

Pre-Clerkship Student Manual



MEDICINE

TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Class of 2023

AY 2019-20

WELCOME CLASS OF 2023

On behalf of all the faculty and staff affiliated with the Pre-Clerkship component of your medical education, we welcome you as new members of our Aggie Medical School family. We are delighted to have you here and privileged to support your medical education journey to becoming a physician.

As leaders of the Pre-Clerkship curriculum subcommittee, we are excited to offer you an excellent medical school experience. During your initial 8½ months of this curriculum, foundational courses will introduce you to the essential and fundamental coursework necessary to become a competent and successful physician. Courses in gross anatomy, physiology, histology, biochemistry and microbiology, just to name a few, will deliver clinically relevant foundational themes as your medical knowledge builds towards disease-related concepts presented in organ systems courses. The 8-month organ systems courses will emphasize the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical features and clinical approach to human illness by organ system. Courses specifically designed to integrate and emphasize the humanities, ethics, leadership, professionalism, history-taking, physical examination and communication skills and evidence-based practice will complement these science courses.

The faculty will integrate material across disciplines to facilitate your learning. Importantly, we are committed to presenting the curriculum in a collegial and nurturing atmosphere. Individual blocks/courses have designated block/course co-leader/co-directors, who orchestrate and manage content delivery. Your candid and constructive feedback and prompt completion of block/course evaluations are crucial to the process of continued curriculum evolution. You may address suggestions, questions or concerns at any time to individual faculty, block/course directors or curriculum subgroup leaders.

Again, we welcome you to the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine.

Dr. Penny Holland-Barkis

Dr. Shannon Glaser

Dr. Thomas Peterson

Co-leaders, Pre-Clerkship Curriculum Subcommittee

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**Please note that information in this manual is subject to change.
You will be notified of any changes by curriculum leaders and/or staff.**

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Both students and faculty of the College of Medicine are expected to adhere to the basic policies and Standards of Conduct in the Teacher-Learner Relationship outlined in the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine *Student Handbook for College of Medicine Students*. The student handbook can be found online on the College of Medicine Website under Student Affairs at the following web address: <http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/student-affairs/docs/handbook.pdf>. The student handbook includes: Grading and Academic Regulations, Promotion and Graduation, USMLE policies, Withdrawal, Professionalism, Student Standards of Conduct, Attendance and Absenteeism, Mistreatment of Students, Academic Dishonesty, the learning environment enrichment program and other policies.

Additional forms available for students can be found at: <http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/student-affairs/handbook-forms.html>. These forms may be needed throughout your course of study and include: Early Concern Form, FERPA Consent to Release Student Information, Student Accident and Needle Stick Form and Needle Stick policy among others.

Please also access the Medical Education Program Objectives here:
<https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/academics/medical-education/mepos.html>

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Learning Environment Enrichment Program (LEEP) is an initiative housed within the Office of Medical Education focused on fostering a mutual commitment for cultivating a professional and dynamic learning environment dedicated to the Aggie Core Values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service. Under the guidance of the Director of the Learning Environment and Vice Dean of Education and Academic Programs, LEEP consists of, but is not limited to, (a) Aggie Conduct Awareness and Professionalism websites; (b) conduct reporting, and awareness system; (c) faculty and staff ombudsman; and (d) Cup of Coffee peer awareness messengers.

The [Aggie Awareness](#) and [professionalism](#) websites serve to help educate the members of our community on our community expectations regarding our core values as well as what conduct is expected and prohibited. The Aggie Awareness website provides a centralized, and widely-accessible, method to monitor the learning environment in, “real time” through the [Aggie Conduct Awareness Form](#). Any member of the College of Medicine (faculty, staff, and students) can submit a report for an exemplary or concerning conduct for any member of the College of Medicine. Once a report is submitted, it promptly moves through a collaboratively developed process. In general, the reporting, or awareness process consists of: 1) submitting a report; 2) the report is immediately is directed to a rapid response team; 3) the rapid response team collaboratively, and quickly determines initial actions (e.g., peer messenger); and 4) an after action report is submitted and looped to a larger committee tasked with monitoring the learning environment. Concerns that relate to Title VII, Title IX, or risk, fraud, and misconduct are separated from this process and directed to the pertinent departments at Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University System.

Faculty and staff ombudsman serve as impartial and neutral sounding boards/resources regarding concerns of faculty and staff within the learning environment. Lastly, Cup of Coffee peer messengers help raise awareness of concerning conduct by delivering first, or second, time concerning reports to the person named in the report. The peer messenger does not investigate the facts about the report, communicate or infer credibility of the report, advise the peer, attempt to fix the issue, or engage in pushback regarding the receiver’s perceptions of the report.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE - IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

The Texas A&M College of Medicine Office of Medical Education (OME) leads and supports all aspects of the medical education process at the college.

The Office of Medical Education includes the offices below and can be accessed using the following link <https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/about/admin/medical-education.html>

- [Academic Affairs](#)
- [Academic Technology](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Diversity & Inclusion](#)
- [Evaluation & Assessment](#)
- [Educational Quality Improvement](#)
- [Graduate Medical Education](#)
- [Student Affairs](#)

The EnMed Program and its contacts can be accessed at <https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/enmed/about.html>

Office of Information Technology			
HELP DESK	Bryan, HPEB 1 st Floor	800-779-7HSC 979-436-0250	helpdesk@tamhsc.edu
Pre-Clerkship Curriculum Subcommittee Leadership			
Penny Holland-Barkis, MD	Temple	254-724-6190	penelope.hollandbarkis@BSWHealth.org
Shannon Glaser, PhD	BCS	979-436-9260	sglaser@medicine.tamhsc.edu
Thomas Peterson, PhD	Houston	TBD	tpeterson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
Medical Sciences Library (MSL)			
Sheila Green, MSLS	Bryan, HPEB 1014	979-436-0279	sgreen@medicine.tamhsc.edu
Cathy Pepper, MLIS, MPH (EnMed/Field Services)	Round Rock Campus	512-341-4964	cpepper@tamhu.edu
Pam Flanagan	Bryan, HPEB Library	979-436-0280	pflanagan@medicine.tamhsc.edu

Pre-Clerkship Curriculum – Education Coordinators (Pre-Clerkship Team)			
Campus	Coordinator	Phone	Email
Bryan	Courtney Guest	979-436-9114	cguest@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	Cali Harper	979-436-0566	caliharper@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	TBD	979-436-0535	
	Kaitlyn Rogers	979-436-0227	kaitlynrogers@medicine.tamhsc.edu
Houston (EnMed)	Angela Cortez	TBD	acortez@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	Leslie Rojas	TBD	lrojas@medicine.tamhsc.edu

Pre-Clerkship Curriculum Courses and Course Directors

Course				Campus	Course Directors	Phone	Email
Foundation Blocks	FOM I	S1	Foundations of Medicine I	BCS	Diane Chico, PhD	979-436-0323	chico@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Shannon Glaser, PhD	979-436-9260	Sglaser@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Thomas Peterson, PhD	TBD	tpeterson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	FOM II	S1	Foundations of Medicine II	BCS	Steve Maxwell, PhD	979-845-7206	smaxwell@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Dustin Dubois, PhD	979-436-0327	dubois@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Thomas Peterson, PhD	TBD	tpeterson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	MGA	S1	Medical Gross Anatomy	BCS	Wei-Jung Chen, PhD	979-436-0333	wchen@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Katherine Brakora, PhD	979-436-0326	brakora@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Douglas Baxter, PhD	TBD	baxter@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	Neuro	S2	Neuroscience	BCS	David Earnest, PhD	979-436-0328	dearnest@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Ursula Winzer-Serhan, PhD	979-436-0330	uwinzer@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Robert Tsai, MD, PhD	713-677-7690	rtsai@ibt.tamhsc.edu
ID	S2	Introduction to Disease	BCS	Gregg Wells, MD, PhD	979-436-0780	gbwells@medicine.tamhsc.edu	
				Laura West, PhD	979-436-0599	lwest@medicine.tamhsc.edu	
			EnMed	Margie Moczygemba, PhD	713-677-8114	mmoczygemba@medicine.tamhsc.edu	
Organ System Blocks	CV	S2	Cardiovascular	BCS	Emily Wilson, PhD	979-436-9142	ewilson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Travis Hein, PhD	254-724-3550	thein@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Carl Tong, PhD	TBD	ctong@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	Respiratory	S2	Respiratory	BCS	Carolyn Cannon, MD	979-436-0868	cannon@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Robert Black, MD	214-824-8521	Robert.black@bswhealth.org
EnMed	David Zawieja, PhD	TBD	dzawieja@medicine.tamhsc.edu				

Organ System Blocks	Hem/Onc	S3	Hematology/ Oncology	RR	Rania Cannaday, MD	512-341-4929	cannaday@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				D	John Pippen, MD	214-824-6551	John.Pippen@usoncology.com
				EnMed	Teja Patel, MD	713-441-2449	tapatel@houstonmethodist.org
	Renal/GU	S3	Renal/Genitourinary	T	Don Chaffer, MD	254-865-2166	chaffer@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				RR	Kathleen Jones, MD	512-341-4996	kjones@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Thomas Peterson, PhD	TBD	tpeterson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
	Met/GI	S3	Metabolism/GI/ Nutrition	D	Lawrence Schiller MD	214-820-2671	lawrence.schiller@bswhealth.org
				BCS	Shannon Glaser, PhD	TBD	Sglaser@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Julian Hurdle	713-677-7572	jhurdle@ibt.tamhsc.edu
	Endo/Repro	S3	Endocrinology/ Reproduction	T/BCS	Cindy Meininger, PhD	254-742-7037	cjm@tamu.edu
					Paul Brandt, PhD	979-436-0246	pbrandt@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Bhargavi Patham, MD	TBD	bpatham@houstonmethodist.org
Integ/Mus	S3	Integument/ Musculoskeletal	T/BCS	Cindy Meininger, PhD	254-742-7037	cjm@tamu.edu	
				Katherine Brakora, PhD	979-436-0326	brakora@medicine.tamhsc.edu	
			EnMed	Emily Wilson, PhD	979-436-9142	ewilson@medicine.tamhsc.edu	
Thread Courses & Intersections	PoM 1	S1	Practice of Medicine 1	BCS	Patricia Watson, MD	979-436-0515	pwatson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Jose Florez-Arango, MD, PhD	979-436-0667	florezarango@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Ericka Simpson, MD	TBD	esimpson@houstonmethodist.org
	PoM 2	S2	Practice of Medicine 2	BCS	Patricia Watson, MD	979-436-0515	pwatson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
					Jose Florez-Arango, MD, PhD	979-436-0667	florezarango@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				EnMed	Ericka Simpson, MD	TBD	esimpson@houstonmethodist.org
	PoM 3	S3	Practice of Medicine 3 HEAL	BCS	Craig Borchardt, PhD	979-821-2266	cwborchardt@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				D	Mark Casanova, MD	214-820-9248	mark.casanova@bswhealth.org
				T	Tresa McNeal, MD	254-724-4926	tresa.mcneal@bswhealth.org
EnMed				Ericka Simpson, MD	TBD	esimpson@houstonmethodist.org	

Thread Courses & Intersections						
PoM 3	S3	Practice of Medicine 3 O.C. Cooper Preceptorship	BCS	Jose Florez-Arango, MD, PhD	979-436-0667	florezarango@medicine.tamhsc.edu
			D	William Christensen, MD	214-828-5775	William.Christensen@BSWHealth.org
				Uyen Thi Cao, MD	214-820-1335	UyenThi.Cao@BSWHealth.org
			T	Penny Holland-Barkis, MD	254-771-8211	penelope.hollandbarkis@bswhealth.org
				Robin Dauterive, MD	617-721-9943	robin.dauterive@bswhealth.org
EnMed	Ericka Simpson, MD	TBD	esimpson@houstonmethodist.org			
MSGR	S2	Medical Student Grand Rounds	BCS	Steve Maxwell, PhD	979-436-0804	smaxwell@medicine.tamhsc.edu
				Robin Fuchs-Young PhD	979-845-7206	fuchs-young@medicine.tamhsc.edu
			EnMed	John Criscione, MD, PhD	TBD	jccriscione@tamu.edu
EBMSR	S2	Evidence Based Medicine & Scholarly Research	BCS	Gregg Wells, MD, PhD	979-436-0780	gbwells@medicine.tamhsc.edu
			D	Andrew Masica, MD	214-265-3624	andrew.masica@BSWhealth.org
			T	Scott Wieters, MD	254-724-8878	wieters@medicine.tamhsc.edu
CSIE's	All	Clinical Synthesis and Integration Exercise	RR	Rania Cannaday, MD	512-341-4929	cannaday@medicine.tamhsc.edu
			D	Jon Phippen, MD	214-824-6551	john.phippen@usoncology.com
			BCS	Jeremy Gibson, MD	979-436-0548	gibson@medicine.tamhsc.edu
CPC's	All	Clinicopathological Correlations	RR	Rania Cannaday, MD	512-341-4929	cannaday@medicine.tamhsc.edu
			D	Guileyardo, Joseph	214-505-7568	joseph.guileyardo@bswhealth.org
			BCS	Marcela Jimenez, MD	TBD	marcela.jimenez@medicine.tamhsc.edu
MS	All	Medical Spanish Elective	BCS	Mark Sicilio, MD	979-436-0520	sicilio@medicine.tamhsc.edu

S1, S2 and S3 refer to Semester 1, Semester 2 and Semester 3, respectively

BCS: Bryan College Station

T: Temple

D: Dallas

RR: Round Rock

EnMed: EnMed in Houston

Calendars 2019-2020

Year 1: Class of 2023



Week	Date (First Day)	
	July 22, 2019	MANDATORY Orientation
1	July 29	Semester 1 Curriculum Begins
2	August 5	
3	August 12	
4	August 19	
5	August 26	
6	September 2	
7	September 9	
8	September 16	
9	September 23	
10	September 30	
11	October 7	
12	October 14	
13	October 21	
14	October 28	
15	November 4	
16	November 11	
17	November 18	
18	November 25	
Thanksgiving Break: Thursday, November 28 – Friday, November 29, 2019		
19	December 2	
20	December 9	
21	December 16	Semester 1 End Date: Friday, December 20, 2019
Winter Break: Saturday, December 21, 2019 – Sunday, January 5, 2020		
22	January 6	Semester 2 Curriculum Begins
23	January 13	
MLK Holiday: Monday, January 20, 2020		
24	January 21, Tuesday	
25	January 27	
26	February 3	
27	February 10	
28	February 17	
29	February 24	
30	March 2	
Spring Break: Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13, 2020		
31	March 16, Monday	
32	March 23	
33	March 30	
34	April 6	
35	April 13	
36	April 20	
37	April 27	
38	May 4	
39	May 11	
40	May 18	
Memorial Day: Monday, May 25, 2020		
41	May 26, Tuesday	
42	June 1	
43	June 8	
44	June 15	Semester 2 End Date Friday, June 19, 2020

*All dates are subject to change
 Revised by Academic Affairs: 10.22.18
 Endorse by Curriculum Committee: 10.22.18

REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks and additional learning resources are available at the following link:

<https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/current/textbooks.html>

Please consult your block/course syllabi for specific required or recommended textbooks, many of which are available as eBooks through the Medical Sciences Library (pages 7-9 of this manual).

POSTING & RECORDING OF CURRICULAR MATERIAL

eCampus is the Texas A&M University Learning Management System. eCampus is the site the College of Medicine uses to store and distribute learning materials (handouts, slides, on-line learning modules, CSIEs, etc.), host lecture- and module-based quizzes, post class announcements and maintain student grades. Each block/course in the Pre-Clerkship curriculum will have a dedicated eCampus page wherein the aforementioned course/block-specific content will be accessible. Both students and faculty have access to this resource, which will be the primary tool you use to access information in the Pre-Clerkship curriculum. We have a paperless curriculum, so you will NOT receive a printed copy of any materials. You are expected to access class information via your computer or tablet. You are encouraged to make direct annotations to the electronic documents to prepare you for a medical career that will be completely digital.

Instructions for using eCampus:

- 1) Go to <http://ecampus.tamu.edu>
- 2) Enter your NET ID username and password. If you have forgotten or need to claim your NET ID, you may do so by visiting <http://gateway.tamu.edu/>
- 3) Click on the course title that you wish to access
- 4) If you have problems or comments, please contact the Office of Academic Technology via their service request form at: <https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/academics/students/academic-technology/service-request.html> or by sending an e-mail to COM-OAT@tamhsc.edu
- 5) Please note that OAT staff will address your concerns as quickly as possible during normal working business hours. If you have a concern after hours or on the weekend, your issue may not be addressed until normal working business hours are resumed.

RECORDING OF CURRICULAR MATERIAL

Most lectures in the Pre-Clerkship curriculum will be recorded for your educational use. Other curricular events with educational-relevance will be recorded as the need arises, and if it is possible to record the event. It is the right of any faculty member to not allow their recorded lecture to be posted. **These recordings are provided as a review tool only and should not be considered a substitute for class attendance.** Moreover, there will generally be no posting of recordings for scheduled OPTIONAL class reviews and class activities designated as requiring MANDATORY attendance.

Under normal conditions, recorded materials are guaranteed to be provided to you within 3 business days after completion of the event and no sooner. Equipment failure, operator error or other unforeseen problems may cause the delay or loss of recordings of curricular events.

- The recordings will be available to you from a link posted on eCampus within the appropriate block/course.
- **All recordings posted on eCampus are downloadable. These recording may NOT be distributed outside the Texas A&M University College of Medicine or altered in any manner.**
- The recommended viewer is VLC (www.videolan.org/vlc/index.html)
- If viewing problems arise, please contact COM-OAT@medicine.tamhsc.edu

PRE-CLERKSHIP ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE POLICY

Regular attendance is expected of all students studying to be physicians. Students are encouraged to ask questions and to seek clarification of points covered by the instructor during an event. Students should prepare by reading and studying the assigned materials before an event. Advanced preparation, regular in-person attendance and interaction with instructors will aid students in their medical education.

The College of Medicine recognizes the need to achieve a balance between students' personal and academic lives. As a result, we have implemented an attendance and absence policy that reinforces learning, while providing students some degree of flexibility. Many events in the Pre-Clerkship curriculum are not mandatory, though attendance is always encouraged. Events identified as mandatory involve important learning activities, clinical exercises, group activities, or outside speakers. Absences or late arrivals to these events are detrimental to the learning environment for everyone.

The Office of Academic Affairs administers the attendance and absence policy. Requests for excused absences must be submitted through the [Pre-Clerkship Absence Request Form at https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/current/absence-forms/pre-clerkship-absence.html](https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/current/absence-forms/pre-clerkship-absence.html). Course directors, teaching faculty, and educational support staff do NOT handle attendance or absence related matters, nor can they adjust decisions. Students with recurring absences (excused or unexcused) or late arrivals to events will be required to meet with Academic Affairs.

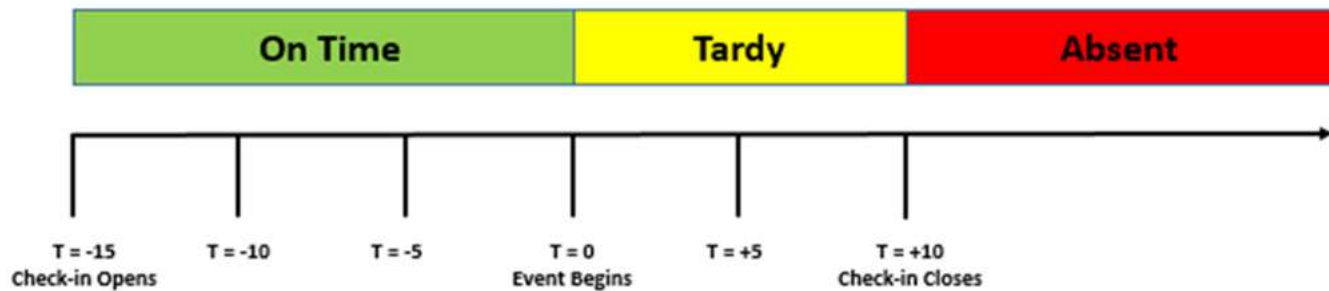
The following terms and definitions are used in this policy:

- **Non-mandatory Events** – Events not designated as “mandatory” in a course syllabus/schedule. Attendance is not recorded at non-mandatory events. In-person attendance at these events is strongly encouraged, but students may choose to view the recording (if available) later. Students are responsible for learning the content of all non-mandatory events as it may be testable material.
- **Mandatory Events** – Events designated as “mandatory” in the course syllabus/schedule that require in-person attendance. Attendance (including tardy information) is recorded at all mandatory events. Students are expected to arrive on time and attend mandatory events to their completion.
- **Absence** – Failure to attend a mandatory event, or checking-in to a mandatory event > 10 minutes after the event's scheduled start time

- Tardy – Arriving at a mandatory event after the scheduled start of the event (T=0) up to 10 minutes after the event’s scheduled start time (T=+10)
- Semester – For the purposes of the College of Medicine, Fall semester runs from July through December, and Spring semester runs from January through June. There are 3 semesters in the Pre-Clerkship medical curriculum.
- Graded Activity – Any activity designated in the grading component of a course’s syllabus.
- Excused Absence/Tardy – An absence/tardy in which students are allowed to make up missed course work without penalty.
- Unexcused Absence/Tardy – An absence/tardy in which students *are NOT allowed to make up missed course work and* may also encounter a grade penalty in that course.

Attendance Timeline

The following timeline is used in measuring attendance at all mandatory events except exams. Exam timelines and procedures are communicated to students before each exam.



Attendance Recordkeeping

It is the student’s individual responsibility to check-in to all mandatory events. **Checking-in for another student, or circumventing the check-in geolocation technology, is considered academic dishonesty and will subject the student(s) to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.**

Attendance (including tardy information) is recorded using one of two methods -- paper sign-in or electronic check-in. Most events utilize electronic check-in. Some events (exams, OSCEs, etc.) disallow electronic check-in or have additional security protocols which require paper sign-ins. Please remember to sign your name legibly for any events using a paper sign-in.

Students are required to document any missed check-in, or check-ins later than 10 minutes after a mandatory event’s scheduled start time (T+10), using the [Pre-Clerkship Absence Request Form](#) within 24 hours of the event. Academic Affairs will determine if the request is excused or unexcused and communicate the decision to the student and the course directors.

Excused versus Unexcused Absence/Tardy

An excused absence/tardy may be requested in the case of:

1. Physician-documented illness serious enough to prevent attendance¹
2. Participation in legal proceedings with documentation
3. Death or illness of a family member
4. Observance of a religious holy day
5. Presenting or serving as a College of Medicine delegate in a local, state, national medical/science conference
6. **Other situations may qualify as excused absences and will be evaluated by Academic Affairs on a case-by-case basis.**
7. Documentation may be required for repetitive absences even if excused

It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation to substantiate an excused absence within 3 days of returning to school. Confidential information may be redacted from this documentation.

A student with an excused absence may view recorded materials (when available) for the mandatory event missed and is permitted to make up any graded activity for the event without penalty. The Pre-Clerkship Team coordinator assigned to the course will schedule the make-up activity in collaboration with the student and the course directors.

Consequences of an Unexcused Absence/Tardy

- An **unexcused absence** will result in a **1-point deduction** from the student's individual final course grade per occurrence.
 - *If a graded activity was missed during the event, the student may contact the course director to determine if the graded activity can be made up for non-graded educational purposes. Any graded activities missed will incur a grade of zero (0).*
- An **unexcused tardy** will result in a **1/2-point deduction** from the student's individual course grade per occurrence. If a student arrives tardy but in time to take an assessment, the student may complete the scheduled assessment for a grade.
- A student with more than 2 unexcused absences/tardies will be ineligible for honors designation in that course.
- A student with 3 or more unexcused absences/tardies per semester will be referred to the Student Promotions Committee. The Student Promotions Committee, at their discretion, may provide additional consequences, including but not limited to, placement on the early concern list, placement of the student on probation and possibly may include dismissal.

Student Support/Intervention

- Students with 2 or more attendance concerns (whether unexcused absences or tardies) in a Pre-Clerkship semester must meet with Academic Affairs.
- Students with a chronic or recurring medical condition may contact Student Affairs to document their condition. This will preclude repetitive doctor's notes.

PoM Course Attendance Policies

The Practice of Medicine (PoM) courses have separate attendance policies. Please consult specific course syllabi for these attendance policies.

Weather Related Matters and Attendance

When dangerous weather or road conditions are forecast for your area, please stay tuned to your email and expect announcements from block/course and/or Pre-Clerkship leaders about impending plans and/or changes to the schedule. During the third semester of Pre-Clerkship training, students will be attending classes on multiple regional campuses. There will be times when inclement weather will strike one or multiple campuses. You, therefore, need to prepare to receive campus-specific information about impending plans and/or changes to the schedule because of weather or road conditions. It is highly advisable to utilize HSC Alert services – <https://tamhsc.edu/hscalert/>. You may also access the respective HSC-COM website for additional details.

PRE-CLERKSHIP EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

CLASS OF 2023 – AY 2019-20

***** All exam dates are subject to change*****

Exam Date	Day	Exam(s)
Semester 1		
August 22, 2019	Thursday	Foundations of Medicine I - Written & Practical Exam 1 Medical Gross Anatomy – Written & Practical Exam 1
September 6, 2019	Friday	Foundations of Medicine I - Written & Practical Exam 2 Medical Gross Anatomy – Written & Practical Exam 2
September 27, 2019	Friday	Foundations of Medicine I - Written & Practical Exam 3 Medical Gross Anatomy – Written & Practical Exam 3
October 21, 2019	Monday	Foundations of Medicine I - Written & Practical Exam 4 Medical Gross Anatomy – Written & Practical Exam 4 1
November 8, 2019	Friday	Medical Gross Anatomy – Written & Practical Exam 5
November 25, 2019	Monday	Foundations of Medicine II - Exam 1
December 6, 2019	Friday	Foundations of Medicine II - Exam 2
December 16, 2019	Monday	Foundations of Medicine II - Exam 3
December 9, 2019	Monday	Practice of Medicine 1 – Comprehensive Exam
December 19, 2019	Thursday	NBME
December 16-17, 2019	Monday-Tuesday	Practice of Medicine 1 OSCEs
January 3, 2020	Friday	Semester 1 Remediation Exams
Semester 2		
January 17, 2020	Friday	Neuroscience Exam 1
January 31, 2020	Friday	Neuroscience Exam 2
February 7, 2020	Friday	Neuroscience Exam 3
March 16, 2020	Monday	Neuroscience Remediation Exam
February 24, 2020	Monday	Introduction to Disease – Exam 1
March 6, 2020	Friday	Introduction to Disease – Exam 2
March 27, 2020	Friday	Introduction to Disease – Exam 3
April 10, 2020	Friday	Introduction to Disease – Exam 4
May 26, 2020	Tuesday	Introduction to Disease – Remediation Exam
TBD	TBD	Practice of Medicine 2 – Comprehensive Exam
June 23, 2020	Tuesday	Practice of Medicine 2 – Remediation Exam
April 23, 2020	Thursday	Cardiovascular - Exam 1
May 6, 2020	Wednesday	Cardiovascular - Exam 2
May 15, 2020	Friday	Cardiovascular - Exam 3
June 22, 2020	Monday	Cardiovascular – Remediation Exam
June 5, 2020	Friday	Respiratory - Exam 1
June 18, 2020	Thursday	Respiratory - Exam 2
June 24, 2020	Wednesday	Respiratory – Remediation Exam
June 19, 2020	Friday	NBME Exam – Comprehensive Basic Science Exam

EXAMINATION PROCEDURES & POLICIES

General Examination Information

Details regarding specific block and course examinations can be found within the respective block/course syllabi. Prior to each examination, you will receive a communication from Educational Support Staff (Office of Academic Affairs) to inform you of how many questions will be on the examination, and how much time you will have to complete the examination. **NOTE: You are required to bring your COM supplied computer, AC adaptor and Ethernet cable with you to the examination. You will be given specific instructions about online testing procedures at a later date.**

During the examination, you will be given a laminated sheet, which you can make notes and calculations for your own use. This sheet is not intended for student comments regarding examination questions; comments regarding examination questions may be provided using the comments window that accompanies each examination question on Exemplify. Additional handouts may be distributed for your use during examinations (e.g. NBME laboratory values). You are required to turn in all sheets of paper to the exam proctor at the conclusion of your examination.

Because of the integrated nature of each examination, it will not be possible for examination proctors to answer questions of interpretation that may arise during the block examinations.

After completion of the examination, you will receive a preliminary raw score for your written exams only. After faculty have completed a detailed examination question analysis and all students have taken the examination, you will receive a final examination score (both written and practical if a practical exam was given). Typically, examination results will be released on eCampus within three to five working days following an examination, but may take longer under certain circumstances.

Examination Absence Policy

Attendance at all scheduled examinations (or graded activities designated as major assessments) is MANDATORY.

Any student absent because of illness must have written justification from his or her physician. In other types of emergency situations, students must also provide documentation or some means of proof, as is reasonable. It is also required that every attempt be made to inform the appropriate faculty and staff and/or Office of Student Affairs about the reason for the absence prior to the examination. **If you are unable to take a major assessment due to illness or unforeseen circumstance, at your earliest convenience you must contact: 1) the pertinent block/course leaders/directors; AND 2) appropriate educational support staff (PCT staff).** These contacts are to inform the Pre-Clerkship leaders about the situation that will result in the student being absent from the examination. This is a separate step from submitting a request for an excused absence. All excused absence requests must be submitted through the Office of Academic Affairs in accordance with the Pre-Clerkship Absence Policy.

Absence from an examination/major assessment for other reasons must be excused by the Office of Academic Affairs at least 2 weeks BEFORE the scheduled examination. If such a request is made in less than 2 weeks, it has to be brought about by a very serious circumstance.

All make-up examinations, if approved, must be taken no later than one week after the student returns to class. The make-up examination format will be determined by the block/course leaders on a case-by-case basis.

Tardiness or Absence Policy for Examinations

Students are expected to **arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time** for an examination. Any student who arrives after the doors to the examination hall have been closed (10 minutes before the exam start time [T-10]) shall not be allowed to enter the examination hall. He/she must immediately submit an Absence Request Form. Depending upon the extent of tardiness, students may be allowed to immediately take the examination or, if tardiness has extended 31 minutes or more beyond the examination start time, be required to take the examination at a later time.

- Any student arriving for the examination after the doors to the examination hall have been closed and no more than 30 minutes late is deemed tardy. The student must submit an Absence Request Form and will be permitted to take the examination immediately. **If the student's absence request decision is unexcused, the maximum grade the student can earn will include a 20-point deduction from his/her achieved examination grade.** With regard to laboratory practical exams, students arriving late (T-9 minutes up to T+30 minutes) must immediately submit an Absence Request Form but will be permitted to take the examination at a later time determined by block leaders; if the absence request is deemed unexcused, the maximum grade the student can earn will include a 20-point deduction from his/her achieved practical examination grade. If there are subsequent components to the examination, the student will be allowed to take those as long as he/she arrives on time.
- Arrival beyond 30 minutes from the examination start time is deemed an absence. The student is required to immediately submit an Absence Request Form but the student will not be permitted to take the examination at that time. The student must take the examination at a later time determined by block/course leaders. **If the student's absence request decision is unexcused for arrival from T+31 minutes up to T+90 minutes, the maximum grade the student can earn will include a 30-point deduction from his/her achieved examination grade.** If there are subsequent components to the examination, the student will be allowed to take those as long as he/she arrives on time.
- If a student is more than 90 minutes late for an exam, they will receive a grade of zero on the examination. However, in order to not completely deny them the learning experience of seeing the content of the exam, they will be allowed to take the exam for no credit.

➤ A summary table of all of the above levels of tardiness/absence and point penalties is shown below

Arrival Time	Student Status	Action By Student	Consequence
On or before T-10 minutes	On Time	Take examination	Standard scoring applies
T-9 minutes up to T+30 minutes	Tardy	1. Fill out absence request form ASAP 2. Take examination ASAP	<u>Excused Tardy:</u> Standard scoring applies <u>Unexcused Tardy:</u> 20-point deduction from the student's achieved score
T+31 minutes up to T+90 minutes	Absent	1. Fill out absence request form ASAP 2. Take examination at a later time	<u>Excused Absence:</u> Standard scoring applies <u>Unexcused Absence:</u> 30-point deduction from the student's achieved score
T+91 minutes or beyond or non-attendance	Absent	1. Fill out absence request form ASAP 2. Take examination at a later time	<u>Excused Absence:</u> Standard scoring applies <u>Unexcused Absence:</u> Record examination score of zero

Note: T = time denoted on block/course schedule when the examination begins (i.e., 1:00 pm)

T-10 = time at which examination hall doors close (i.e., 12:50 pm)

T-15 = time expected for students to arrive in the examination hall (i.e., 12:45 pm)

Absence Policy for Practice of Medicine (PoM) & OSCEs

The PoM courses have Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs) which have a separate policy for exam tardiness. For emergency absence or lateness to OSCEs, please contact your Practice of Medicine coordinator. Please refer to the respective PoM course syllabi for details on OSCE policies.

Administration of Examinations

Pre-Clerkship blocks/courses will adhere to NBME policy for all in-house examinations, which includes an examination check-in procedure. Check-in tables will be located outside the lecture halls and will be open 30 minutes prior to the scheduled examination start time. Students MUST be in line 15 minutes prior to the examination start time. At check-in, students are required to present a photo I.D. and sign-in on the roster. Staff will check each student's laptop and accessories to ensure only authorized items are brought into the examination hall, which include:

- Laptop, AC Power Adaptor and Ethernet Cable
- Mouse, Mouse Pad or ear plugs (headphones are NOT allowed)

With the exception of NOT escorting students to the bathroom, all other NBME rules relating to clothing, food, drinks including water, backpacks, etc. will be strictly enforced. **Students are not allowed to have the following in the examination room: backpacks, notes, coats, hats, hooded clothing, food or beverage (including water) or portable electronic devices, including cell phones. Please arrange to leave these items in your car or in your lockers during examinations.** Faculty and staff proctors will assure consistent adherence to these policies. Further details about NBME rules can be found at: <http://www.nbme.org/Schools/Subject-Exams/security.html>

All written examinations will be administered online using Exemplify computer-based testing software. Each student is responsible to have his or her own laptop/tablet, AC adaptor and Ethernet cable (and Ethernet-USB or Thunderbolt adaptor, if needed) for all examinations.

During the examination, students will not be allowed to ask questions regarding the content of examination items. Any concerns regarding the clarity of examination question(s) or comments about the examination in general should be brought to the attention of the block/course leaders using the comment window on Exemplify. The intent of this comment window is to invite constructive feedback about questions which you think are ambiguously worded, or have more than one best answer, based upon information presented by various instructors. These comments will be reviewed by faculty and considered in examination question analysis.

Upon completion of the examination, students should quietly assemble their belongings and bring their laminated sheet and NBME lab value sheets to the designated area in the examination room. Then, students should quietly vacate the testing area (including the entire lower level of HPEB), so as to respect fellow students who may still be taking the examination.

Student Feedback of Examination Performance

For the first two Foundation blocks/courses (FOM 1 and MGA), computer-based written and practical examination reviews will occur in the lecture halls. Review of practical examinations, if applicable, will be conducted first and administered via a PowerPoint presentation. Students may only bring their laptop - THIS MUST BE THE COMPUTER YOU TOOK THE EXAM ON, power cord, score reports as well as your Strengths & Opportunities report for the Written & Practical. **No writing utensils or backpacks are permitted within the examination hall during the examination review.** Cell phones are not permitted during the examination review. Any use of cell phones (e.g., pictures, recording, texts/messages) will be considered a breach of professionalism and disciplinary action will follow.

Issues related to a specific question should be directed to the faculty lecturer or discipline leader after the review session; please do not direct questions to exam review faculty proctors. Students are permitted to talk quietly with nearby peers to discuss questions.

❖ There are only 2 opportunities to leave the lecture hall during the review:

1) **Students may leave the room following the practical examination review; prior to release of the written examination password;**

2) **Once the written examination password is displayed, you may NOT leave the room until verification is received that you have successfully uploaded your downloaded examination.**

➤ **If you downloaded a written examination, irrespective of whether you view the examination or not, it must be uploaded prior to your departure from the lecture hall.**

Backup computers will not be provided during the examination review session. The student review must be taken on the computer you took the exam on.

Review of Written Examinations:

Administered via Exemplify and the duration will be 30 minutes. The examination review password will be briefly revealed at the beginning of the review. At the conclusion of the review, students must submit a “blank” exam to clear the student’s computer. When you are finished reviewing your exam, you must show a proctor the successful upload of the blank exam before you leave the room.

Review of FOM I Practical Examinations:

Each PowerPoint slide with questions will be projected for ~20 seconds and no slide will be revisited. Practical examination answers will be highlighted on the PowerPoint slides. There are NO reviews of Gross Anatomy Laboratory Practical examinations.

For all other courses, the faculty in general ascribe to a two-tiered assessment system: On one level, students are given low-stakes quizzes and self-assessments. These are designed to be a formative type of assessment, and help build a student’s knowledge base. In general, students receive feedback about the quiz questions and answers, which helps form a deep understanding of key concepts. On the other level, students are given high-stakes examinations and major assessments. These are designed to test the student’s knowledge base and inform faculty of student achievement of learning objectives. For these summative assessments, students do not receive feedback about the exact question and answer. Rather, each student receive a detailed Strengths and Opportunities report about their individual exam. These cover a variety of parameters, so as to guide self-appraisal, future learning, and preparation for standardized national assessments. Students will thus be made aware of their own gaps and strengths in areas such as discipline, competency- based learning objectives, and USMLE content, among others.

Detailed analysis of item statistics by block/course leaders/directors is always performed on each high-stakes examination question, as is review of student-generated comments from the examination itself. Issues related to a specific question or concept should be directed to the block/course leader, faculty lecturer or discipline leader. Inquiries should be initiated via email with further discussion possible at the discretion of the faculty member.

GRADING POLICIES

Successful passing of the Pre-Clerkship component of the medical school curriculum and advancement to the Clerkship curriculum requires that the student pass ALL blocks and courses of instruction. The final block/course grade is composed of several individual components that contribute to the grade, based on their weighting in the grading scheme developed by block/course leaders/directors. Therefore, the percentage that each component contributes to a final block/course grade will vary from block-to-block. At the beginning of each block/course, the course directors will discuss the grading scheme and graded activities for their block/course so students are aware of their responsibilities. A sample grading scheme for a single block/course is shown below:

<u>Block Component</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Block Grade</u>
Exam 1 (<i>major assessment</i>)	25%
Exam 2 (<i>major assessment</i>)	30%
Exam 3 (<i>major assessment</i>)	35%
Other minor assessments (quizzes, TBL)	10%

Block/Course Grades

Each final block or course grade is an independent grade that will be submitted to the Office of the Registrar and will appear on your academic transcript as a Pass (100-70) or Fail (69 or below). **Honors designation will be awarded to any student who satisfies two achievements for the block/course. First, the student must achieve a minimum, non-rounded score of 90.00% or greater. Second, the final block/course grade must be in the top 15% of the grades achieved by the full class. The designation of 15% will be calculated separately for the Traditional and the EnMed class cohorts.** The determination of the honors cut-off for each course will be made by calculating final block/course grade rounded to two decimal places. All students who receive a non-rounded score of 90.00% or greater **and** a score equal to or greater than the score achieved by the top 15% students in the class will be awarded honors designation. The number of students determined to represent the top 15% of the class will be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number.

In addition to achievement of a final numerical grade eligible for honors distinction, students must satisfy the following criteria in that block or course:

- **No documented professionalism infractions in the block/course**
 - **No more than two unexcused absences/tardies from any mandatory class sessions**
 - **Timely completion of all required assignments**
- *For example:* 15% of a class consisting of 204 students calculates to 30.60, which would be rounded to 31 students. The final course grade rounded to two decimal places achieved by the student ranked number 31 represents the lower limit of the score necessary to achieve honors in the block/course. In the event that more than one student achieves this lower limit score rounded to two decimal places, all students achieving that score will be awarded honors designation.

Passing a block/course in the Pre-Clerkship curriculum requires that the student have BOTH:

- 1. an overall passing grade, defined as a numerical grade equal to or greater than 70, for the block/course based on the calculation from the block/course grading scheme; and**
- 2. a cumulative weighted average passing grade for all major assessments within the block/course.**

Each individual block/course grading scheme will define what constitutes “major assessments.” The major assessments will make up a minimum of 85% of the block/course grade. Successful block/course remediation will be required if a student fails to meet both or either of the two passing criteria listed above for the block/course. All blocks/courses in the Pre-Clerkship curriculum can be remediated.

It is College of Medicine policy that final block or course grades including the weighted exam averages will be rounded up to the next highest number if the value is 0.50 or higher. For example, a grade of 79.50 will be rounded up to an 80 whereas a 79.49 will be rounded down to a 79. The calculation of all assessment grades prior to the final grade will be rounded to two decimal points.

Quizzes

A percentage of each block/course grade will be derived from scheduled and unscheduled quizzes. Unscheduled quizzes consist of questions from lectures (all disciplines). Scheduled quizzes may be administered during on-line modules, Team Based Learning (TBL) assessments, other sessions, clinico-pathologic correlations (CPCs) and laboratories (Histology, Gross Anatomy, Neuroscience). The number of questions for each quiz varies and the total number of quiz questions within each block/course is not pre-determined. Please note that unscheduled (pop) quizzes will be regarded in the same manner as the scheduled quizzes. Please refer to specific block/course syllabi for specific quiz grade calculations.

NBME Customized Comprehensive Exam

At the end of the Semester 1, students will be given a National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Customized Comprehensive Exam. This NBME exam includes questions in all science disciplines integrated from FOM I, FOM II and Medical Gross Anatomy. These questions are chosen from the NBME question bank with questions from previous versions of the United States Medical Licensure Exam (USMLE) Step 1, as well as individual NBME Subject exams in these science disciplines. The student’s score on this examination does not contribute towards any part of the student’s FOM I, FOM II or Medical Gross Anatomy final grade but requires MANDATORY attendance.

NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exams

The NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE) is an exam that covers all content taught in the Basic Sciences and is good preparation for taking United States Medical Licensure Exam (USMLE) 1. This exam will be given at the end of the Semester 2 in June and again at the very end of the Pre-Clerkship curriculum in December of Semester 3 of Year 2. Scores on all of these NBME examinations, the Customized and CBSE, do not contribute towards any part of the student’s block/course grades or promotion to the Clerkship curriculum but require MANDATORY attendance. However, performance on the CBSE will likely impact how a student is counseled with regards to USMLE Step 1 preparation and testing.

FAILURES & REMEDIATION POLICIES

If a student fails even one block/course in the Pre-Clerkship curriculum, independent of block/course remediation status, he/she will be recommended for probation to the Student Promotions Committee (SPC).

All block/course remediation examinations will be faculty-generated comprehensive examinations based on the block/course content. The Practice of Medicine (PoM) courses may have separate remediation policies; please consult their respective syllabi for further details. The remediation examination date for each block/course will be announced at the orientation of each block/course. Generally, remediation examinations will take place following each major holiday (e.g., Thanksgiving, New Year or Spring Break).

Students will have access to all recorded lectures and study materials in preparation for remediation examinations. It is the responsibility of the student to pursue focused self-study of examination materials. The student may contact the appropriate block/course leaders/directors or block/course faculty to clarify issues at a time convenient for both parties. It is highly recommended that students meet with the Office of Academic Support Services to setup a mentored remediation plan. Block/course lectures and/or structured sessions will NOT be reduplicated for an individual student as part of the remediation process. Remediation examinations will be administered through the Office of Academic Affairs.

The student has one opportunity to take the remediation examination. If a student fails to pass this remediation examination, his/her name will be forwarded to the SPC for discussion of a possible additional remediation plan, disciplinary action or dismissal. Each recommendation will be made based on the student's performance in all Pre-Clerkship blocks/courses and will be tailored to address that performance. The SPC will consider each recommendation on a case-by-case basis.

All students who fail a block/course will be allowed to take the block/course remediation examination. If the SPC decision requires a student to repeat all Foundations or Organ Systems blocks/courses before the remediation examination has taken place, the student is still allowed to take the remediation examination in order to improve his/her GPA by obtaining an F/P for a block/course grade instead of just an F.

Students need to be aware of the fact that remediation of a failed block/course does not constitute retaking the block/course. **Successful remediation will not erase the F grade in the block/course.** The block/course grade on the student's transcript will be recorded as an F/P. Remediation is an opportunity for a student to demonstrate competence in the failed block/course subject matter to a level that is acceptable to the block/course leadership. The numerical number sent to Student Affairs for GPA calculation will be one (1) grade point per credit hour. Please consult the Student Handbook for further details about grade reporting. **For purposes of student probation or advancement, remediating a failed block does not change the fact that it was failed.**

Block/course leaders/directors will determine if any other separate components (e.g., professional behavior, etc.) of their block/course, other than major assessments, must be passed in order to successfully remediate the failed block/course. Block/course leaders, in concert with specific instructors, will determine how these components in their blocks or courses will be remediated.

All Pre-Clerkship blocks/courses must be successfully passed or remediated in order to advance to the Clerkship Curriculum.

PROFESSIONALISM

The development and maintenance of a professional attitude is an ongoing responsibility of each student. Professional behavior is derived not from rules or regulations but from a personal commitment to act in a way which serves the best interests of all, e.g. the clients or patients served, colleagues, the profession, society, as well as one's own family and self. Professional behavior is expected of all students when they are representing the Texas A&M College of Medicine.

Professionalism is a critical and mandatory component that will be addressed in every component of the College of Medicine curriculum. At this stage of your career, the faculty believes that students need to be introduced to self and peer evaluation processes and want to assist students in becoming aware of their professional attitudes and behaviors. This process is neither a punitive nor a vindictive process, and should not be viewed or treated as such. Only through honest self and peer assessments are personal weaknesses or deficits identified, and positive behavior modification steps initiated. This tool is designed to be used as a constructive and proactive tool for identifying early behaviors that need modification and corrective action.

The Aggie Core Values:

- Excellence: An unwavering desire and commitment to greatness
- Integrity: Doing the right things regardless of the circumstances or personal consequences
- Leadership: Inspiring others to follow through the strength of one's character
- Loyalty: Dedication to our nation, our state, our university, our families and those institutions and values which we individually hold dearest
- Respect: Earned through the consistency of character
- Selfless Service: Giving of one's self for the greater good, without regard to personal gain or recognition

Examples of Professional Behavior Include:

- Demonstrates a positive attitude toward learning (participates, shows enthusiasm, uses constructive criticism to improve, strives for excellence)
- Demonstrates initiative and self-motivation by showing up prepared to learn; willingness to contribute to the learning of others
- Reliability – can be counted on to be punctual, to complete assignments
- Accountability – willingness to accept responsibility; knows his/her limitations; willingness to seek help
- Contacts peers and appropriate personnel in a timely fashion when issues arise that affect student's attendance (e.g., accident, illness)

Examples of Unprofessional Behavior Include:

- Rude behavior to faculty, staff, and classmates
- Conducts self at the bare minimum that reflects mediocrity and a lack of awareness towards 'excellence is the goal'
- Demonstrates passivity or lack of interest in learning
- Demonstrates a negative attitude (e.g., frequent complaining, inciting others to complain)
- Failing to show up for required student activities and/or agreed-upon group sessions without excuse
- Unpunctual or delayed response to faculty/staff-initiated correspondence or requests

A complete description of Professionalism for Medical Students can be found in the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine Student Handbook produced by the Office of Student Affairs: <https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/student-affairs/pdf/handbook.pdf>

CURRICULUM & FACULTY EVALUATION

The [Office of Evaluation and Assessment \(OEA\)](#) is responsible for evaluating all curriculum components and their individual blocks and courses. Administration of the block/course evaluations will be through the [Blue system](#). Student evaluations of all blocks, courses and instructors' teaching in the medical school curriculum are an important means for the OME to monitor and obtain useful information for improving the medical education program. The COM truly values students' questionnaire ratings and comments about their educational experiences; student feedback is routinely included in course and teaching reviews.

Completion of block and course evaluations is a mandatory exercise for all students. In addition, each instructor will be evaluated by a random student sample including 1/3 of the class during each block/course. You will be notified which instructors you are required to evaluate. If you do not receive a mandatory evaluation for an instructor, and would like to provide feedback, please access and complete the Virtual Feedback Form (see below). All student responses are collected confidentially; the OEA can identify students in order to monitor evaluation completion. However, all student responses provided to course directors or teaching faculty will remain anonymous. **Students are required to complete online evaluations of each block/course/instructor as assigned by the provided deadline. Noncompliance will be referred to the Office of Academic Affairs.**

You will receive instructions on how to access and complete your online curriculum evaluations during orientation and again after you have completed the first Foundations block.

In addition to completing ratings as part of the evaluation process, you will have an opportunity to comment on the strengths and weaknesses of each block/course. Student comments need to be **constructive and professional in nature** to assure they will be taken seriously and lead to improvement. The use of confrontational, derisive or sarcastic language is not considered constructive or professional and only diminishes the credibility of your evaluation. With this understanding, all ratings and comments are welcome. Constructive comments about individual teachers are also welcome. Students are encouraged to offer supporting comments that express a positive learning experience in order to make the curriculum stronger.

An optional [Virtual Feedback Form](#) is available for all students throughout the year. All comments are anonymous and will be collected periodically by the Office of Evaluation and Assessment and communicated to the appropriate parties. This form does not replace your Block/Course or Faculty evaluation. If you have immediate concerns, please contact your block/course directors. If you have any questions please email the Office of Evaluation and Assessment: COM-OEA@tamhsc.edu.

AUDITING POLICIES

A Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine student who is on a leave of absence may regularly attend non-mandatory classes as an observer after securing permission from the Office of Academic Affairs in which the course is offered. The student does not have the privilege to participate in mandatory sessions, including laboratory, small groups and examinations, nor will they be allowed to take other assessments, such as quizzes and the like.

The PoM courses have separate auditing requirements. After securing permission from the Office of Academic Affairs, the student may attend the classes in PoM didactic lectures only as an observer. The auditing student does not have the privilege to participate in Preceptorship activities. In addition, the student does not have the privilege to participate in small group sessions, White Coat shadowing experiences, simulation center activities or the service-learning project, quiz, quiz review and examinations for PoM.

MEDICAL SCIENCES LIBRARY RESOURCES

There are several options available to access required and recommended textbooks and other useful reference materials through Texas A&M University's Medical Sciences Library (MSL). eBook collections, including Clinical Key and Access Medicine databases, provide ebooks and learning reference material. For example, two required textbooks: *Netter's Atlas of Human Anatomy* and *Robbins & Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease* (Big Robbins) are available through Clinical Key; the two recommended pharmacology textbooks are available through the Access Medicine database. In addition, Evidence-Based Medicine resources, *Bates' Visual Guide to Physical Examinations* and *First Aid Step Prep* books, just to name a few, are also available as electronic resources. Many other resources are available in print format, and may be checked out from the MSL at all COM campus locations. Availability of both print and electronic resources may be checked in the MSL's catalog at: <https://chiron.tamu.edu/vwebv/searchBasic>

To access these electronic learning resources:

1. Go to: <http://guides.library.tamu.edu/medicine>
2. Click on the link to the textbook, database or resource
3. The Shibboleth authentication window will open. **NetID will already be selected**
4. Enter your **NetID** login name and password
5. A new window will open with the search results

Note that there are many other excellent texts and resources at the MSL's website available to you for reference materials. Some of the case studies are particularly interesting and useful. We encourage you to use them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Pre-Clerkship leadership would like to reference the following policies outlined in the College of Medicine [Student Handbook](#).

- Attendance
 - Professionalism
 - Dress Code
 - Honor Code Policy
 - Early Concern Policy
 - Student Code of Conduct
- Mistreatment Policy (Standards of Conduct in the Teacher-Learner Relationship). Students can also find this policy and reporting mechanisms online at: <https://medicine.tamhsc.edu/current/student-mistreatment.html>
- A student may also report mistreatment via phone by calling 1-855-397-9835.

Additionally, there will be specific instructions regarding mandatory professional dress requirements in the presence of patients (either in the classroom, on a field trip or in preceptorship/clinic settings). Be aware that regional campuses may have modifications to dress code policies. When visiting regional campuses, be sure to obtain information on campus-specific expectations of dress code.

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Angela Hairrell, Ph.D. | Director of Academic Support Services

Bryan: HPEB 1040 | ph: 979.436.0236 | mobile: 979.219.1582 | hairrell@medicine.tamhsc.edu

Dr. Hairrell is primarily responsible for students in BCS.

Chris Diem '05, M.Ed. | Associate Director for Academic Support Services

Temple: MEC 409 | ph: 254.724.8814 | diem@medicine.tamhsc.edu

Mr. Diem is primarily responsible for students in Temple, Dallas and Round Rock.

Erica Chance, Ed.D | Assistant Director for Academic Support Services

Houston: WP 608 | ph: 713.677.7670 | chance@medicine.tamhsc.edu

Dr. Chance is primarily responsible for students in Houston.

For appointments: <https://medicine-tamuhsc-insight.symplicity.com>

- ❖ Please be sure to acknowledge that you have read, understand and agree to abide by the policies and procedures stated in the Pre-Clerkship Student Manual by signing, with your UIN, the electronic verification form available online:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

Students MUST use link below to complete acknowledgement by the end of the Orientation Week

https://tamuhsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dnllu7ZhUujXo1