



UWSOM Clerkship Updates

2026-27 Clinical Year

Grading & Assessment Changes



UWSOM Required Core Clerkships Are Going Pass/Fail

Starting **March 30, 2026**, all six required Patient Care core clerkships (Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Surgery, including WRITE clerkships) will be graded as Pass/Fail.

All required Explore & Focus core clerkships (Neurology, Neurological Surgery, and Emergency Medicine) will retain tiered grading as they pilot WBAs in 2026 and will transition to Pass/Fail grading in Spring 2027.

Workplace-Based Assessments (WBAs)

Students are required to submit **at least 3 WBAs per week** and at least 1 **verified** assessment at an entrustment level of 2 or higher for each of the 8 required activities (2 for each activity on Internal Medicine).

Required Activities

There are **8** required activities:

- 1 Gather a history
- 2 Perform a physical examination
- 3 Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter
- 4 Recommend diagnostic or screening plans for common situations
- 5 Interpret diagnostic or screening information for common situations
- 6 Provide an oral presentation of a clinical encounter
- 7 Document a clinical encounter
- 8 Communicate with patients and/or families

An OR-specific activity – **Prepare effectively for operative cases** – is available only to students taking Ob/Gyn, General Surgery, or Neurosurgery. Completion of this activity counts towards the weekly WBA total, but **does not** count as a required activity.

Feedback → Feedforward

In a Pass/Fail system, narrative comments play a crucial role in distinguishing performance and guiding development.

Clerkship and site directors will be able to reference WBAs when providing mid-clerkship feedback and writing summative assessments (Evaluator of Medical Student and SPSR forms).

WBA forms will ask you:

What did the student do well? Please be specific.

Example:

- "Established rapport quickly using open-ended questions and reflecting patient concerns."
- "Good job overall, seemed confident."

What can the student do better next time to improve? Please be specific.

Example:

- "Differential was limited to one diagnosis; aim to generate 2-3 reasonable alternatives."
- "Work on clinical reasoning."

How to Submit

WBAs are submitted through a Qualtrics survey. Each student has a unique form link and QR code that can be used by either the student or a preceptor to submit a WBA. **Residents are preceptors!**

WBAs are considered verified if they are either:

- Submitted directly by the preceptor, or
- Submitted by a student and confirmed by the preceptor.

Please confirm or reject this student assessment form.

- Confirm submission
- Reject submission



Scan the QR code to complete a sample WBA form in Qualtrics

Identify Strengths

Focus on: Specific observed behaviors linked to clinical skills, communication, professionalism, or teamwork

Avoid: Vague statements and comments on personal attributes

Identify Opportunities for Improvement

Focus on: 1-2 concrete improvements and an actionable next step

Avoid: Personal judgments, vague criticisms, and comments unrelated to observed performance

Learn More

Scan or click the QR code for more information about CBME at UWSOM, changes coming in 2026-2027, and links to additional resources.

