.D.