

MD4001 Module Handbook

Module code: MD4001

Title: Neurology and Endocrinology

Semester 1, Academic year 2026/27

Credits: 60

Prerequisites: Enrolment on MD4001 requires passing MD2001, MD2002, MD3001 and MD3002.

Module overview:

MD4001 covers two systems – the neurological system and the endocrine system. These follow a similar structure to other MDXXXX modules, starting by exploring structure, then function, pathology and finally treatment. You will explore the anatomy of the head and neck (including neuroanatomy), physiology of the nervous system and endocrine glands, relevant pharmacology and clinical skills in examination and diagnosis. You will continue to develop your communication skills and other research and numeracy skills. There are several important “non-systems based” elements that are spread through the module including medical ethics, professionalism and global health. You will also undertake a range of clinical placements throughout the semester.

Teaching delivery

The module comprises twelve teaching weeks. A small amount of assessable content is delivered in orientation week (week 0), so students are expected to be present in St. Andrews for orientation week. There is a mid-semester independent learning week (week 6) where no teaching is timetabled. Neurology content spans the first 7 weeks, transitioning to endocrinology content for weeks 7-11.

This module employs all of the various [teaching formats](#) outlined in the School of Medicine handbook. These include:

- Lectures
- Anatomical dissections and laboratory practical classes
- Workshops
- Tutorials
- Clinical skills classes and clinical placements
- Guided studies

A novel method of teaching that MD4001 may be unfamiliar with is the concept of a “flipped classroom” design for several key topics. These take the format of a Nearpod-delivered guided study that students are expected to engage in (after some supportive lectures in the preceding week). The Nearpod guided studies are then followed by a

linked lecture to clarify the content. The aim is to develop skills in self-directed learning which will become increasingly important in students' academic and professional futures.

Class times and locations can be viewed on the School Curriculum Management portals, [Galen](#). Please note, on rare occasions, classes may be altered in the event of unforeseen circumstances, sometimes at short notice, so please monitor Galen regularly.

When not otherwise in use, private study time in the Dissecting Room or Clinical Skills can be reserved via [Resource Booker](#). The John Forfar Room is available during [student access times](#).

Assessment structure and information

All modules contain both formative (practice) opportunities and compulsory summative (contributing to module grade) assessments.

Assessments sample the breadth and depth of knowledge, along with application of knowledge to novel problems. Summative assessments are blueprinted to assess content proportionately to represent the taught curriculum and are not intended to test every learning outcome of a module.

Semester 1 summative assessment methods include:

1. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
2. Short Written Answer Questions (SWAs)
3. Anatomy Practical Exam (APE)

The mid-semester assessment (MSA) will consist of 60 MCQs (1 h 12 min) and contribute 25% of the module mark. The end semester assessment (ESA) will be composed of two separate knowledge papers: one paper will contain SWAs (1 h 50 min); one paper will contain 60 MCQs (1 h 12 min) and there will be an APE where anatomy knowledge may be assessed using cadaveric material, models or images (10 min). The total number of marks for the ESA is 180 marks (60 for MCQs and 120 for SWA/APE) and will contribute 75% of the module mark.

The final module mark will therefore be determined from a total of 240 marks based on the above MSA/ESA weightings.

There will be formative assessments which do not count towards the module grade but enable students to consolidate learning and practice the summative assessment methods. Formative assessments help students monitor progress, ability to apply knowledge and can help identify areas of weakness.

Assessment of professionalism via the portfolio will be continuous across both semester 1 and 2. The portfolio is simply a pass or fail component and no grade is attributed to student performance. Failure to complete more than two portfolio components satisfactorily, will result in a formal portfolio review and remediation, to successfully complete the module/programme.

Assessment related information and policies can be found on this page of the MedHandbook: https://medhandbook.st-andrews.ac.uk/assessment-information-for-ug-students/?asl_highlight=assessment&p_asid=1

Reading and Resources

The university subscribes to a large collection of medical texts that can be accessed online or as hard copies at the library. These can be accessed at the following links: [Online reading list](#) and [main texts](#).

Key reading for MD4001 includes:

- Clinically oriented anatomy (Keith L. Moore, Arthur F. Dalley II, Anne M.R. Agur.) 9th edition - chapters 8, 9 and 10 (neck, head and cranial nerves)
- Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Neuroscience, 2nd edition, (Claudia Krebs, Joanne Weinberg, Elizabeth Akesson, Esma Dilli) – all chapters
- Guyton and Hall textbook of medical physiology (John E. Hall and Michael E. Hall.) 14th edition – chapters 75 - 82.

Additional reading and resources associated with specific elements will be identified on the element page on Galen. Please make every effort to do the relevant reading in preparation for practical classes.

Attendance

With the exception of lectures, all classes on MD4001 have monitored attendance and are considered compulsory. Attendance is monitored by paper registers, and it is students' responsibility to ensure they sign in. Failure to do so cannot be disputed. Please familiarise with the [School absence policy and consequences for non-attendance](#).

In the event of illness or other unforeseen circumstances please ensure to self-certify any absences using the following documentation ([self-certification forms](#)).

Policies

Students enrolled on MD4001 are required to be familiar with and abide by several important School and University policies.

Academic/coursework policies include avoiding [academic misconduct and following good academic practice](#), the prohibition of generative AI in summative coursework, and penalties for the [late submission](#) of summative coursework.

Details on grade descriptors and reporting scale for the module can be found in point 35 of the school assessment policy (accessible [here](#)).

Finally, all students must conduct themselves in accordance with the [inclusive curriculum statement](#) at all times.

Support and contacts

- For issues of MD4001 administration please contact the MD4001@st-andrews.ac.uk inbox.
- For issues of academic content please contact the element owner, whose details will be available on the element page on Galen.
- For general queries, the School Teaching Support Office is located on Level 3 of the School (room 337) and open during 9-5pm Monday – Friday.
- For pastoral support and advice – appointments can be made by contacting medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk or [student services](#).
- For study skills advice, including 1:1 appointments please contact the International Education and Lifelong Learning Institute (IELLI). Support can be viewed at: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/lifelong-learning/support/undergraduate/>
- [University Student Handbook](#) provides information and links to relevant policies