



Policy Title

Policy Waiver: Grading System for Clerkships (in response to COVID-19)

Identifier

UofSCSOMG – ACAF – 2.00

Prepared by: Office for Academic Affairs	
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Scope

University of South Carolina School (UofSC) of Medicine Greenville students enrolled in a core Clerkship during the closure of the clinical learning environment (CLE) due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Policy Statement

Students enrolled in a required Clerkship during the closure of the clinical learning environment (CLE) due to COVID-19 pandemic that results in a student not completing the full number of weeks in the clinical environment will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis and will not receive a letter grade. This will provide consistency for students across clerkships during the closure of the CLE. The Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) will reflect this adjustment to the clinical grading scheme.

While some clinical experiences can be completed virtually, students will be expected to perform clinical experiences within the clinical learning environment when it is re-opened. Students will receive an Incomplete grade until all checklist items and assessments are completed. Upon completion, a grade of Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) will then be assigned.

Based on the Narrative Assessment policy, summative narrative assessments will continue to be submitted to the Office for Academic Affairs for inclusion in the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE).

Reason for Policy Waiver

Due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, students were removed from the clinical learning environment on 03/17/20 per guidance of the AAMC, LCME, and our health system partner.

Procedures

All M3 Core Clerkships will follow these Grading requirements:

Students are expected to achieve a passing grade on all components of a required clinical rotation. There are three components in the Surgery, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkships. The Psychiatry Neurology Clerkship has four components.

Please note that Emergency Medicine is graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory and therefore is not changed in this waiver.

A student will receive an “Incomplete” if the student receives one of the following:

- a NBME shelf exam grade less than the 5%ile of the national average for the quarter.
- a score on the OSCE (or alternative assessment method) below 69.45
- lack of completion of Core Clerkship requirements, such as patient encounter data, submitted histories and physicals, CLIPP/SIMPLE cases, case presentation, etc.

Additionally, at the discretion of the Clerkship Director, a student is eligible for failure should any of the following apply:

- One (1) or more ratings of “Unsatisfactory” by a faculty or resident
- Three (3) or more ratings of “Below Expectations” by a faculty or resident
- Documented unprofessional behavior on the part of the student

The Clerkship Director can assign a failing grade (U) if the student has more than one assignment that is delinquent upon conclusion of the clerkship, based on a rating of “Unsatisfactory” in the domain of professionalism. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure all requirements are met in a timely manner.

If a student receives a U (unsatisfactory) in a M3 core clerkship, due to failing one component, the Clerkship Director will notify the student of a failure on an OSCE or a final clinical evaluation average. The Office for Academic Affairs will notify students of a failure on an NBME shelf exam. The student is encouraged to meet individually with the Clerkship Director and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions or the Associate Dean for Curriculum to discuss plans for remediation.