

5/13/2020 – Update re: Return of Students

Hello COM faculty,

We would like to share some updates with you from the Undergraduate Medical Education office.

Upstate leadership has approved our plan to start 4th year medical student rotations on May 26 (elective block 1), 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 student safety and well being, we are developing some online modules related to COVID-19 that all students will complete prior to starting clinical work.

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. Students will be able to take this concurrently with other electives. Regardless of the student's intended specialty, we believe that the material in this course will help them practice medicine in the current pandemic and the post-COVID-19 world.

The new MS3 students will start their clerkship blocks on July 6, six weeks later than originally scheduled. Students will complete didactic materials and orientation online in the weeks prior.

Faculty are welcome to involve MS3 and MS4 students in telehealth or other remote patient care activities. Students are allowed to contribute to these encounters under the same CMS regulations as in-person visits.

If you are involved with advising MS4 students, note that the AAMC has announced a new time line for residency applications this year. October 21 will be the date that programs can begin reviewing applications (previously September 15).

You may be aware that many students have had to reschedule Step 1 and Step 2 exams due to test center closures and physical distancing requirements. Some have had to reschedule numerous times. In order to give the MS3 students some additional flexibility, we have extended the deadline for Step 1 to July 1, 2021 for the class of 2022.

MS1 and MS2 students will start in mid-August, as scheduled, but with the delivery of the curriculum modified, as needed, in order to comply with physical distancing guidelines. Kudos go to many of our MS1 faculty, who did a great job rapidly transferring in-person lectures and activities to online formats in mid-March and continued through to mid-May.

Thank you for all you do for our patients and our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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