

Letter to students

Subject: Clinical Skills Exam 2020

Dear students,

Earlier this semester, you signed up to take the Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) on a specific date in April or May. This multi-station exam helps assess your proficiency on important clinical skills and passing it is a requirement for graduation. However, due to the unprecedented situation in which we find ourselves, with prolonged social distancing, it is not possible for us to offer the CSE as planned.

The Curriculum Committee in consultation with the Clinical Skills sub-committee reviewed and discussed how to proceed with this graduation requirement. A decision was made to replace the CSE this year with a remote standardized patient (RSP) experience. This will allow students to sharpen clinical skills, including communication skills, history taking, differential diagnosis, and post-encounter write-ups, prior to starting MS4 electives.

You will be required to complete this remote SP experience; however, it will be formative in nature. Students will receive feedback from SPs (on communication skills) and from faculty (on clinical skills and reasoning). This type of feedback will be valuable as you head into acting internships and electives.

When: You will complete this RSP experience on the date you had signed up for the CSE.

Where: You will connect with the RSP via WebEx, and a portion of the exercise will be completed in Blackboard.

Format: More information about the RSP experience will be forthcoming. Please be on the look out for an email from the Clinical Skills Center with more information. We anticipate that there will be two remote SP encounters (cases) along with associated write-ups completed in Blackboard.

Please be aware that if you had not signed up for a CSE date that you will be assigned a date and the information on your scheduled date/time will be sent to you in the near future.

Please save the date and watch for more information soon.

Thank you,

Dr. Mason and Dr. Lesperance