

Curriculum Committee Minutes

Date	March 7, 2022
Time	4:00 – 5:30PM
Co-Chairs	<i>Sherilyn Smith</i>
Attendees	Academic Co-Chair: <i>Sherilyn Smith</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QUORUM REACHED: 13	Voting Members: <i>Ben Trnka, Cindy Knall, Courtney Francis, Eric LaMotte, John Willford, Kris Calhoun, Laura Goodell, Leanne Rousseau, Matt Cunningham, Peter Fuerst, Ryan Richardson, Zach Gallaher</i> Guests: <i>Cynthia Sprenger, Kellie Engle, Amanda Kost, Jung Lee, Kelley Goetz, Brenda Martinez, Bruce Silverstein, John McCarthy, Karla Kelly, Jaime Fitch, Ceradwen Tokheim, Gina Franco, Meghan Kiefer, Kathy Young</i>
Regrets	Voting members: <i>Audrey Mossman, Carolyn Bell, Elizabeth Buhler, Esther Chung</i>

Agenda

	ITEM	LEAD	TIME	ATTACHMENT	ACTION
1	Approve February Minutes	Sherilyn Smith	5 min	Attachment A	Decision
2	PEAC Grading Recommendations	Kris Calhoun / Matt Cunningham	85 min	Attachments B and C	Decision

Next Meeting: April 4, 2022

1. Approve February Minutes

Discussion: This agenda item was tabled.

2. PEAC Grading Recommendations

Discussion: The Program Evaluation and Assessment Committee's (PEAC) recommendations for the standardization for clinical grading were discussed at the February 7th Curriculum Committee meeting (see meeting minutes). The Curriculum Committee requested input from the Patient Care Committee before voting on the recommendations. At the February 14th Patient Care Committee (PCC) meeting, the committee discussed the recommendations (see a summary of their discussions in the meeting handouts).

The PCC representative to the Curriculum Committee presented the major takeaways from the PCC and the Curriculum Committee discussed each recommendation individually:

Recommendation #1: Departments should adopt a percentage weighting system for combining clinical evaluations and final exam scores into a final grade. The final exam weight can be different by department, but should be no more than 15% of the final grade.

The committee discussed how the 15% figure was chosen. PEAC conducted research of peer institutions' clerkship grading from a periodic survey done by NBME of all the medical schools that use subject exams. From this research PEAC identified 30% as the national average for the final exam grade weight (with most schools falling in the range between 20-40%). PEAC voted that their final recommendation would be lower than the national average and consequently picked 15%.

Currently, only one clerkship uses a weighted system (Psychiatry), 33% this year and 25% in the 2020-2021 clerkship year. The other clerkships use the nudge method. For most students, receiving a High Pass on the exam does not adjust the final grade. Approval of this recommendation would get eliminate the complex nudge system. Moving to a weighted system is also endorsed by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

There was concern that the timeframe for implementation of this recommendation is too short. An important note: changes to required clerkships must be approved prior to the start of a clerkship year. The UWSOM does not change grading or clerkship requirements in the middle of a clerkship year.

There was additional concern expressed that allowing a different final exam weight by clerkship is not achieving the goal of standardization and transparency.

Recommendation #2: UWSOM should set a uniform standard for passing final exams, based on national percentile. This standard should be set by the Patient Care Committee.

Clerkship directors and the Patient Care Committee did not have issue with this.

Recommendation #3: UWSOM should discontinue the use of final exam performance thresholds that students must meet in order to get a final grade of Honors.

- This recommendation is one method to reduce grading bias.
- The committee posed a philosophical question - as Step 2 becomes more important/high stakes (in terms of residency selection), how should the UWSOM approach exam cutoffs? Is there a

correlation between clerkship shelf exams and Step 2 performance? If we set a lower threshold for passing, will we be putting students at a disadvantage when it comes to Step 2?

Recommendation #4: UWSOM should explore making broad changes to clerkship grading, centering equity and transparency. Changes could include moving to competency-based assessment/EPAs and to Pass/Fail grading for required clerkships.

- The committee took issue with the last sentence of the recommendation. Clarifying points: This recommendation is saying we will explore options. Additionally, none of the potential options are mutually exclusive.
- This will require a thoughtful and methodical approach. Thoughts and questions for consideration:
 - If we eliminate this piece of information used by residency programs, what will replace it?
 - What are we trying to achieve? What is the best way to reduce bias?
 - Going to Pass/Fail should be the last-ditch effort.
- Any communication about this recommendation should emphasize exploration and avoid unwittingly pushing the UWSOM down the path of going to Pass/Fail.

Curriculum Committee discussed and made altered motions based on PEAC’s recommendations (see below).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[13] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
Decision 1: The Curriculum committee approved: UWSOM should explore making broad changes to clerkship grading, centering equity and transparency.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[13] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
Decision 2: The Curriculum committee approved: departments should adopt a percentage weighting system for combining clinical evaluations and final exam scores into a final grade.		
<input type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED? NO. Friendly amendment	[] VOTES FOR	[] VOTES AGAINST
First Amendment to Decision 2: For the E-21 class.		
<input type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED? NO. Friendly amendment	[] VOTES FOR	[] VOTES AGAINST
Second Amendment to Decision 2: Starting with the 2023-2024 clerkship year		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[13] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
Decision 3: The Curriculum committee approved: the final exam weight can be different by department and the cap should be set by the Patient Care Committee (for implementation starting in 2023-2024 clerkship year).		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[13] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
Decision 4: The Curriculum committee approved: UWSOM should set a uniform standard for passing final exams, based on national percentile. This standard should be set by the Patient Care Committee.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[10] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
Decision 5: Curriculum Committee approved: UWSOM should discontinue the use of final exam performance thresholds that students must meet in order to get a final grade of Honors.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[7] VOTES FOR	[4] VOTES AGAINST
Amendment to Decision 5: Implement starting with the 2023-2024 clerkship year		