

5/12/2020 – Update to MSIV students

Dear students,

Here are updates about upcoming 4th year rotations, the remaining clinical requirement from your final clerkships, and away rotations:

First, we are happy to announce that Upstate leadership has approved our plan to start 4th year medical student rotations on May 26, recognizing that circumstances related to disease or directions from the governor's office might change the plan at some point in the future.

In the interest of your safety and well being, we are developing some online modules related to COVID-19 that all students will have to complete prior to starting clinical work. We expect these will take about 1 hour and we plan to have these out to you by next week.

We are also developing a 1-credit COVID-19 course that will educate students about many aspects of COVID-19 and pandemics, including virology, pathophysiology, epidemiology, presentation, treatment, public health considerations, and wellness during pandemics. We plan for this course to be able to be taken concurrently during your other electives in a block of your choice. Regardless of your intended specialty, we believe that the material in this course will help you practice medicine in the current pandemic and the post-COVID-19 world, helping you do better in your 4th year rotations and upcoming residency.

For all of you that had an end-of-year MS3 clerkship for which you have not yet done the clinical portion, you will have an 'Incomplete' grade for this clerkship until you complete the clinical time and receive your clinical evaluation(s). When you come back to do your clinical time, we ask that you log any encounters you have with an actual patient (in-person or via telehealth), even if you have already met logging requirements for that item via simulation. The LCME does not allow a clerkship to be completed entirely by simulated experiences. They require that some logging be done in the performed and/or observed categories, so log whatever you do, even if it's a repeat. No specific minimum number of encounters is required; try to do as much as you can. Every additional encounter will help you improve your communication and clinical reasoning skills.

In order to provide maximum flexibility, we will give you until 2/28/2021 to complete this clinical time. Some of you may feel that you need to prioritize taking AIs and electives or studying for Step 2 to strengthen your residency application, and choose to delay this makeup time. Note that you will have an Incomplete grade on your transcript until you complete the clerkship. On the other hand, some of you may wish to do your makeup time earlier, for example if the specialty you are applying to requires that particular clerkship to be complete. It would be wise to check with your specialty advisor for specific advice about how to prioritize.

For those of you that would like to do your makeup time before the new MS3s start on July 6, please contact the clerkship soon to see what options exist, as it may be easiest to arrange makeup activities before the new MS3s are present.

We also are aware of the report posted 5/11/2020 on the AAMC site from The Coalition for Physician Accountability, a coalition of groups involved in medical education, including AAMC, ACGME, AMA, AOA, LCME, and NBME.

<https://www.aamc.org/what-we-do/mission-areas/medical-education/away-rotations-interviews-2020-21-residency-cycle>

Among other things, they recommend "that for the 2020-2021 academic year, away rotations be discouraged, except under the following circumstances:

- Learners who have a specialty interest and do not have access to a clinical experience with a residency program in that specialty in their school's system.
- Learners for whom an away rotation is required for graduation or accreditation requirements."

We are gathering information at this time about how this will impact Upstate medical students and will let you know more soon.

Thanks everyone. We will keep you updated. Stay well!

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