

UW School of Medicine Virtual Rotation Guidelines

The Coalition for Physician Accountability (which includes the AAMC, ACGME and LCME) has recommended that medical schools limit all visiting and away clerkships for the 2020-2021 academic year. The UW School of Medicine (UWSOM) has eliminated all in-person away rotations and all visiting students, with two exceptions: UW students with required active duty military rotations, and students from WSU and PNWU who do not have access to a specialty clerkship at their own institution, with the approval of the Vice Deans of Academic Affairs and of GME.

Some schools, including UW, have begun to explore offering 'virtual clerkships' in some specialties, which could be taken remotely without traveling to the host institution. Many details of these virtual clerkship are not yet known. Some of these virtual clerkships are analogous to traditional full-time clerkships of 2-4 weeks in length but would involve students interacting with providers and patients (or patient data) remotely rather than in-person.

UWSOM is working on offering these types of virtual clerkships in Radiology, Laboratory Medicine, and Anatomic Pathology. If these experiences are substantially like traditional elective clinical clerkships, students may receive UWSOM elective clinical clerkship credit for these virtual clerkship experiences. Some schools and specialties are planning to offer short (one to two day) experiences that introduce a residency program or specialty area, but do not provide equivalent patient care opportunities to a traditional clerkship. These may also carry the term 'virtual clerkship' but would not fulfill UWSOM elective clinical clerkship credit requirements.

The following guidelines include recommendations and requirements for UWSOM departments considering offering virtual clerkships for visiting students, and for UWSOM students considering taking virtual clerkships for other institutions.

For UWSOM departments considering offering virtual clerkships for elective clinical clerkship credit:

- To offer elective clinical clerkship credit for a UWSOM virtual clerkship the clerkship should:
 - o Include patient care activities, such as tele-health visits and/or reading of real-time patient images, laboratory samples, or pathology specimens
 - o Include opportunities to work synchronously with providers
 - o May include asynchronous online learning opportunities
 - o Be considered 'full time' for 2 or 4 weeks in length
- A formal application for a new clerkship should be submitted
- These virtual clerkships will carry a departmental '699' clerkship number while the application is in review

- Since the first responsibility of UWSOM is to provide educational opportunities for our students, UWSOM students would have priority for the virtual or equivalent in-person clerkship
- If the clerkship is to be offered to visiting students, it will be listed in VSAS
- The clerkship will likely be 'permission only' so that the department can control enrollment
- The clerkship would provide elective clinical clerkship credit for UWSOM students and be eligible for normal clerkship credit for visiting students

For UWSOM departments considering offering virtual clerkships that would not provide elective clerkship credits:

- These would encompass experiences for students from other institutions that would not provide an equivalent experience to a traditional visiting clerkship
- Recognizing that most students nationally are facing a significantly shortened fourth year, and therefore are likely to have a much tighter schedule to fulfill graduation requirements, these experiences should not interfere with traditional clerkships that a student may be taking at their home institution
 - o Consider time zone differences in early morning or evening offerings
 - o Consider potential call responsibilities during weekend offerings
- Credit will not be granted for these experiences

For UWSOM students taking away virtual clerkships for credit:

- For an away virtual clerkship to fulfill UWSOM elective clinical clerkship credit, it must be approved for credit by:
 - o The host institution
 - o The UWSOM Curriculum office
 - o The UWSOM clinical department granting the credit
- For any virtual clerkship to be considered for UWSOM elective clinical clerkship credit, it must at minimum meet the requirements outlined above for UWSOM credit-granting virtual clerkships
- Application for credit-granting virtual away clerkship are through VSAS

For UWSOM students taking away virtual clerkships without credit:

- No UWSOM elective clinical clerkship or non-clinical elective credit is granted
- The virtual away clerkship will not appear on the transcript or in the MSPE
- If the student is taking a UWSOM clerkship at the time, they remain responsible for all clinical activities and duties of their current clerkship
- Please check with the UWSOM departmental career advisors regarding the benefit of the virtual away clerkship experience

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