



Explore & Focus Phase Committee Minutes

Date	December 19, 2022
Time	4:00 – 5:30PM
Co-Chairs	<i>Esther Chung; Joshua Jauregui</i>
Attendees	<p>Academic Chair: <i>Esther Chung</i>; Executive Chair: <i>Joshua Jauregui</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QUORUM REACHED: Voting Members: <i>Alson Burke, Doug Schaad, Emily Myers, Matt Cunningham, Mike Spinelli, Ralph Ermoian, Roger Tatum, Sarah Thomson, Troy Johnston</i></p> <p>Guests: <i>Megan Osika-Dass, Ruth Sanchez, Eric Kraus, Gerald Tolbert, Erin Gunsul, Jordan Kinder, Karla Kelly, Sarah Wood, Kellie Engle, Heather McPhillips, Geoff Jones, Margie Trenary, Julie Bould, Kris Calhoun, Kristen Seiler, Jung Lee, Gina Franco, Laura Yale, Debbie Blackstone, Pam Pentin, Niels Beck</i></p>
Regrets	Voting members: <i>Amanda Kost, Barb Doty, Matthew Hollon, Nam Tran, Susan Merel, Thomas Payne</i>

Agenda

ITEM	LEAD	TIME	ATTACHMENT	ACTION
1	Sarah Thomson	5 min		Announcement
2	Esther Chung	5 min	Attachment A	Decision
3	Matt Cunningham	10 min		Discussion
	Follow-up on Grade Reviews, Challenges, and Appeals: Fourth year grade distribution data			
4	Kellie Engle	25 min		Discussion
5	Matt Cunningham	30 min	Attachment B	Discussion
	USMLE Step 2 Report			



1. MS4 Interview Season Update

Discussion: Career advisors gave an update on the residency interview season underway for current fourth-year students (MS4s). The Career Advising team surveys MS4s three times throughout the interview season. The committee reviewed data from the second survey:

- Administered 11/20/2022-12/6/2022
- 256 students responded
- Compared to data from December 2021, there has been an increase in the number of students with 0-7 interviews.

This interview season, sixteen specialties across the country utilized a pilot supplemental application. (*Note:* Residency programs could opt out of the supplemental application). Takeaways of the pilot application:

- Students who are not students of concern have lower interview numbers than those with similar academic profiles in 2021.
- Interview numbers increasing between November and December has been minimal.
- It seems the supplemental application and students' program signals (a system that allows medical students to indicate interest in a limited number of residency programs) are impacting interview numbers. There is a trend of residency programs only reviewing applicants who signaled them. In the past, students would pick up three to five interviews as the season progressed, which is not currently happening.
 - The number of signals differs by specialty (e.g., Surgery = five and OBGYN = 18).

The supplemental application was a pilot this year and moving forward will be embedded in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) application. ERAS is expected to publish a final report of the pilot supplemental application soon.

The Career Advising team will administer the third and final survey in January 2023. This will provide final interview numbers and the number of students that will need to prepare for the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP).

ACTION: Career advisors will return to the Explore & Focus Phase Committee to review ERAS' final report and internal survey data.

2. Approve November Minutes

Discussion: The committee reviewed the previous minutes.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[10] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
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Decision: The Explore & Focus Phase Committee approved November meeting minutes

3. Follow-up on Grade Reviews, Challenges, and Appeals: Fourth year grade distribution data

Discussion: Following up from previous committee discussions on the increase in grade reviews and challenges, the Evaluation team presented fourth year grade distribution data from the 2020-2021 clinical



year from the Explore & Focus End of Phase report (this report is presented annually by the Evaluation team). Key takeaways:

- Honors grade distribution in the required Explore & Focus Phase clerkships over the past three years:
 - Emergency Medicine: between 30-40% Honors
 - Neurology: between 55-65% Honors
 - Neurosurgery: between 54-80% Honors
- In the 2020-2021 clinical year, between 50-100% of students received Honors in APCs and Sub-Is.

See meeting handouts for details.

4. Criteria for Clinical Clerkships

Discussion: The committee followed up on recent discussions of clinical time requirements for required clerkships. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) issued guidance that students must be in the clinical environment at least 50 percent of the time. While this guidance has expired, student absenteeism on clerkship rotations is still high due to illness. Clerkships are looking for guidance from the administration on how students should make up missed time and clarity on clinical time requirements. Curriculum staff presented information for the committee's review.

University of Washington (UW) and UW School of Medicine (UWSOM) criteria for clinical clerkships:

- Learning objectives
- Course requirements as determined by the course director
- Credit hours approved by the UWSOM and UW Curriculum Committees:
 - **Clinical credits** (2 credits / week. Hours = 40 hours per week in clinical activities and up to 20 hours per week in outside reading/preparation for a total of 60 hours per week).
 - See the UWSOM's [Student Work Hours Policy](#) for more information.
- The LCME and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC): Support achievement of the graduation competencies by outlining the Required Clinical Experiences and their monitoring and continuous improvement. It also ensures the medical school meets LCME accreditation requirements:
 - Element 6.2 Required clinical experiences
 - Element 8.6 Monitoring of completion of required clinical experiences
 - Element 8.7 Comparability of education/assessment

The committee provided feedback and asked questions:

- Similarly to the Patient Care Phase Committee's discussion, the committee agreed that clerkship directors should continue to have the flexibility to determine how much clinical time is required for their clerkship and how and when students make up missed time.

QUESTION – Is issuing an “Incomplete” grade appropriate for students who cannot make up missed time during the rotation?



ANSWER – [Per UW](#): " An Incomplete may be given **only** when the student has been in attendance and has done satisfactory work to within two weeks of the end of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student’s control."

However, it is unclear how this rule applies to the UWSOM. UWSOM’s clinical schedule does not always align with the quarter system.

ACTION: The Director of Curriculum will ask upper campus for clarity around “Incomplete” grades for the UWSOM since the rule is based on the quarter system. Additionally, the curriculum team will create a webpage detailing the requirements listed above. The webpage will be shared widely with clerkship directors and administrators.

5. USMLE Step 2 Report

Discussion: The committee reviewed USMLE Step 2 results for the 2021 calendar year. Key takeaways:

- UWSOM’s average score has remained steady over the last few years.
- UWSOM’s pass rate of 99% is on par with the national average.
- There were three fails in 2021.
- 231 out of 267 students were from the E-18 cohort. There was a small difference in the mean score between the E-18 and earlier cohorts.
- Scores across WWAMI campuses were comparable.
- Summary by sex/gender – the mean score is almost identical between male and female students.
- Summary by race/ethnicity – the mean score for URM students was 237, 247 for white students, and 243 for non-URM minority students.
- There is a correlation between performance on the Medicine clerkship exam and the Step 2 exam.
- The most significant predictors of Step 2 score:
 - Clerkship exam average
 - Step 1 score
 - Block average Z-score
- Non-significant predictors of Step 2 score:
 - Sum of Pass/Fail grades
 - Sum of Honors grades
- As Step 1 goes to Pass/Fail and the UWSOM will no longer receive scores, the most important predictor for Step 2 performance will shift to the clerkship exam average.

See meeting handouts for details.