

11/12/2020 – Class of 2022 Updates

Dear class of 2022,

The situation with COVID continues to evolve, and we are working to do all we can to ensure you are all learning safely. We hope you've been reading the messages from Upstate to all faculty/staff/students regarding COVID updates and guidance. Included in those messages was guidance about travel and holiday gatherings for all of us, sent at about noon today. If you missed it, they posted the message here:

https://www-upstate-edu.libproxy1.upstate.edu/emergencymgt/pdf/intra/HOLIDAY_TRAVEL.pdf

I found the link at the bottom to the CDC's recommendations very helpful too.

Here are some updates specific for your class:

OR limit on medical students per case:

It was recently announced by the head of the OR at Upstate that starting on Monday 11/16 the Upstate ORs (all ORs at downtown and community campus locations) will have restrictions that will set a limit of 1 medical student per surgical case. We are pursuing live video streaming / remote interaction during surgical cases so that students who may be restricted by these rules can have additional opportunities to learn. If any of you would like to help us develop a pilot program to get something like this up and running, please let me know. For those of you who may be pursuing a surgical field and are technologically inclined, this could be a great thing to add to your CV and impress residency programs when you apply. There is also the possibility to apply for elective credit depending on the work you plan to put in.

Electives that can be completed remotely:

At the 4th year planning meeting Wednesday we discussed that there are some electives that could be completed remotely. We have put a list of examples on the UME website on the electives page: <https://www.upstate.edu/ume/courses/electives.php>. See the document labeled "Remote elective examples during COVID." The list is fairly short right now, but we will update this document as we hear from more electives if their course can be completed remotely. Last spring many students who wanted to do an entirely remote elective pursued unique electives that they created with a faculty sponsor. Information about unique electives can be found on the elective page of the UME website as well.

Protocols for shelf exam delays:

There are various reasons that a clerkship student may need/want to take an NBME subject exam (Shelf exam) on a different day. There are multiple policies that come into play in these situations, so for easier reference, guidance about this was compiled in one location on the UME website. It can be found at the bottom of the page about clerkships under the heading "Third Year Clerkship Subject Exams" <https://www.upstate.edu/ume/courses/clerkships.php>

Ongoing Communication

As the situation with COVID is changing more rapidly, we want to stay in more regular contact with you all. We will keep you all updated by email and will post copies of the messages we send to the Upstate UME COVID website. We also plan to have regular town hall / forum meetings for your class so we can hear from you and keep you all updated. Information about our next MS3 town hall will come soon.

We will keep working through this together. Remember to wear a mask, wash your hands and stay six feet apart, both on and off campus. Thank you all for staying motivated, trying your hardest, caring for your patients, and following the rules to keep yourselves, Upstate, and our communities safe. Thank you for helping us stay Upstate Strong!

Dr. Mason