LONGITUDINAL PRECEPTORSHIP

Updated: 4/17/2018

During the third year, students have the opportunity to explore in greater depth primary care, specialty fields, or clinical research in order to build clinical skills, understand the practice demands and rewards of different specialties, explore career options and explore and engage in meaningful clinical research opportunities.

The Preceptorship is divided into two semesters of 6 sessions each, beginning in June and again in November. The sessions are scheduled for one-half day (1:00-5:00 pm) on dates that correspond to each student’s Systems Based Health Care morning session.

Objectives:

1. Improve history-taking and physical examination skills for common, selected clinical problems. Through observed encounters and discussion, students should improve their:
   - Accuracy in collecting data
   - Proficiency with the physical examination
   - Ability to present findings for discussion
   - Ability to conduct a focused work-up

2. Identify the range of clinical problems and treatment options particular to selected specialties. Through experience in clinical practice, the students learn
   - Qualities of the clinical decision-making process
   - Skills needed for successful patient care
   - Types of notes and charts needed for competent care
   - Rewards and demand of practice
   - Breadth and diversity of professional opportunities within the specialty

3. Career and research exploration and development. Through participation in care, discussions, and mentored clinical research, students have the
   - Opportunity to improve skills as a physician-scholar
   - Opportunity for in-depth one on one mentorship within academic medicine
   - Option to continue research projects initiated during the first two years of medical school or to initiate research that may be carried into the 4th year

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Student Responsibilities

The student is responsible for being on-site with his or her preceptor for the entire afternoon on all assigned Systems-Based Healthcare days (Tuesday or Thursday from 1pm -5pm). Prior to the first session of each semester, the student should contact the preceptor to introduce him/herself, confirm the first date of attendance, exchange e-mail addresses and phone numbers, and obtain directions to the site and for parking. At the end of each preceptorship afternoon students may be required to return to their core clerkship for long call.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to participate in all preceptor sessions (6 for each semester). If an illness or other extenuating circumstance arises, making it impossible for the student to attend a session, he/she should call the preceptor’s office as soon as possible, but no later than the morning of the visit, to arrange for a make-up session. All unexpected absences should be immediately communicated to Renea Fuller at RFuller@mednet.ucla.edu.

Preceptors are responsible for informing students when they will not be in the office on an assigned preceptorship day. The preceptor may arrange to have a colleague cover the session or set up a special make-up session; however, the make-up arrangements cannot conflict with the student’s core clerkship schedule or violate duty hours. We suggest that the preceptor and the student review the scheduled dates during the first visit, to plan for any potential absences, vacations, conferences, etc. There is also a scheduled make-up day at the end of the semester that can be used for excused absences.

Attendance Cards

The student is required to bring an attendance card to each session for the preceptor to sign. These completed cards are uploaded to Gryphon after each session and are required for the students to receive credit for the course.

Evaluation

At the end of six sessions with the student, the preceptor will complete an evaluation. If a student remains with the same preceptor for all 12 sessions, the preceptor will complete an evaluation at the end of each semester. Comments from these evaluations are included in the MSPE. Per LCME guidelines, summary grades must be turned in within 6 weeks of final course date.

The final evaluation for the Preceptorship is based on two components:

- Attendance at all of the preceptor sessions or designated make-ups
- A passing grade for clinical or research performance from preceptor(s) with whom he/she worked as reported on the standard UCLA Preceptor Evaluation of Medical Student Form.

If the Preceptorship is not working out for any reason, we want to help! Please feel free to contact Renea Fuller or Dr. Tahlia Spector right away about any problems in the preceptorship, even minor ones, so that difficulties or misunderstandings can be resolved before they impede or erode the experience.