

**OST 582 – Transitions I: Board Preparation – Section 730**

Summer Semester 7 - 2021

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## **Section 1 – Course Information**

### **Course Description**

OST 582 -Transitions I: Board Preparation is a 6- credit hour course that provides students with specific resources and support for COMLEX Level 1 board preparation activities. The course will enable the student to conduct self-directed review and integration of basic science and systems medical knowledge with clinical correlations. The requirements are designed to assist students in crafting and implementing an effective and efficient individualized study plan to help optimize their performance on board examinations. There will be a robust array of optional review sessions, suggested resources, live webinars, and other learning events for students during the course. All events are all offered in a virtual format.

### **Course Goals**

The goal of this course is to enable the student to be successful in a self-directed review and integration of medical knowledge with clinical correlations by providing support, study guidance, and resources.

The student will be able to:

1. Identify individual knowledge gaps and areas requiring deeper study for board preparation.
2. Design an individual learning plan that prioritizes content areas of greatest need to review.
3. Recognize and prioritize clinical information given in the stem of a board style questions using the S-O-A-P process.
4. Identify and predict common patterns related to basic scientific mechanisms and pathways using critical thinking skills and hypothesis formation.
5. Utilize time management, stress reduction, and study techniques to maximize self-efficacy and effective preparation for taking standardized board examinations.
6. Identify medical ethics principles and concepts covered on medical board examinations as related to Medicine and Law.
7. Develop skill in answering board style questions through regular practice with question banks.
8. Prepare a learning plan and study schedule for the COMSAE and COMLEX Level 1 examinations according to requirements set forth by MSUCOM.

### **Self-Directed Learning in OST 582 – Transitions I**

It is a goal at MSUCOM to promote self-directed learning to help our students grow into strong, self-directed future clinicians. Self-directed learning is also required by medical school accreditation standards. It is a 4-step process that occurs within an encapsulated timeframe. One of the ways this will take shape in OST 582 is through the development of individualized learning plans by each student.

#### Provide Self-Assessment of Learning Needs

- Students will be encouraged to explore existing feedback on performance, progress, course performance, rank, exam performance, skills performance, and any other available data in relation to the NBOME's weighted blueprint.
- This activity will help the student identify areas of learning that warrant further focus.
- Students will develop a learning plan that makes these needs and related plans concrete.

### Identification, Analysis, & Synthesis of Information

- Students will be provided with a framework for recognizing clinical patterns along with other learning resources to guide their thinking while they independently identify, analyze, and synthesize content.
- Students will use a variety of curricular and external resources specific to their learning needs and learning plan as they integrate basic science, systems, and clinical concepts.

### Appraisal of Information Credibility

- Resources such as the COMBANK Question Bank questions, First Aid Board Review, and the NBOME blueprint and tests will provide useful reference points as students appraise the credibility of new or reviewed information in relation to their identified learning needs.
- While enrolled in the course, students will be required by the college to schedule and complete the NBOME's COMSAE exam, on which performance will provide an additional reference point related to the credibility of information sought and studied.

### Feedback on Information-Seeking Skills

- Course coordinators will provide individual guidance and feedback as requested.
- Additionally, individual faculty members in various disciplines will be available throughout the course to interact with students, providing notes on high-yield content, conducting live webinars, hosting interactive faculty-student discussion sessions, and responding individually to inquiries.
- Students are encouraged to discuss their learning plan with academic advisors to get additional feedback.

## **Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)**

The course coordinators and faculty will encourage students in making connections to Osteopathic Considerations for Core Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) as they work through the clinical scenarios in the stem of a board question and consider the correct answer options.

EPA 1: Gather a history and perform a physical examination.

- Identify pertinent history elements in a clinical scenario such as presenting symptoms, history, and disease states (acute and chronic).
- Identify normal and abnormal physical exam findings, including osteopathic structural findings.

EPA 2: Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter

1. Integrate the scientific foundations of medicine with clinical reasoning skills to develop a working diagnosis as students work through sample board questions.

EPA 3: Recommend and interpret common diagnostic and screening tests.

- Provide a rationale for a decision to order specific diagnostic and screening tests.
- Interpret the results of basic diagnostic studies (both lab and imaging)

## College Program Objectives

In addition to the course-specific goals and learning objectives, this course facilitates student progress in attaining the College Program Level Educational Objectives, which are published in the MSUCOM Student Handbook.

## Course Coordinators

*(Note - Preferred method of contact is shown in italics)*

Name: Jane Gudakunst, MD

Phone: 814-221-0677

Email: [gudakun2@msu.edu](mailto:gudakun2@msu.edu) (preferred method)

Address: Fee Hall – West Wing, 909 Wilson Rd. Room B315-D, East Lansing, MI 48824

Name: Chinyere Pauline Tobias, MA

Phone: 734-288-8378

Email: [tobiasog@msu.edu](mailto:tobiasog@msu.edu) (preferred method)

Address: 4707 Saint Antoine St. Room CG-97, Detroit, MI 48201

## Course Faculty

Name	Email	Site
Lauren Azevedo	<a href="mailto:azevedol@msu.edu">azevedol@msu.edu</a>	EL
Martha Faner	<a href="mailto:fanermar@msu.edu">fanermar@msu.edu</a>	DMC
Jane Gudakunst	<a href="mailto:gudakun2@msu.edu">gudakun2@msu.edu</a>	EL
Laryssa Kaufman	<a href="mailto:lkaufman@msu.edu">lkaufman@msu.edu</a>	EL
Frances Kennedy	<a href="mailto:kennedyf@msu.edu">kennedyf@msu.edu</a>	EL
Paul Kowalski	<a href="mailto:pauljk@msu.edu">pauljk@msu.edu</a>	EL
Caroline Restini	<a href="mailto:restinic@msu.edu">restinic@msu.edu</a>	DMC
Janice Schwartz	<a href="mailto:schwa317@msu.edu">schwa317@msu.edu</a>	DMC
John Taylor	<a href="mailto:tayl3736@msu.edu">tayl3736@msu.edu</a>	MUC
Sarah Tilden	<a href="mailto:tildensa@msu.edu">tildensa@msu.edu</a>	DMC
Chinyere Pauline Tobias	<a href="mailto:tobiasog@msu.edu">tobiasog@msu.edu</a>	DMC
Jessica Wicks	<a href="mailto:wicksjes@msu.edu">wicksjes@msu.edu</a>	EL

## Curriculum Assistants

Site	Name	Email	Phone
East Lansing	Becky Brandt	<a href="mailto:brandtb2@msu.edu">brandtb2@msu.edu</a>	517-884-3880

## Lines of Communication

- For content aspects of the course: [gudakun2@msu.edu](mailto:gudakun2@msu.edu).
- For questions relating to your individualized study plan: [tobiasog@msu.edu](mailto:tobiasog@msu.edu) or the Academic and

Career Guidance advisors at [com.ACAdvising@msu.edu](mailto:com.ACAdvising@msu.edu).

- For logistical or administrative aspects of the course: [brandtb2@msu.edu](mailto:brandtb2@msu.edu).
- For absences/missed exams (see excused absence information below).
- Please set your notifications in D2L to immediate to receive posted News announcements. You may choose to receive notifications by email or SMS.
- Course announcements will be posted every Monday before noon to highlight the weekly schedule and provide relevant updates.

## Office Hours

Questions concerning this course may be discussed individually by making an appointment with the Course Coordinators, Jane Gudakunst at [gudakun2@msu.edu](mailto:gudakun2@msu.edu) or Pauline Tobias at [tobiasog@msu.edu](mailto:tobiasog@msu.edu). The course coordinators are generally available weekdays by Zoom (email them for an appointment).

Appointments with Academic and Career Guidance advisors are made by emailing [com.ACAdvising@msu.edu](mailto:com.ACAdvising@msu.edu) or by scheduling directly at <https://student.msu.edu/>.

## Course Web Site

The URL for the Course website is: <https://d2l.msu.edu>

## Textbooks and Reference Materials

### Required

- Students are expected to identify the specific resources required to implement their individual learning plan.
- Students are asked to visit the interactive NBOME website AND to become familiar with the COMLEX Master Blueprint.
  - <https://www.nbome.org>
  - <https://www.nbome.org/exams-assessments/comlex-usa/comlex-usa-level-1/>

### Recommended

Resources are provided in the D2L site for the course and students are expected to discern and cultivate those resources which will best support their learning plan. The learning plan should include elements of scientific and clinical content review, self-care, active study skills, and prioritization of time, energy, and resources as well as question bank practice questions.

The links and resources are organized into several categories on the D2L site. The student is encouraged to browse through the categories and other existing resources while creating and implementing their study plan but is cautioned not to try to use all the listed resources – they are provided as a convenience for the student's consideration only.

- Board Information and Exam Blueprints
- Scientific and Clinical Content Review
  - MSUCOM faculty generated content
  - Other links and resources
- Self- Directed Learning, Study Skills, and Time Management

- Wellness and Self Care Resources
- Q- Bank Information

Additional resources and support are available at the MSUCOM “On Target” site at <http://michiganstate.sharepoint.com/sites/MAU-AcademicSuccessatMSUCOM>.

## Course-based Academic Support

The course faculty are here to facilitate your learning during your dedicated board study period. Please feel free to contact the Course Coordinator with any personal issues you may have involving this course. Additional academic support and counseling resources can be accessed through [MSUCOM Office of Academic and Career Advising](#) and the [MSUCOM Office of Wellness and Counseling](#).

## Courses Begin and End Dates

The OST 582 - Transitions I course begins on March 29, 2021 and ends on June 11, 2021. See addendum for detailed course schedule. This course encompasses at least **84 hours** of student work during Summer Semester 7 of 2021. The exact time allocation during any given week will be at the discretion of the student.

## Course Schedule

This course is self-directed learning (SDL) and the schedule is at the discretion of each individual student throughout the semester. The course can be completed from any location with reliable access to D2L and online connections, there are no requirements for physical presence on campus for this course.

The following sessions are provided as optional resources to support content review, Q-Bank practice, decoding the question stem, pattern recognition, and critical thinking skills.

- **Live webinars:** Live presentations with lecture images and review. These sessions will be recorded.
- **Apply and Connect Sessions:** Interactive discussions, case studies, practice and application of skills, and short review sessions or Q and A with the students (via Zoom meetings). These sessions will not be recorded.
- **Handouts and Links:** Various MSUCOM faculty members have developed handouts on specific topics to study, review of common mechanisms or pathways, a list of helpful links, or simply a list of definitions may be helpful to students.
- **Individual feedback:** Schedule an appointment with one of the Course Coordinators, faculty members, or an academic advisor.

## Exams/Assessments

There are no required examinations. See below for Required Course Assignments.

## Required Course Assignments

1. **Review the course syllabus and schedule.** It is your professional responsibility to meet the deadlines and requirements in this course. Please familiarize yourself with the requirements and

deadlines to earn a PASS (P) grade in OST 582, a six (6) credit course required for graduation from MSUCOM.

2. **Complete four (4) mandatory modules.** Listen to and engage with the following four (4) assigned modules which are located in the D2L site for OST 582 - Transitions I - Section 730.
  - **Module 1: Ready.....Perspective and Prioritization**  
Using self-assessment skills, prior feedback, and reflection to strengthen your foundational knowledge base to design a study plan that uses your time, energy, and resources efficiently.
  - **Module 2: Set.....Connections**  
Using active study skills and pattern recognition to deepen your understanding and integration of material. Using organizational frameworks to integrate what you already know in order to recall and retrieve information effectively.
  - **Module 3: Go.....Context**  
Using clinical reasoning skills and the S-O-A-P process to understand and decode the stem of board style questions accurately.
  - **Module 4: Law and Medicine 101**  
Using legal and medical principles and concepts such as EMTLA and abandonment to understand and apply those principles to board questions.
3. **Review the NBOME blueprint and website information.** Familiarize yourself with the exam blueprint for COMLEX Level 1 and correlate the blueprint with feedback you have received over the past two years about your areas of strength and weakness. Use this information to complete Step 5.
4. **Step 4: Complete and upload the mandatory self-reflection assignment.** Read and reflect on the prompt, complete the self-reflection essay, and upload it to D2L. Use this information to complete Step 5.
5. **Step 5: Design and implement your individualized learning plan and study schedule.** If you have questions or need advice as you construct and carry out your learning plan and study schedule, please connect with one of the following resources as needed.
  - a. [Academic and Career Advising](#)
  - b. [On-Target \(Sharepoint site\)](#)
  - c. OST 582 course coordinators  
Jane Gudakunst [gudakun2@msu.edu](mailto:gudakun2@msu.edu)  
Chinyere Pauline Tobias [tobiasog@msu.edu](mailto:tobiasog@msu.edu)

## Course Grades

The course faculty determine the threshold for satisfactory performance in each pre-clerkship course. Your course grade is determined by completion of the required activities.

- **P-Pass**—means that you have achieved a satisfactory level of performance and will receive credit for this course. To obtain a “P” grade for this course, you must complete all required course activities before 5:00 PM EST on June 11, 2021.

- **N-No Grade**—means that you have not achieved a satisfactory level of performance and no credit will be granted for this course. For OST 582 730, if you do not complete all required assignments you will receive an “N” grade.
- **Remediation** – there is no remediation available for this course.

## Student Evaluation of the Course

We want your feedback on how to improve this course.

- **Informal Feedback:** Feel free to approach the Course Coordinators, Jane Gudakunst and Chinyere Pauline Tobias, or any of the other Academic and Career Guidance advisors with your reactions and suggestions.
- **Formal Evaluation:** In addition to the above, we ask every student in the class to complete formal on-line course evaluation upon conclusion of the course. Student feedback provides Course Coordinators with valuable information regarding their performance, the performance of their colleagues, and the quality of the course. The information gained from these evaluations is used to continuously improve future offerings of this course. Students can access the evaluation system at: [MSUCOM Pre-clerkship Evaluation System](#).

## Section 2 – Policies

Please refer to the [MSUCOM Student Handbook](#) for these and other policies.

### Academic Honesty and Professionalism

Every student is responsible for their behavior and is expected to adhere to all MSU and MSUCOM policies of academic honesty and professionalism, as outlined in the MSUCOM Student Handbook and the MSU Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities. These documents may be found on the MSUCOM website. Additional guidance on academic integrity may be found on the MSU Ombudsperson’s website at <https://ombud.msu.edu/sites/default/files/content/Academic-Integrity-at-MSU-updated-August-2017.pdf>

Incidents of academic dishonesty or professional misconduct will be addressed by the faculty, administration, or staff; such action may include, but is not limited to: giving a failing grade, referring a student for judicial review, directing the student to the Associate Dean of Medical Education, evaluation by the Committee on Student Evaluation, and other actions outlined in the Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities document.

### Types of Class Sessions

MSUCOM designates lectures and other class sessions by their delivery method. While additional terms may be used in a specific course, the following will provide general guidance to the type of session:

- Live or livestream lecture: broadcast at a designated time; intended to be viewed synchronously
- Online Lecture: recorded content, may be viewed asynchronously
- Webinar: more interactive session where student participation is expected
- Lab: may refer to on-site clinical skills training or online lab session; see details

### Changes to Course Schedule or Requirements

Due to external circumstances, the course requirements published in the course syllabus and/or course



schedule may be subject to change. Timely notification Communication regarding changes will be provided to enrolled students via the course D2L site and/or email. Any changes made will consider the MSU Code of Teaching Responsibility and the MSU Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities.

## **Mandatory and Optional Class Sessions**

All lectures and other class sessions are considered to be integral to the course, and students are expected to attend, view, or participate in each session. Some sessions are designated as “mandatory” in that attendance at the session on the scheduled date and time is required. Depending on the course, a student may earn points for attending or participating in a mandatory session or may lose points for failing to attend or participate. Availability of make-up points for missed sessions is at the discretion of the course coordinator. Optional class sessions are offered by faculty to assist students in learning or reviewing course content.

## **Absences from Mandatory and Examinations/Assessments**

It is the responsibility of the student to know which class sessions are deemed as mandatory and comply with the MSUCOM policy regarding absences from mandatory sessions and examinations. This policy may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook on the MSUCOM website. Requests for an excused absence must be submitted via the [student portal](#).

## **Computer-Based Testing**

It is the responsibility of each student to know and comply with the MSUCOM policy on computer-based testing. This policy may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook on the MSUCOM website.

Administration of quizzes, examinations, and other assessments may be self-proctored, virtual proctored, or classroom proctored. Regardless of the proctoring method, you are expected to take the exam in a quiet, private setting. Just like in a proctored exam, you are not to access notes, textbooks, references, your phone, or other materials, and you are not to interact with fellow students or others. Remember that integrity is defined as what you do when no one is looking.

You are also expected to not record, photograph, take screen shots, make notes of, or otherwise attempt to make a copy of any exam item for any purpose, including your personal use. A student who is discovered to have cheated or breached exam security will be subject to formal disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from MSUCOM.

If you have concerns or evidence of an exam security breach on this or any exam, you may report that to an MSUCOM administrator or through the online concern form.

## **Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities**

If problems arise between instructor and student, both should attempt to resolve them by informal, direct discussions. If the problems remain unsolved, the Associate Dean for Medical Education and/or the MSU Ombudsperson may be consulted. The MSU Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities (MSRR) document defines processes for additional steps, including submission of a formal grievance. The MSSR may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook and online at [splife.studentlife.msu.edu](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu).

## **Reef Polling (iClicker Cloud) Policy**

It is your responsibility to know and comply with the Reef Polling (iClicker Cloud) Policy. This policy may be found in the MSUCOM Student Handbook. If you forget your device or if it does not work, for whatever reason, no make-up experiences will be provided, and no points will be given.

If Reef Polling is used to take attendance for an on-campus event, you will be expected to arrive to the physical location on time and to stay for the duration of the assigned activity. If Reef Polling is used to take attendance for an online event, you will be expected to start the session at the scheduled time and participate for the duration of the assigned activity.

As a matter of professionalism, please note that under no circumstances should you provide access to your iClicker Reef account to another student by sharing your device and/or account login, nor should you accept another student's device or login credentials to access Reef Polling on their behalf. Answering questions or checking in for attendance on behalf of another student by using their device or account is considered to be academic dishonesty and may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the college.

## **Remediation**

The MSUCOM Policy for Retention, Promotion and Graduation requires successful completion of each required course to progress in the curriculum. If you receive an "N" grade in a course, that grade will be recorded on your official transcript; you must meet the course requirement by successfully remediating or repeating the course.

Eligibility to attempt remediation of the course is determined by criteria described in the "Course Grades" section of the syllabus. If you are not eligible to attempt remediation, or if you fail the remediation, you must retake the course, provided you are eligible to continue in the program as determined by the Committee on Student Evaluation.

## **Student Safety and Well-being**

The MSUCOM website and Student Handbook provide information on student safety, campus security, access to medical care and counseling services, and to policies on injuries and exposures. If you have an injury or acute illness on campus, an incident report should be completed. The form is available on the MSUCOM intranet or from Academic Programs.

## **Requests for Accommodations**

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) at 517-884-7273 or online at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you may be issued a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodation (VISA) form. Each VISA includes an expiration date; to request an accommodation, you must have an active VISA. You may work with RCPD to renew a VISA.

During the preclerkship curriculum, the college will help to coordinate accommodations for additional testing time. Provide your VISA to Nancy Thoma, [thoman@msu.edu](mailto:thoman@msu.edu), A333 East Fee Hall at the start of the term and/or at least two weeks prior to the assessment event (test, project, labs, etc.). Requests for

accommodations received with less notice will be honored whenever possible. You may choose whether or not you wish to use accommodations for a particular event. For other accommodations, you may also review your VISA with the course coordinator and curriculum assistant assigned to that course.

## **Title IX Notifications**

Michigan State University is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free of relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and to ensuring that all affected individuals have access to services. For information on reporting options, confidential advocacy and support resources, university policies and procedures, or how to make a difference on campus, visit the Title IX website at [titleix.msu.edu](http://titleix.msu.edu).

Limits to confidentiality. Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, you should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. Instructors must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety):

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child;
- Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services.

## **Addendum: Course Schedule**

Course schedule for the current semester will be posted to D2L. Changes to the course schedule will be noted on the class academic calendar ("Google calendar") and communicated to students via D2L and/or email. The schedule for the most recent offering of this course will be posted on the MSUCOM website under Current Students/Preclerkship Curriculum.