AY2020-21 Phase 3 and 4 Changes to Core and Elective Coursework for MS2021 and MS2022 Students

Background and Rationale
Given the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the clinical curriculum, the following analysis was undertaken to inform recommendations for the MS2021 and MS2022 cohorts with Phase 3 required clerkships occurring between March 2, 2020 and May 31, 2021. The team participating in the analysis and recommendation generation included the core required course directors and coordinators, student affairs representatives, education quality improvement team members, clinical curriculum administrative team members, and student representatives.

Students Impacted
MS2021 and MS2022 cohorts are both impacted by the COVID-19 clinical curriculum disruption.

Data Reviewed and Resources Consulted
AAMC and LCME recommendations were consulted for potential guidance. The AAMC Curriculum Inventory Report provided normative data about clerkship lengths.

Recommendations*

MS2021 Cohort

Core Coursework
MS 2021 students with graduation dates anticipated by May 2021:

- Must complete partially complete clerkships (i.e. six-week clerkships with two weeks of clinical experience remaining) prior to any other in person required or elective coursework.
- Remain responsible for successful completion of the seven Phase 3 Core Required Clerkships prior to graduation.
- May complete remaining Phase 3 Core Required Clerkships at any time prior to graduation, though they are strongly urged to seek consultative guidance from Academic Success, Student Affairs Advisors, Residency Advisors, and CMC Coaches about the most appropriate scheduling to achieve personal and professional success in the MD program and residency match. The following pre-requisites for Phase 4 courses will remain in effect:
• Corresponding clerkships must be completed prior to Core Sub-Internships (e.g. IM clerkship before IM Core Sub-I, Surgery clerkship before any surgical specialty Core Sub-I, etc.
• IM Clerkship completed prior to Advanced IM.
• Will be required to complete the Phase 3 Clinical Skills Assessment (aka EOY3 OSCE) during its scheduled offering. Due to the likelihood that this exam will be given by remote mechanisms and due to most students not having begun their final clerkships, this assessment will remain a must complete graduation requirement but will be considered formative only without a requirement to meet specified performance thresholds. Students with concerning low-lying performance will be offered additional counsel, training, and resources.
• May take USMLE Step 2 CK and/or CS at any time prior to previously established established deadlines; students planning to sit for these exams prior to clerkship completion should consult with the Student Affairs team.

ELECTIVE COURSEWORK
The elective credit graduation requirement for MS2021 students with May 2021 graduation dates will be decreased from 24 credits (12 of which were required to be clinical) to 16 credits in any combination of clinical or non-clinical credits.

*These recommendations do not supersede prior promotions committee decisions for individual students.

MS2022 COHORT

CORE COURSEWORK
MS 2022 students with graduation dates anticipated by May 2022 remain responsible for successful completion of the seven Phase 3 Core Required Clerkships prior to graduation. These seven clerkships must be completed prior to advancing to the Phase 4 curriculum.

Due to impact of COVID-19 on important in-person clinical skills development activities during CMC 4 and due to the significant time elapsed since last in-person clinical activities, the Transition to Clerkships program will be expanded from its 3-day format to a 10-day format with start date remaining TBD.

In anticipation of a delayed entry into the Phase 3 Curriculum, the clerkship lengths for AY2020-21 only will be altered to:

• Internal Medicine and General Surgery (6 weeks each)
• Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology (4 weeks each)
• Neurology (unchanged at 4 weeks)
Any student, for whatever reason, who must delay completion of a core required clerkship beyond AY2020-21 will be responsible for completing that clerkship according to its standard in the year ultimately completed.

**ELECTIVE COURSEWORK**

The elective credit graduation requirement for MS2022 students with May 2022 graduation dates will remain at 24 credits (12 of which are required to be clinical).

*These recommendations do not supersede prior promotions committee decisions for individual students.*