BRANCHES in the Medical Student Curriculum

The Branches are a personalized educational phase with rigor and standards, with guidance, which is very different than the previous “M4 year” of the old curriculum.

Branches are not tracks, but rather personalized pathways students create with their advisors, and follow through the post-clerkship phase of their education. Students have more opportunities to take these personalized pathways, with the help of advisors, mentors, coaches, and other support staff.

When students choose a branch, they are looking to view their learning experiences in their pathway through a lens that is defined by the Branch.

The students’ experiences are mentored, advised and guided by the Branches Competency Committee; we don’t expect students to just go out and find their own way.

Branches help the educational program give students more options to learn and grow.

The student experience is much more guided and deliberate than in the past.

The four Branches are: Diagnostics and Therapeutics, Patients and Populations, Procedure Based Care, and Systems and Hospital-Based Care.

- A student support infographic that further explains the support resources available to them throughout their medical education can be accessed [here](#).
Progression through the Branches includes: **Discovery** (choosing a clinical focus and creating an impactful pathway for their career), **Focus** (honing clinical skills and incorporating foundational science into care) and **Finishing** (develop into educator/clinician who is ready for residency on Day 1).

Branches set the foundation for a more flexible approach to their educational program.