OST 686
International Clerkship Rotation: Merida, Yucatan, Mexico
Selective/Elective Clerkship Rotation Syllabus

Institute for Global Health
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MSUCOM constantly strives to improve and advance its curriculum through innovation while assuring compliance with current AOA accreditation standards. While major changes are generally instituted at the beginning of each academic year, minor changes may be implemented semester to semester.

Please be mindful of the need to read your syllabi before beginning your rotations.
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General Description

This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to actively engage in patient-based, learning experiences under the guidance of a clinician preceptor in collaboration, as appropriate, with interns, residents and/or fellows.

Rotations are typically four weeks, 6 credit hours in duration. Timeframes for each rotation are decided at least 60 days, but preferably 90 days, prior to the beginning of the rotation.

The overall performance of course participants will be evaluated through customary assessment instruments normally employed by the department for core rotations, at the discretion of the instructor of record.

Educational / Instructional Goals & Objectives

Course participants will:

A. Develop an appreciation of the practice of medicine as related to the specialty of the preceptor.

B. Assimilate what they learn and demonstrate their understanding of patient-care through ongoing interaction and dialogue with, as well as formative feedback from, the preceptor.

C. Develop an understanding of cultural competency with respect to Yucatan culture.

D. Develop Spanish language skills, including medical Spanish, through a language immersion experience.

E. Compare and contrast the U.S. healthcare system to the Mexican healthcare system.

College Program Objectives

In addition to the above course-specific goals and learning objectives, this clerkship rotation also facilitates student progress in attaining the College Program Objectives. Please refer to the complete list provided on the MSUCOM website.

Reference Materials

There is no assigned textbook. Reading assignments are under the purview of the preceptor. Participants are encouraged access articles or books on Mexico, Mexican history, the Mayan
culture.

**Student Responsibilities**

Course participants must be proficient in Spanish prior to the rotation and encouraged to speak primarily Spanish throughout the rotation. Course participants will meet the preceptor on the first day of the rotation at a predetermined location to be oriented to rotation hours, location(s), and expected duties and responsibilities while on-service. Course participants will be expected to do at least one night of “call” during the rotation, however, they may do more if they wish and it is coordinated with the preceptor. Course participants should give a formal presentation during the rotation, please notify the DME and preceptor on the first day of the rotation that you are required to give a presentation. The focus of the presentation should incorporate osteopathic principles and practices. An alternative to a formal presentation can be arranged with the course coordinator and should be completed during the rotation or at a time designated by the course coordinator.

- **The student will meet the following clinical responsibilities during this rotation:**
  - Students are expected to function collaboratively on health care teams that include health professionals from other disciplines in the provision of quality, patient-centered care.

- **The student will meet the following academic responsibilities during this rotation:**
  - Students are expected to identify, access, interpret and apply medical evidence contained in the scientific literature related to patients health problems.
  - Students are expected to: assess their personal learning needs specific to this clinical rotation, engage in deliberate, independent learning activities to address their gaps in knowledge, skills or attitudes; and solicit feedback and use it on a daily basis to continuously improve their clinical practice.

**Rotation Clinical Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Submission Method</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attending Evaluation of Rotation</td>
<td>To be appropriately submitted per the instructions at the end of each evaluation form</td>
<td>Final Day of Rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>the determination of a satisfactory attending evaluation is governed by the University’s Policy for Retention, Promotion, and Graduation</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Evaluation of Rotation</td>
<td>“Evaluate” Link in Kobiljak Schedule (this link will activate on the final Monday of the rotation)</td>
<td>Final Day of Rotation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Unsatisfactory Clinical Performance**

A student’s clinical performance will be assessed through the Attending Evaluation. A satisfactory Attending Evaluation is required for completion of the clinical requirements for the course.

Unsatisfactory Attending Evaluations are governed by the Policy for Retention, Promotion and Graduation. Evaluations with below average scores in two or more categories defined as rankings of Needs Improvement/Unsatisfactory (on a scale of Needs Improvement/Unsatisfactory-Exceptional) or 3 and below (on a numerical scale of 1-7) will be referred to the Department Chairperson/Instructor of Record for review and grade determination.

Any student with two or more marginal evaluations will be referred to the COSE Clerkship Performance Subcommittee for review.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The student will maintain an “Extended” (ET) grade until they have successfully completed all academic and clinical requirements for the course.

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**MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Standard Policies**

The following are standard MSUCOM policies across all Clerkship rotations.

**Clerkship Attendance Policy**

In order to gain the knowledge and skills to successfully complete the MSUCOM clerkship program, consistent participation/attendance in program activities is essential. Any time off must not interfere with the quality of the rotation.

1. In the event a student needs to be absent from any rotation for the reasons listed below and permissible by the rotation syllabus, students may request time off.
2. Any absence (unless emergent) must be approved in advance (at least 30 days) of absence by the medical education department (student coordinator/director or DME), utilizing the Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form. Students must notify rotation team and medical education of emergent/illness absences on day of absence.
3. A student may not be absent more than 2 days on any one 4 week rotation (no time off allowed for rotations of 2 weeks or less) for the reasons below (exception Interview absences or Conference absences as below).
4. Any additional time off any one rotation must be approved by the MSUCOM Instructor of Record for the course the absence will occur.

Absence due to interviews:
For the purpose of interviewing only, a student may be absent 4 days on a 4 week rotation (2 days on a 2 week rotation) during the months of September to January in the OMS year. Interview invitations must accompany the Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form.

Absence due to examinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Maximum Time Off (includes travel time)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMLEX USA Level 2 CE/USMLE Step 2 CK/Canadian MCCEE</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSUCOM COMLEX PE Simulation at MSU</td>
<td>1 day for each scheduled simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMLEX USA Level 2 PE/USMLE Step 2 CS(Canadian Students Only)</td>
<td>2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMAT/SHELF examinations</td>
<td>Travel time and time for exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal Day Absence:
Students are allowed 5 personal days per academic year in OMS 3 and OMS 4. These days are not carried over from third year to fourth year. These are to be used for illness, physician appointments, and special events (weddings, graduations, special anniversary events) and must not exceed 2 days on any 4 week rotation (#3 above). Prolonged illness and bereavement will be handled on a case by case basis between MSUCOM Director of Clerkship and the base hospital/medical education department. Students must notify rotation team and medical education of emergent/illness absences on day of absence.

Hospital organized community events that might lead to periodic absence from rotations – student participation is encouraged and if base hospital approved, would be considered part of the rotation and not a personal day absence.

Jury duty – when obligated, student participation is not considered a personal day. Court excuses must accompany any absence. If absence is prolonged, this
will be handled on a case-by-case basis between the base hospital/medical education and MSUCOM.

Conference Absence:

While on required/core rotations, no excused absences for any professional meeting will be allowed unless the student is presenting research in which they have participated.

a. Appropriate paperwork with proof of presentation and copy of conference agenda must accompany the form.

b. Time off in this situation will be for travel and presentation only.

While on selective/elective rotations: A student may submit a request for an excused absence to attend one (1) professional meeting, time not to exceed 3 days off rotation. The meeting agenda must accompany the Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form.

POLICY FOR MEDICAL STUDENT SUPERVISION

Supervisors of the Medical Students in the Clinical Setting

The MSUCOM curriculum includes required clinical experiences in a variety of clinical learning environments. The role of the student is to participate in patient care in ways that are appropriate for the student’s level of training and experience and to the clinical situation. The student’s clinical activities will be under the supervision of licensed physicians. This supervising physician may delegate the supervision of the medical student to a resident, fellow, or other qualified healthcare provider, however, the supervising physician retains full responsibility for the supervision of the medical students assigned to the clinical rotation and must ensure his/her designee(s) are prepared for their roles for supervision of medical students.

The physician supervisor and his/her designee(s) must be members in good standing in their facilities and must have a license appropriate to his/her specialty of practice and be supervising the medical student within that scope of practice as delineated by the credentialing body of the facility.

Level of Supervision/Responsibilities

Clinical supervision is designed to foster progressive responsibility as a student progresses through the curriculum, with the supervising physicians providing the medical student the opportunity to demonstrate progressive involvement in patient care. MSUCOM students will be expected to follow clinical policies of the facility regarding medical records and clinical care. Medical student participation in patient history/physical exam, critical data analysis,
management, and procedures will include factors, but not limited to:

- The students demonstrated ability
- The students level of education and experience
- The learning objectives of the clinical experience

First and second year medical students will be directly supervised at all times (supervising physician or designee present or immediately available.

Third and fourth year medical students will be supervised at a level appropriate to the clinical situation and student’s level of experience. For some tasks, indirect supervision may be appropriate for some students. Direct supervision would be appropriate for advanced procedures.

STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONALISM

Principles of professionalism are not rules that specify behaviors, but guidelines that provide direction in identifying appropriate conduct. These principles include the safety and welfare of patients, competence in knowledge and skills, responsibility for consequences of actions, professional communication, confidentiality, and lifelong learning for maintenance of professional skills and judgments. Professionalism and professional ethics are terms that signify certain scholastic, interpersonal and behavioral expectations. Among the characteristics included in this context are the knowledge, competence, demeanor, attitude, appearance, mannerisms, integrity and morals displayed by the student to faculty, peers, patients and colleagues in other health care professions. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a professional manner and to exhibit characteristics of a professional student.

STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each individual student is responsible for their behavior and is expected to maintain standards of academic honesty. Students share the responsibility with faculty for creating an environment that supports academic honesty and principles of professionalism. Proper relationship between faculty and student are fundamental to the college’s function and this should be built on mutual respect and understanding together with shared dedication to the education process. It is a fundamental belief that each student is worthy of trust and that each student has the right to live in an academic environment that is free of injustice caused by dishonesty. While students have an obligation to assist their fellow students in meeting the common goals of their education, students have an equal obligation to maintain the highest standards of personal integrity.

FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the college faculty to specify the limits of authorized aid (including but not limited to exams, study aids, internet resources and materials from senior students) in their syllabi, and it is the responsibility of students to honor and adhere to those limits. Course instructors shall inform students at the beginning of the semester of any special criteria of academic honesty pertinent to the class or course.

It is the responsibility of the clinical faculty to provide students with ongoing feedback during rotation upon request. Clinical faculty are generally recommended (though not required) to limit
student assigned duty hours from 40 to 60 hours weekly (and not exceeding 60 hours). Both faculty and students are to be treated fairly and professionally in order to maintain a proper working relationship between trainer and trainee.

**COURSE GRADES**

- **P-Pass** – means that credit is granted and that the student achieved a level of performance judged to be satisfactory according to didactic and clinical performance by the department.

- **N-No Grade** – means that no credit is granted and that the student did not achieve a level of performance judged to be satisfactory according to didactic and clinical performance by the department.

- **ET-Extended Grade** – means that a final grade (“Pass” or “No Grade”) cannot be determined due to one or more missing course requirements. Once all course requirements have been completed, received, and processed, the ET grade will be changed to a final grade. An “ET” will NOT remain on a student’s transcript.

**N-GRADE POLICY**

- Remediation is not offered for Clerkship courses. Any student who receives an N grade in the Clerkship Program will be required to appear before the COSE Clerkship Performance Subcommittee (COSE).
**ROTATION EVALUATIONS**

**Attending/Faculty/Resident Evaluation of Student**
Students are responsible for assuring that his/her clinical supervisor receives the appropriate evaluation form. Forms can be accessed via the “Attending Evaluation” link in the student’s Kobiljak online Clerkship schedule.

Students should assertively seek feedback on his/her performance throughout the course of the clinical rotation. Students should also sit down and discuss the formal evaluation with the clinical supervisor.

Students should keep a copy of the evaluation and leave the original with the Medical Education Office at the clinical training site where that office will review, sign, and forward the completed form to the COM Office of the Registrar. It is important to know that evaluations will not be accepted by the COM Office of the Registrar if submitted by the student. Any evidence of tampering or modification while in the possession of the student will be considered “unprofessional behavior” resulting in an “N” grade and review by the Committee on Student Evaluation (COSE) and/or the College Hearing Committee.

Grades are held until all rotation requirements, including evaluation forms, are received. Be sure you are using the correct form.

**Student Evaluation of Rotation**
Students will submit their rotation evaluations electronically at the conclusion of every rotation by accessing the evaluation system at:

http://hit-filemakerwb.hc.msu.edu/Clerkship/login_student.html

**EXPOSURE INCIDENTS PROTOCOL**

A form has been developed by the University to report exposure incidents. These forms will be on file in your DME’s office. You can also access the form at www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship_program/ clerkship_documents/exposure.pdf. Please make yourself familiar with the procedure and the form.