



CLERKSHIP ATTENDANCE POLICY

OVERVIEW

MSUCOM requires student participation in clerkship rotations and clinical activities with consistent attendance to acquire the skills and knowledge that are necessary for successful program completion. Students are expected to take minimal time off outside of vacation periods built into student schedules and should only request additional time off in the rare events and circumstances outlined below.

Specific courses may have additional absence requirements from this general clerkship policy, and it is the student's responsibility to adhere to those requirements according to the respective course syllabus.

Excused Absences

Students must obtain documented approval for any full- or partial-day absence on a rotation.

Excused absences require the completion of the *Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form* by taking the following steps:

- Obtain appropriate signatures on the *Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form* at least 30 days prior to the date of the absence. An absence due to a sudden emergency is the exception to the 30-day advanced notice rule.
- Upload the completed *Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form* to the 'Excused Absences' folder (within the 'My Personal Documents' section) of a student's Medtrics profile. Students should also maintain a copy for their records.

Unexcused absences are full- or partial-day absences taken without the proper completion of the *Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form*, or any absences not covered in the Clerkship Attendance Policy. Unexcused absences are considered unprofessional and will result in a report to the Spartan Community Clearing House and/or the MSUCOM Committee on Student Evaluation (COSE). Unexcused absences may also have a negative impact on a student's rotation grade or evaluation.

Students are not allowed to be absent from the first day of any rotation.

- Due to the onboarding plans at most rotation sites, students must attend the first day of every rotation. Students must plan accordingly for personal days, interview days, COMLEX, etc.

Maximum time off any rotation*

Length of Rotation	Maximum Number of Days Off	
4 weeks	2 days	Should an absence exceed these limits, the student is responsible for requesting additional days off from the Assistant Dean for Clerkship Education via email (COM.Clerkship@msu.edu) prior to the absence.
2 weeks	0 days	

**Exception: A fourth-year student may be absent a total of 4 days on any 4-week rotation or 2 days on any 2-week rotation during the months of October-January for interview purposes only. If interview absences exceed these totals, the student must submit a Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Form (with appropriate signatures obtained from the rotation attending and rotation site) to the Assistant Dean for Clerkship Education via email (COM.Clerkship@msu.edu) prior to the absence.*

Absence Type	Qualifications	Maximum Number of Days Off	Details	Required Approval from Assistant Dean for Clerkship Education
Personal Day	May be used at the discretion of the student (example: illness, physician appt., conference time, etc.). <u>Total</u> days off any one rotation (<u>including personal days off</u>) cannot exceed 2 on any one 4-week rotation.	5 total days per academic year (July-June)	While personal days may be used at the discretion of the student, the <u>total</u> days off any one rotation (including personal days off) cannot exceed 2 on any one 4-week rotation, i.e., students cannot use all 5 days on one rotation.	No
Jury Duty	Court documentation must accompany the <i>Clerkship Program Absence Request Form</i>	N/A	Jury duty, when obligated, is not considered a personal day absence.	Yes
Hospital-organized community events	Example: Special Olympic Physicals	N/A	These events would be considered part of the rotation and not a personal day absence.	No
Examination	COMLEX USA Level 2 CE/USMLE Step 2 CK/Canadian MCCEE	1 day		No
	COMAT/NBME shelf examinations	Students have the time off to take the examination only	Students should be reporting to rotation before/after examination.	No
Prolonged Illness, Bereavement, Maternity Leave	Medical related absence or bereavement	Determined on a case-by-case basis	Students must contact the Assistant Dean for Clerkship Education directly (enright4@msu.edu) to discuss time off rotations.	Yes

Clerkship Program Excused Absence Request Forms: Once appropriate approval signatures are obtained, forms must be uploaded to the 'Excused Absences' folder within each student's Medtrics profile. Students should maintain a copy for their records.