

AAMC CI Newsletter, July 7, 2021 Resources Updated for 2021

In preparation for the CI upload season beginning August 1, when schools can upload their curriculum data to AAMC from the 2020-2021 academic year, key resources are updated for 2021!

Here are a few to take a special look at:

CI Glossary

This resource provides [relevant terms and definitions for AAMC CI purposes](#).

Updates for 2021 include further detailed definitions for optional vs. required

courses, clerkships and clerkship types, and more information regarding available reports for schools. Often terms like “clerkships” can have many meanings, depending on a given school’s application of the concept. Also, there may be many, and sometimes conflicting, information regarding a term in the literature.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Resources to Establish Your CI

If you are in the process of establishing a curriculum inventory, making significant changes to your curriculum inventory, or improving the overall quality of your curriculum inventory, resources here may be useful to you.

- [Introduction to the AAMC CI \(video\)](#)
- [CI Glossary \(PDF\)](#)
- [CI Portal User Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Physician Competency Reference Set \(PCRS\)](#)
- [CI Standardized Vocabulary for Instructional Methods, Assessment Methods, and Resources \(PDF\)](#)
- [CI Newsletters](#)
- [AAMC Building Better Curriculum Webinars](#)

Sequence blocks (e.g., courses, clerkships, modules)

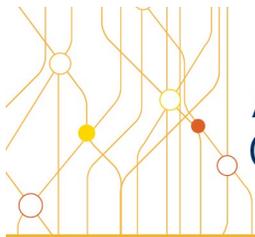
The terms and definitions in this section are curriculum concepts which may direct what and how school’s CI data is formatted in their CI XML data file. More information about how to use and organize the below concepts is available in the [Guidebook to Building a Curriculum Inventory \(CI\)](#).

Sequence Blocks: In the MedBiquitous Curriculum Inventory (CI) specifications, courses, clerkships, modules, blocks, units, and other organizing approaches to curriculum are represented with a data field called “sequence blocks.” It is an umbrella term to capture all types of organizational approaches to curriculum content. Within each sequence block there are events. Data within sequence blocks include title, start and end dates, duration in days, whether the sequence block is required or optional, expectations/competency objects, whether the sequence block is a clerkship or not, whether clerkship sequence blocks are rotational, and description. More information regarding sequence block details can be found in the [Guidebook to Building a Curriculum Inventory \(CI\)](#), in the “Course-Level Details for Your CI.”

The CI Glossary’s purpose is to provide a definition for AAMC CI purposes that takes into account the latest literature but is also written broadly enough to apply across medical schools.

CI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

[These questions and answers](#) are targeted towards those who may be relatively new to the CI or need more direction when searching for information. If you cannot find your answer here, another great resource is to post your query to the [virtual AAMC Curriculum Community](#). If you’re not yet a member of the community, you can complete this [AAMC Curriculum Community Interest Form](#) and we will reach out with further instructions.



XML Tools

This [XML tools](#) resource is for IT staff, whether at a school or with a CI participating vendor, and has information regarding two processes:

- How to validate a CI XML data file, and
- How to use a Web service to upload CI data with the AAMC

Please note we are no longer recommending an online validator, although there may be online validators that may be successful. For 2021, we are recommending a program like Notepad++ version 7.9.5 to confirm your CI XML data file

conforms with the MedBiquitous specifications and is well-formed. Once these two criteria are met, your CI XML data file can be checked for compliance with the [AAMC CI Business Rules](#).

Just a reminder that the AAMC CI Business Rules, which govern the structure and content of the AAMC CI along with the MedBiquitous specifications, have also been updated for 2021; these updates have been described in greater detail in the [May 5th, 2021 CI newsletter](#).

XML sample with COVID-19 Keywords for 2021

In this [zip file](#), you'll find three documents:

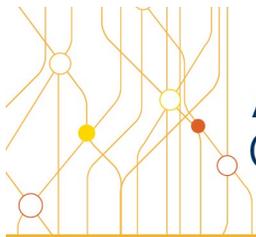
- **A cover letter**, explaining the contents as well as the COVID-19 related keywords for 2021. Recall that the COVID-19 keywords for 2021 were described in further detail in this previous [CI newsletter](#), and are in addition to the more comprehensive list of [AAMC CI Keywords](#).
- **A sample CI XML data file**. This is a file that covers one course (i.e., sequence block) in a curriculum, and applies the COVID-19 keywords for 2021. Additional CI XML samples are available in the [CI Technical User Guide](#).
- **A Verification Report**, which results from the sample CI XML data file included in this zip file resource. A school's real curriculum would of course include many courses, and would result in a much longer and filled out Verification Report. This sample helps users to see how data in an XML file

XML Validator

XML validators are components of programs and XML composition tools that examine the XML file syntax for correct and expected composition. An example of a free XML modification tool with a validator is Notepad++ with the XML Tools plugin enabled. This is not the only solution, but one which has worked reliably. As with any software, ensure the installation and usage are within the guidelines established by your institution.

Note: XML validation will not ensure that the XML submission meets AAMC's business rules, only that a submission upload attempt can be made.

1. Notepad++ version 7.9.5 has been confirmed to be successful for CI XML validation purposes. It may be that other, later versions of Notepad++ may also be successful. Notepad++ may be downloaded from the following site: <https://notepad-plus-plus.org/downloads/>



can manifest in a school's Verification Report. The Verification Report is a report schools receive after successfully uploading data to the [CI Portal](#).

As questions arise, please either reach out to ci@aamc.org or post them to the virtual [Curriculum Community](#). If you are not yet a member of the Curriculum Community and are interested in joining, please complete this [AAMC Curriculum Community Interest Form](#) and we will reach out with further instructions.

Onward!

Angela Blood

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Association of American Medical Colleges

www.aamc.org/cir