



Workplace-Based Assessment (WBA) Pilot

This guide has been created for students, faculty, and staff impacted by upcoming changes to clinical assessment at UWSOM. For more information about upcoming changes, including pass/fail grading in 2026, please visit:

<https://education.uwmedicine.org/>

What is the WBA pilot?

The University of Washington School of Medicine will be transitioning to a competency-based medical education (CBME) model, including pass/fail grading for required Patient Care core clerkships, beginning in Spring 2026.

In preparation for this significant shift, we will be piloting workplace-based assessments (WBAs) during the 2025-2026 academic year. This pilot will focus on our required Patient Care core clerkships and will help us understand how WBAs can be effectively integrated into our current curriculum. Your input and collaboration will be invaluable as we refine our approach ahead of the full implementation.

Key Things to Know

WBA Requirements

Beginning in Spring 2025, all students enrolled in required Patient Care core clerkships, including WRITE clerkships, will be required to complete additional WBA requirements.

Completing WBAs

Each student will have a unique form link and QR code that can be used by either the student or a preceptor to submit a WBA via Qualtrics.

Preceptors will be asked to provide brief feedback (1-2 sentences) on what the student did well and what they can do to improve. They will also provide a rating for the encounter utilizing the following entrustment scale:

Level	Descriptor
1	"I stepped in and did it, they observed"
2	"I talked them through it"
3	"They mostly did it, I directed them from time to time"
4	"I was available just in case and I checked their work"





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What does this mean for me?

Students

- **Engagement with WBAs:** You will be expected to actively participate in the pilot by engaging with the 6 clinical activities related to required Patient Care core clerkships. Familiarizing yourself with these activities will be crucial for understanding what competencies you need to demonstrate.
- **Collaboration:** Constructive feedback will be essential during this pilot year. Your input will be valuable as the faculty refine the integration of WBAs into the curriculum. Be open to sharing your experiences and suggestions, as your perspective will help shape future iterations of the program.
- **Preparation for Transition:** This pilot year will serve as a foundation for the full implementation of the CBME model. Your engagement and adaptability will be critical in helping the school transition successfully to this new educational framework.

Faculty & Staff

- **Implementation of WBAs:** You will be responsible for integrating WBAs into required Patient Care core clerkships. Preceptors can expect to engage in more short, structured assessments focused on specific competencies, providing timely feedback that guides students in their development and helps them identify areas for improvement related to the assessed clinical activities.
- **Collaboration and Reflection:** Engage with your colleagues to share insights and best practices throughout the pilot year. Reflecting on the pilot's outcomes will be important for making necessary adjustments before the full implementation of the CBME model in 2026.
- **Professional Development:** Take advantage of opportunities for professional development focused on competency-based medical education and assessment strategies. This will better equip you to support students and navigate the transition to the new educational model.

Key Things to Know

Required Activities

Students will need to submit WBAs for the following six required activities:

Activities	
1	Gather a history
2	Perform a physical examination
3	Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter
4	Recommend appropriate diagnostic and screening tests
5	Interpret common diagnostic and screening tests
6	Provide an oral presentation of a clinical encounter



A new OR-specific activity – **Prepare effectively for operative cases** – is available for students taking Ob/Gyn or General Surgery to help them meet the 2 WBAs per week requirement.

Click or scan
to learn more!

