

UWSOM COVID-19 Clinical Student Q&A MS3

Updated April 3, 2020; 12:00 pm

If you have questions regarding personal safety, personal health, financial aid or other Student Affairs-related issues, please contact Dr. Raye Maestas, UWSOM Associate Dean for Student Affairs, at Maestas@uw.edu. Please direct all other questions to somcovid@uw.edu. This email is checked often throughout the day.

Topic	Posted	Question	Answer
599 Courses	3/30	Can people sign up now for the current 599 course?	We are looking into this possibility. Email Dr. Whipple: mwhipple@uw.edu , by noon on 3/20. This is a self-directed learning course where students will develop their own learning objectives and utilize resources provided by UWSOM to investigate a topic or a series of topics to meet their own educational goals.
	3/30	If I can't take 599 now, and I need two more weeks of elective time beyond Quality & Safety, can I take 599 later or something else?	Our hope is that if you need the elective time, it would fall after April 27 when we hope students are back in their clinical electives, and clinical electives will be available as they were before. If that is not the case, we will have other options available that have not yet been developed.
	3/30	Can I be in the 599 and another clerkship?	No. The clerkships are all considered full-time.
Absences	3/30	Does the policy to make up any absences beyond two still apply, or does the new situation modify that?	Every situation is different. We will work with each student on an individual basis to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on their training. Please contact Dr. Maestas with questions or concerns.

Absences, cont.	3/30	What happens if we fail a rotation, are unable to complete a rotation, or will be unable to graduate on time due to illness or being sent home?	Your health is our first priority, and we will do everything we can to ensure that you graduate on time. We are looking at waivers for longer absences, as well as ways of completing incompletes via working from home/online modules and case-based study when appropriate.
Away Rotations	3/22	What’s happening with away rotations?	At this time, all medical schools have pulled their students out of clerkships, at the request of the AAMC. There is a national conversation happening about what schools are going to do regarding away rotations. In order to ensure that our students’ graduation requirements can be met, we will prioritize scheduling our students into clerkships over accepting visiting students. Some of you have already submitted your VSAS/VSLO application materials to the registrar’s office. They are processing those applications in case it is possible to do away rotations later this summer and fall.
	3/22	What if the specialty I'm interested in requires a certain number of away rotations to make sure your competitive for your residency application?	The disruption to away rotations is impacting all students and all residency programs across the country. We anticipate that adjustments will be made by residency programs regarding the importance of away rotations. For example, Emergency Medicine now says you don't need to do away rotations to be competitive, and we believe we're going to see this from other specialties in the coming weeks.
	3/22	After receiving word that all away rotations are cancelled, I am concerned about the affect this will have on students attempting to match into competitive specialties. Will students be allowed to apply for away rotations with the understanding that if the ban is not lifted by the dates we are accepted, we will not be able to attend?	Yes – we support students scheduling rotations in July or later. Keep in mind it’s also up to the host institutions.

Away Rotations, cont.	3/22	I heard students traveling within WWAMI are restricted on when they can begin rotations outside of WA if they are coming from Washington State. Is this true?	We have had no confirmation of this occurring.
Clinical Clerkships	3/22	Should we still be completing onboarding paperwork requests for rotations scheduled after May that require multiple weeks of lead time (VA, military hospitals, etc.)?	Yes, if you have credentialing requirements for your clerkships for spring quarter, we encourage you to continue with the credentialing process.
	3/22	If we start clerkships on April 27, do we know that all of the clinical rotation sites in the five states will be available then?	These are uncertain and rapidly changing times. What we tell you today may change over the course of a day or two. We have no guarantees that all clinical rotations sites will be available at the same time across all WWAMI sites. We are working on contingency plans if you are not able to return to clinical rotations on April 27. Please note that in order to be fair to all students, we plan to start clinical rotations when all students can start clinical rotations.
	3/22	What if this situation continues until fall?	We are doing what we can now, while working on contingency plans for going forward, realizing we don't know how long we're going to be in this situation.
	3/22	What if we're not doing clerkships on April 27?	We're working with a number of our departments to develop clerkships that may not involve patient contact but are still clinical and have the ability for many students to register and participate, such as radiology and lab medicine. Those are not yet ready, but our plan is to have these in place by April 27th. Stay tuned for more information.

Clinical Clerkships, cont.	3/22	What about our April 27 course? What if we need to change that, but the timeframe for making changes to our spring schedule has ended?	The registrar team is working hard to get everything accomplished for everyone for March 30. Once that has been handled, they will begin working on April. The registration team asks that students please be patient; you will be contacted by the registration team.
	3/22	What if I have Emergency Medicine or Neurology scheduled on April 27?	You may see a drop, and if that's the case you will be contacted very soon. We are working with the clerkship directors and clinical sites about this plan for April 27 and credentialing. You should be going through credentialing regardless, since we don't yet know what is going to happen in April. Also, if you are planning to apply to residency in emergency medicine or neurology, the clerkship directors are aware of this and will work with you and the registrar team to reschedule those clerkships in a timely fashion.
	3/22	Is EHM scheduled for June 22 still happening? Can it be moved earlier if needed to replace clinical rotations that are unavailable?	After discussions with multiple different groups, we have determined that we cannot move the EHM week scheduled for June 22 nd . This is scheduled for a week between rotations and rotations are scheduled around the quarters of the University of Washington. We would not have another course that could be placed into that one week time- frame as the shortest credit-bearing clerkships we have are two weeks.
	3/22	If I can't be in a clinical setting, are there alternative options for completing clinical rotations?	We are working on the alternative options for you education while you are not in your clinical rotation.
	3/22	Has UW considered letting us get clinical experience by helping with the telemedicine response? I've heard other schools are doing this.	Curriculum is working with departments, clerkship directors and UW Medicine on how this opportunity may be available to students in the future. It is not currently available.

Clinical Clerkships, cont.	3/22	Are clerkships starting at the end of April canceled as well?	At this time we are not cancelling clerkships which begin April 27. We hope clinical training will begin April 27 but there are no guarantees.
	3/22	Will there be a process for continuing clerkship's, swapping sites, or prioritizing rotations for 4th years who are graduating?	Yes. We are working on this daily as individual issues arise. Our priorities are to keep students and faculty safe, patients safe and for students to graduate on time.
	3/30	When will students return to clinical training?	We continue to use our guiding principles of keeping students safe, keeping our faculty and staff safe, ensuring patients are safe and well cared for, making sure students are getting the education they need, and can graduate on time. These are very similar principles to what's being used by medical schools across the country. A growing number of medical schools are saying that students will not return to clinical training until this summer. We consulted with leadership of UW Medicine as well as predictions that have been put out by IHME around when we will likely see the pandemic start to taper off across our region. In addition to your safety we need to make sure that faculty can teach you when you go back to clinical training. We also want to make sure we have enough clinical training opportunities for everyone across the region.
	3/30	How will we know that July is when things will resume as normal? What if we need to look at starting even later?	Things continue to evolve, and we can't be sure that July is the right timeframe, but that's the best prediction we have right now. We will continue to use our guiding principles if we need to change that date and we will continue to keep you updated if that date changes at any point in time.
	3/30	Will I have the same schedule I had when we restart?	Unfortunately, no. We will need to ensure that students are able to get the key courses they need to apply to residency on time.

Credits	3/22	If someone was in a four-week required or elective rotation, will they get credit for all four weeks (March 2- 27)?	You will receive 4 weeks of credit for required or elective clerkships that are scheduled from March 2-March 27. The one exception are away clerkships. Please contact curriculum if you are currently in an away rotation and no one has contacted you.
	3/22	Will I get credit for my non-required four-week 699 rotation?	If that's an away rotation and you were pulled off you should be getting credits for the two weeks you did. Please contact curriculum if you have questions.
	3/30	3/30 Can clinical elective coursework that was previously done for Pathways or non-clinical electives during Foundations Phase count towards graduation?	No – non-clinical electives completed during the Foundations phase will not count towards graduation.
	3/30	What is Conjoint 699?	That is a holding course that reflects how many credits of clinical electives you were scheduled for. We have dropped students from their clinical clerkships in eValue, and we are in the process of dropping all the Conjoint 699 credits with the University.
	3/30	How many credits do I need to get financial aid for the quarter?	THIS QUARTER ONLY: If you're registered for 8 credits your living expenses will be covered for the entire quarter (normally you would only get half of your living expenses covered with 8 credits). If you add on credits and you've already received your financial aid that will be noted, so you have additional funding to cover your tuition as you add courses.
EHM-Related Questions	3/30	During what week is EHM?	EHM will be during Explore and Focus Phase, June 22-26, week 7 for people who will be graduating in May of 2021.
	4/2	For EHM, if you're an expanded MS4 class of E16, we don't need to take EHM correct?	Correct. EHM began with the E17 class.

EHM-Related Questions cont.	4/2	The question around EHM was less about clerkships, and more about having flexibility to schedule our Step exams. Can you address this?	EHM is a required course for graduation and is scheduled for June 22-26. We realize with the current closure of Prometric testing centers there may need to be allowances made for students taking USMLE exams.
	4/2	If we have an away rotation at another school scheduled during that week 7 EHM time block what are the options?	EHM is a required course for graduation and is scheduled for June 22-26.
Exams			
	Step 2 4/2	USMLE Step 2 - preparation vs taking courses	If you were going to take your Step 2 CK in April we are almost certain it will be cancelled and you may want to register for the Pandemics course and study for Step 2 afterward.
	4/2	For those of us registered for Step 2 at the end of April: what is UW's official recommendation on dedicated vs. pandemics course? Do you recommend going ahead with Spring A pandemics assuming Step 2 will be canceled, or should we begin our dedicated now?	We would recommend taking the Pandemics course now and studying for Step 2 later.
	4/2	Will there be non-clinical electives offered the final four-week period or spring B where this schedule is showing Step 2?	There will be non-clinical electives available in spring B and spring C.
	4/2	Can students with one patient care rotation remaining still take STEP2 CK/CS before completion of this last rotation?	We recommend that students complete their patient care rotations to maximize their performance on Step 2.
	4/2	Can we take step 2 before we finish patient care clerkships?	We recommend that students complete their patient care rotations to maximize their performance on Step 2.

Exams, Step 2, cont.	4/2	Why can't we eliminate the second round of the OSCEs since Step 2 CS is a much larger/more expansive evaluation of clinical competency and we're already going through the process of scheduling/rescheduling for that, associated significant costs, etc.? What additional benefit does another round of OSCEs offer?	Discussions are ongoing regarding the best way to handle your end of Patient Care Phase OSCEs. We will update you when more information is available.
	4/2	Are there any updates on a national level about Step 2 CS?	There is not a known date about when Step 2 CS testing will resume.
	4/2	We were told today by the pandemics course leaders that if we plan to take step 2 within the next month to register for the April 27 start date. But we all know the likelihood of us taking Step 2 by April 27 is low. Can the course be offered during June?	The course was designed to be offered in a format where there is a lot of interaction, so in its current format, it will not be offered in May or June as far as we know.
	4/2	What about Step 2 CS that is scheduled for Summer but now there are no slots open in May or June. Recommendations? Plan on missing clerkships to go take it?	Yes, students will be allowed to miss time in clerkships to take their Step exams.
	3/30	Do I need to complete all of my Patient Care Phase rotations to take Step 2 CK and CS?	You are not required to complete all of your Patient Care Phase rotations before taking Step 2 CK and CS. However, the Step 2 CK and CS exams will test you on content from all of your Patient Care Phase rotations; it is to your benefit to take the exams after you have finished all of the required Patient Care clerkships.
NBME	3/30	Have there been updates regarding the NBME subject examinations?	The NBME has sent out a notice that they are planning on having a remote version of their exam no earlier than April 7. It's proctored remotely. We are waiting to hear more and will update you regarding the specific date of your exam.

	OSCE 4/2	<p>With all the rescheduling of step exams and interviews coming up is the university at all considering cancelling the OSCE? or taking it at our WWAMI site instead of having to travel?</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing regarding the best way to handle your end of Patient Care Phase OSCEs. We will update you when more information is available.</p>
<p>Expanding/Expanded Student Questions</p>	<p>4/2</p>	<p>I'm considering expanding. If I do expand and take the Pandemics course/another non-clinical elective in Spring B, will those count towards my graduation requirements if I graduate in 2022 rather than 2021?</p>	<p>At this time, students graduating in spring 2021 and 2022, will be allowed 8-weeks (16 credits) of non-clinical courses that will count towards their electives for graduation requirements.</p>
	<p>4/2</p>	<p>If I am an expanded student and off-track, who should I contact?</p>	<p>The Registrar team has your preferences and unique issues for your schedule from when you submitted that previously.</p>
<p>Financial Aid/Tuition</p>	<p>3/30</p>	<p>If we were registered for Pandemics and now want to drop it will we be reimbursed?</p>	<p>If you drop Pandemics by April 5th, you will receive your tuition back and there will not be a drop fee. If you drop Pandemics between the second and fourth week of the quarter, then you may owe half of your tuition. If you drop after the fourth week of the quarter, you will owe all of your tuition.</p> <p>If you take 0 credits in Spring, you will owe \$0 tuition. If you received a financial aid deposit and then drop all your credits, the money you received in financial aid will all have to be paid back. A repayment charge will be put on your account for you to repay the money.</p>
	<p>3/30</p>	<p>Does the tuition reflect non-resident costs?</p>	<p>If you have a non-resident tuition waiver, we will make sure your tuition waiver is correct.</p>

Financial Aid/Tuition, cont.	3/22	What should I do about my financial aid?	<p>If you are registered for a course that begins on March 30, your financial aid will be disbursed by March 30. If you not scheduled for a course or clerkship that begins on March 30, your financial aid will be disbursed the Wednesday before your first course/clerkship. You can apply for the on-line short term loan (as long as you do not have one that has not been repaid).</p> <p>Short term loans are available from the Financial Aid Office. Please contact Diane Noecker, dnoecker@uw.edu, for more information.</p>
	3/22	Can we have reduced tuition in the meantime so students with families can float by on loans?	<p>Students will still have the option to be registered for courses beginning March 30th to allow them to receive their financial aid and financial aid disbursement at the same time for spring quarter. The courses will count towards graduation requirements. Tuition will not be reduced for students who are registered full time.</p>
	3/22	What kind of financial support/financial aid will the school provide for students who are impacted financially by these changes and uncertainties?	<p>The school is committed to working with students to ensure they have the appropriate courses scheduled to maintain financial aid and the timing of financial aid disbursements for spring quarter.</p>
	3/22	What about my financial aid?	<p>The school is committed to working with students to ensure they have the appropriate courses scheduled to maintain financial aid and the timing of financial aid disbursements for spring quarter.</p>
	3/22	How are we going to get reimbursed for missed rotations which we have already paid for?	<p>Students scheduled for a 4, 6 or 12-week clerkships during March 2020 will continue with online alternative learning experiences for the clerkships and will receive credit for this clerkship.</p>

Financial Aid/Tuition, cont.	3/22	How will registering for the Quality & Safety course affect my financial aid?	<p>We are trying to keep you registered for the same number of credits that you were already registered for. For instance everyone has to take the TTR because it's a graduation requirement. We moved the timing of that so that things you had scheduled April 13-24, especially if it was a clinical elective, we would be moving that into the May timeframe for you to be able to do that last clinical elective. We don't anticipate that you should see any significant change in your financial aid by registering for the Quality & Safety course on March 30. You will get your financial aid disbursement on March 30 as you would have for a clinical rotation.</p> <p>Financial Aid is aware that we are making these changes, and as long as you are registered for something to begin March 30 you should get your financial aid at that time.</p>
	3/22	I was previously registered for a course, and now my schedule is changed, and I'm no longer registered for a course on March 30. Can I still get my disbursement?	<p>No. Federal law states that you must be in a course on March 30 to get that disbursement. If not, we'll have to wait until the start of your next course for your financial aid disbursement. The Financial Aid office has a fund for emergency loans. They can give you the money on March 30, and then when you get your financial aid you can pay them back. Please reach out to Diane Noecker if you have specific questions.</p>
	4/2	Can we pay tuition if we enroll in a class later without a fee? I am not concerned about the financial aid eligibility portion.	<p>You can add/drop a course through April 5 without paying an additional fee.</p>
Graduation Requirements	3/30	Has the graduation tracker been updated for the new requirements?	<p>Not yet. It will take at least 2 weeks for all the "tagging" of the non-clinicals and the new graduation requirements to be built into the system.</p>

Graduation Requirements, cont.

3/22

What will need to happen for me to be able to graduate in May 2021?

All UWSOM students are currently not involved in clinical training. We are planning for students to resume clinical training on April 27. Spring A clerkships are scheduled to begin on March 30. Your Spring A clerkship will be dropped. We are developing a four-week, online non-clinical elective course in Pandemics & Health System Responses. We have approval for this non-clinical elective to count for one of your graduation requirements. We will send you the information next week for you to be able to register for this course. It will be available for most rising MS3 and MS4 students. We will work with you to find time in your schedule to put the clerkship you had scheduled for Spring A later in the year.

3/22

What about my grade for the current 4, 6 or 12-week clerkship that I stopped doing clinical care two weeks before the clerkship ends?

Four week rotations will be pass/fail based on a discussion with clerkship directors. If you are currently in neurology, neurosurgery, emergency medicine or an APC, and are planning in applying in that specialty, please reach out to the clerkship director to further discuss this.

At this time, six-week and twelve-week required rotations will still be graded clerkships and the exam will still count towards your grade.

Communications have gone out to all of the clerkship directors noting that during these extraordinary times we recognize that students have not been given the full opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of the material and that the faculty who are assessing students should consider the students' trajectory, should consider where they were during the time they were observed, as compared to where other students were at the time they were observed.

Health Insurance	3/22	Will the school add students to graduate student/employee insurance (that MSTP students currently have) to support students in receiving medical care during this time?	The School does not have the ability to offer medical students who are not in the MSTP program the insurance that graduate students/employees are offered.
	3/22	As students work on the front lines of this crisis—some, without health insurance, do you foresee the implementation of any additional safety measures?	<p>Please continue to follow all of the safety measures outlined in UW Medicine’s The Huddle and by the healthcare team at your institution. We highly encourage all students, especially clinical students, to have personal health insurance. If students do not have health insurance they should contact Dr. Maestas. You can sign up anytime for Medicaid through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.</p> <p>Additionally, UWSOM will pay for students’ COVID-19 test if your insurance does not cover it. Contact Dr. Maestas if you desire testing, or if you have already gotten tested and where that test occurred.</p>
Housing	3/22	Should I cancel my housing for my clerkships? Alternatively, should I keep my reservation and pay the rent just in preparation for the rotations starting up soon?	At the current time, we do not anticipate clinical training to begin before April 27 th . We hope that clerkships will resume on April 27 but there are no guarantees.
	3/22	Would housing be provided if we choose to be somewhere else in WWAMI that we don’t currently live? For example, if I say I want to be in Bozeman, MT instead of Seattle, would I get to stay in the WWAMI housing there?	The current housing policy still stands for required rotations.

Independent Study	3/22	Who can sign up for independent study and how do we sign up?	Please reach out directly to Dr. Ryan - mjryan@uw.edu , or Kellie Engle - kaengle@uw.edu if you need to sign up for independent study for the March 30 – April 24 timeframe so they can assist you.
	3/22	Can I do independent study for my Step 2?	<p>You can study for Step 2 without being enrolled. If you do enroll for independent study for Step 2, you will need to pay tuition for your independent study and it does not count towards graduation requirement. Registering for an independent study course will allow you to receive financial aid. However, you are also able to take out a short term loan to help cover expenses until you begin a clerkship.</p> <p>This short term loan will be repaid when you receive your financial aid. Please reach out directly to Dr. Ryan - mjryan@uw.edu, or Kellie Engle - kaengle@uw.edu if you need to sign up for independent study for the March 30 – April 24 timeframe so they can assist you.</p>
Miscellaneous Questions	4/2	Will there still be a “time-in- Seattle” requirement? If so, how many weeks?	No, will not be tracking this for your graduation requirements.
	4/2	Will remaining PCP rotations be converted to 4-week rotations to better fit fourth year schedule?	The Patient Care Phase clerkship length is still being discussed. We will update you when we have further information.
	4/2	Will the administration open more spots in neuro and EM rotations for those students who were scheduled in Spring A and B?	Emergency Medicine rotations will only be offered in spring quarter to students graduating in spring 2020 and will be an online only course.
	4/2	Should we be notifying our clerkship sites/attendings that we will not be coming to the specific clerkship in spring quarter?	You do not need to notify your clerkship sites or attendings. All sites and site directors have been notified of this change.

Miscellaneous Questions, cont.	4/2	For MSTP students, you mentioned the required electives are 12 weeks instead of 16. Does this mean MSTPs can take 2 non-clinical electives and 1 clinical elective?	Yes.
	4/2	When is an appropriate time to contact career advisors?	You may reach out to the career advisors and departmental career advisors any time.
	4/2	Where do we find the departmental supervisors?	Here is the Career Advisors FAQ which lists the departmental career advisors contact info: https://education.uwmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Career-Advisors-FAQ-2019-FINAL.pdf
	4/2	Will the school allow a gap year for students for research, MPH, MBA, etc.? This way students can resume 4th year next spring when the schedules will not be so altered?	Those concurrent programs have already closed their applications for this upcoming academic year. Their classes for this upcoming fall were accepted earlier this month.
Non-Clinical Electives	3/30	What online courses will be available beginning April 27?	We are pleased to offer 12 excellent course options. There will be two-week and four-week electives available—more two-week than four-week. You will be able to add courses up until Sunday, April 5.
	3/30	Regarding the online Pandemics course, can students still sign up? Is there a late fee? What will happen if I drop this course?	The last day to add or drop courses for Spring Quarter without having to pay a fee is Sunday, April 5.
	3/30	If we took CBSR, does that mean we can't take Pandemics for credit? (Since each is 8 credits and only 8 credits of nonclinical electives are allowed)	We can do 8 weeks of non-clinical electives, which is 16 credits so you can still take Pandemics even if you previously did CBSR.

Non-Clinical Electives, cont.	3/30	What if we don't take pandemics but then add online electives for spring B/C, will we get financial aid /have to pay tuition then?	Yes, financial aid is disbursed just before the start of the first day of your first registered course and you will have to pay tuition.
	4/2	8 credits now equal full time, correct? If we are taking the Pandemics course (8 credits) is there any reason to keep CONJ 699 (8 credits) since we are not on rotations and do not need to pay for the extra credits?	Your CONJ 699 course will be dropped by the Registrar team. If you take Pandemics, which is 8 credits, you are registered part-time. However, for financial aid purposes, for THIS QUARTER ONLY, you will be able to receive financial aid for full living expenses.
	4/2	Do the 8 credits of CBSR count towards non-clinical elective graduation requirements, so we don't need to take Pandemics?	Yes, if you took CBSR, you have one less month-long elective to take towards graduation requirements. You will be allowed to have 16 credits of non-clinical elective credits count towards your graduation requirements. You may want to take the Pandemics course or another non-clinical elective during spring quarter. This will provide you more flexibility in your schedule for the following academic year. But you are not required to take Pandemics or to take another of the non-clinical electives.
	4/2	I am not currently registered for Pandemics. Based on the information given in this class meeting, I am now thinking I should register for pandemics. Is it too late to register? Who should I contact to catch up on the coursework?	You can register for courses through April 5 without paying an add/drop fee. You will need to contact the course director for coursework that will need to be made up.
	4/2	Given that we have enough time from June 29th to the end of the year to fit the new graduation requirements, is there any downside to not taking online electives during this period to save on tuition?	Everyone's situation is different. You are not required to take non-clinical electives during spring quarter.
	4/2	Will non-clinical electives be offered throughout the year, or only in the spring?	Currently only during this spring quarter will non-clinical electives be offered and count towards graduation requirements.

Non-Clinical Electives, cont.	4/2	Are non-clinical electives (other than Pandemics) offered Spring A? And if so, do they count for the full 4 credits?	The Pandemics course is 4-weeks (8 credits). A Safety and Quality course is also being offered during spring quarter which is 2-weeks (4 credits) and offered from March 30-April 10.
	4/2	If the clinical clerkships are delayed past June 29, will there be more online non-clinical electives available?	If it is determined that clinical training cannot resume on June 29, we will provide updated information for you regarding what will be offered.
	4/2	Are there going to be non-clinical options for the 4-week period, May 25-Jun 19?	Additional information regarding the non-clinical elective courses will be provided later this week.
	3/22	Will I be automatically registered in the Pandemic Elective?	Students will have to register themselves through MyUW in the Pandemic elective since it is not a clinical clerkship. Information and details will be provided early next week so students can register. You need to make sure you register as soon as you get the information - by Wednesday, March 25 - so it doesn't delay your financial aid disbursement.
	3/22	What is the change in the non-clinical elective credit?	Students must still complete 20 weeks (40 credits) of electives for graduation. Previously students were required to have five, 1-month clinical electives for graduation. Now students will need four, 1- month clinical electives and one, 1-month non-clinical elective. This does not apply to the MSTP students who came through the old Foundations phases and are now in the new Clerkship phases or students who completed CBSR. We will work with those group regarding their electives and graduation.
Patient Care Phase Questions	4/2	If someone still has Patient Care Phase requirements to take, what will that look like?	We are still working through the details. Watch for more to come on this in the next week or two.
	4/2	Will remaining patient care phase rotations be shortened to 4 weeks like for rising 3rd years?	The Patient Care Phase clerkship length is still being discussed. We will update you when we have further information.

Patient Care Phase Questions, cont.	4/2	If we still need to do a patient care rotation, will that be a 4-week or 6-week requirement? Or has that not been decided?	The Patient Care Phase clerkship length is still being discussed. We will update you when we have further information.
	4/2	Will Patient Care clerkships be changed to 4-weeks to accommodate for those students who still need to do one more of these clerkships?	The Patient Care Phase clerkship length is still being discussed. We will update you when we have further information.
	3/30	If I still have a Patient Care rotation to do can I take it after other rotations?	We want to make sure your Patient Care rotations are on your transcript when you apply to residency so we still think it will be best to do your last Patient Care rotation first, before you go on to other rotations.
Personal Situations	3/22	Can students be tested at the drive through test center at UWMC Northwest if they have symptoms?	Yes. Students who want to be tested need to first complete this Redcap survey . Use your student ID in place of the requested employee ID, and use Raye Maestes, MD for your supervisor's name. Her email address: adminSA@uw.edu , and phone number: 206.543.5561.
	3/22	Some medical student parents cannot afford the cost of official backup care. The MSPA (medical student parent association) would like to take charge and organize our own backup care among ourselves so we do not have to pay for childcare. This will mean that we each need a couple of extra excused days from clerkships. Can we do this?	We support your efforts and appreciate your problem-solving. If this is going to be more than a day or two extra per person, please contact Dr. Maestas so clerkship directors can be notified.

Personal Situations, cont.	3/22	If I have been exposed and asked to be in quarantine, should I inform others that I have been in contact with since my exposure?	Yes. While it may be hard to pinpoint the exact time of your suspected exposure, it would be prudent to inform those whom you have been in contact with so they can monitor themselves for symptoms or make decisions about their interactions with others.
Residency Questions	4/2	Have residencies released public statements regarding how they'll change their requirements/how they evaluate applicants?	At this time, only emergency medicine has released a statement saying they will not require students to do an away rotation to have a competitive application.
	4/2	If we are still required to do a core rotation during summer how are we supposed to explore career paths before applying for residency?	This struggle is similar to what students experienced in the legacy curriculum. Students can take additional clerkships in late summer and early fall. Depending on your situation, you may find it beneficial to dual apply and then, as you determine which specialty you are more drawn to, withdraw applications from the other specialty. You can schedule an appointment with the SOM career advisors to discuss your career decision making and residency application plans at any time.
	4/2	How is the COVID-19 pandemic going to affect residency applications?	At the national level people are worried about how students will get the letters of recommendation they need, and if it's a common practice within a specialty to do away rotations, how will that work if we don't have the capacity for students to do away rotations. Emergency Medicine has made a national decision to not have students do away rotations this year, and letters of recommendation from your home institution will work for your residency application. These conversations are also going on in other specialties but there haven't been any other national announcements made yet. We will update you when there is more information available.

Residency Questions, cont.	4/2	How will residency application and interview scheduling work with all the changes?	We plan on having a separate session about this topic but know that it will look a little bit different than what you were expecting. The first commitment will be when you submit your rank lists at the end of February 2021, so you have a lot of time and this is doable. And remember, this is happening in the same way for students and residency programs across the country.
	4/2	How can I ensure I'm prepared for residency?	Spring quarter is an ideal time to engage with our career advisors and departmental career advisors to begin planning for residency. This is a good time to start your personal statements and thinking about your applications.
	4/2	Should the national due date for residency applications be pushed back?	Many people are advocating pushing out the residency application deadline by one month to October 15, 2020. At this point no decision has been made about that yet.
	4/2	Have residencies released public statements regarding how they'll change their requirements/how they evaluate applicants?	Emergency medicine has announced that they are not expecting students to complete away rotations this year and that your home institution's SLOE will meet their requirements. At this time, no other specialties have announced what adjustments they will be making for this upcoming residency application cycle.
	3/30	If we are scheduled for 4-wk rotations during residency interview season, will we be able to get adequate time off to attend interviews? And does that change at all if we have to take a Sub-I/APC during that period?	Students are held to the attendance policy, so they do not have carte blanche to take time off for residency interviews. To the extent that you can, you should try to plan around your specialty's interview windows. (All the specialties vary when they conduct interviews and within those windows, there are variations depending on how competitive you are within the specialty field). The departmental career advisors can help you identify this information more specifically, but don't worry too much about this - students go through taking required rotations and doing interviews every year even without COVID and they survive!

Residency Questions, cont.	3/22	Do I need to complete all of my Patient Care Phase clerkships to apply to residency?	You are required to have completed all Patient Care Phase clerkships before submitting your residency application in September.
Scheduling/Registration Questions	4/2	Re: future schedules, are our schedules beyond June 29th automatically being dropped, or, if some of them still work (say an elective in March 2021), can we keep them?	The Registrar team will be working with the departments to rebuild schedules.
	4/2	When registration opens again later this summer, how will registration for courses be prioritize? Will slots for sub-I/APC be expanded since many students were signed up for sub-Is and APCs during April-June?	We will be working with departments and the registrar team to provide availability, so students have rotations they need for their residency applications.
	4/2	So, it sounds like you are creating our schedules for us or do we have any say/input into our upcoming schedules?	The Registrar team has your preferences from when you completed them before and will use this information and work with the departments to create schedules for students, so they are ready to submit them residency applications.
	4/2	Do we sign up for the next nonclinical elective now?	Information about how to sign up for the non-clinical elective course will be available later this week.
Scheduling/Registration Questions, cont.	4/2	Say, I now would like to do EM and have EM in July and would like to keep my rotation at UW?	If you are interested in emergency medicine as a specialty, please contact the Department. The Registrar team will be working with the department to ensure people who want to apply in emergency medicine have a rotation to help with their residency application.
	4/2	So, if we are only going to take courses during Spring C, we need to get registered for something by April 5? And a course offering list will come out by this Friday, April 3?	Yes.

What will schedules look like going forward into the Explore and Focus Phase?

The registration team still has your preferences from when we were originally working on your schedules for Explore and Focus Phase, including what specialty you are planning to go into and trying to prioritize rotations in that area.

If you've already let the Dept. of Emergency Medicine or Neurology know you're interested in applying into that specialty, those departments will be working with the registration team to ensure you have priority to get those rotations scheduled and completed for your application.

We will be working with all the departments in this capacity, so it's very important if you know the specialty you want to go into, that you let that department know. And if you've decided you are no longer interested in a specialty, please let that department know--they won't be offended--and it's important they know so they can help those who are interested. It's also ok to be undecided, and to be on more than one list.

3/22

When can we anticipate a plan for clerkships going forward?

The curriculum team is working with departments and clerkship directors to develop this plan. We will get information out to students as soon as we have information available.

3/22

When can I talk to the registrar about specific scheduling questions?

The registrars will be reaching out to the students starting with the MS4s, going through who has the tightest timeline to graduate. We are trying to get all the MS4s through so you can get off to your residencies. That may mean that some individual preferences are not going to be able to be met, in order to ensure your classmates are getting what they need.

Student Groups & Gatherings	3/22	Can we hold student interest group gatherings?	Student interest group gatherings are non-essential, therefore the in- person meetings should not be held. Zoom meetings are being offered at no charge from UW. Go here for more information: https://washington.zoom.us .
Sub-I/APC	3/30	Do I have to take both a Sub-I and an APC?	You can choose to take more than one if you want, but you are only required to complete an APC or Sub-I for graduation requirements.
	3/30	If someone already completed an APC or Sub-I before COVID-19, does that count as their one APC or do they need to take a second one?	That will count as their one APC and they will not need to take another APC for their graduation requirements.
	3/22	Can we have the same APC, same location?	We'll do our best but there are no guarantees at this point.
Training/Safety	3/22	Are students receiving the same information and training as residents, fellows and faculty for caring with suspected and positive patients?	Students should not be caring for COVID-19 suspected or positive patients. We're forwarding every UW Medicine communication to student listservs and posting on the Intranet.

Volunteering/Service Learning	3/30	Why were Service Learning projects suspended? Will there be any projects to replace them?	<p>UWSOM is following a set of principles to ensure student safety, patient safety and community safety. We suspended Service Learning activities because we couldn't ensure that our students would have access to PPE.</p> <p>We know there is a strong desire to serve and the Service Learning team has determined three categories of volunteer activities. The first is UWSOM-Administered activities—those developed and sanctioned by SLAC. The second is volunteer activities that have been screened and fit within our principles, but originate outside of UWSOM, and the third is volunteer activities that UWSOM has not vetted for safety and originate outside of UWSOM.</p> <p>Any volunteer projects that originate outside of UWSOM, students can participate in them as private citizens, as members of your communities, but not as UWSOM students. This is for reasons of safety and liability.</p> <p>You can find all of these activities listed here: https://education.uwmedicine.org/volunteer-opportunities-2-2/</p>
	3/22	Can students participate in telehealth to help during the pandemic?	<p>We appreciate medical students wanting to help. Students' participating in telehealth is an option we are exploring with UW Medicine.</p>
	3/22	Is there a possibility for us to volunteer our time to the specialty we intend to go into?	<p>You will need to stay with your current rotation.</p>

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