

Clinical Rotation Learning Outcomes

SURGERY



GENERAL GUIDELINES

Under the guidance of experienced providers, clinical rotations provide a PA student with opportunities to actively participate in direct patient care in the role of a developing practitioner. When appropriate, students are expected to demonstrate clinical skills and take part in relevant procedures with minimal reliance on observational experiences.

Orientation

Preceptors are encouraged to provide a brief orientation prior to or within the first few days of the rotation, including expectations, workflow, documentation requirements, and opportunities for student involvement. Students should be invited to share a few personal goals and/or questions at the start of the experience to help clarify expectations and promote a productive learning environment.

Mid-Rotation Evaluation (Formative, Ungraded)

Preceptors are encouraged to complete a brief mid-rotation evaluation that is sent to your email to provide formative feedback on student performance. This evaluation is not graded and is intended to identify areas for growth and allow the program and preceptor to address issues proactively, provide coaching, and support the student's development.

Preceptors are encouraged to provide timely, direct feedback throughout the rotation to allow students the opportunity to adjust, improve, and further develop their clinical skills.

End-of-Rotation Evaluation (Summative)

At the conclusion of each rotation, preceptors are asked to complete an end-of-rotation evaluation that is sent to your email of the student. This evaluation helps the program assess student progress, attainment of learning outcomes and objectives, and readiness for increasing clinical responsibility.

The following outcomes align with the end-of-rotation evaluation.

Preceptors are encouraged to provide honest, constructive, and specific feedback to support student growth and professional development. While students receive a grade based in part on this evaluation, constructive and coachable feedback does not typically negatively impact a student's overall grade.

SURGICAL EXPERIENCES

Outcome 1: Preoperative Care

Demonstrate ability to perform a preoperative evaluation by (a) obtaining a focused history and physical exam, (b) identifying surgical risk factors, (c) interpreting relevant laboratory and diagnostic data, and (d) formulating an evidence-based preoperative management plan, including patient education and optimization strategies, with minimal supervision.

Outcome 2: Postoperative Care

Demonstrate ability to assess postoperative patients by (a) performing focused evaluations, (b) monitoring for common complications, (c) interpreting clinical data, and (d) implementing appropriate management plans—including pain control, wound care, and discharge planning—while effectively communicating with the healthcare team and patients under appropriate supervision.

Outcome 3: Intraoperative Procedures

Demonstrate appropriate surgical skills, including (a) aseptic technique, (b) scrubbing, (c) gowning and gloving, (d) operating room etiquette, (e) surgical assisting, and (f) basic suturing and closure. Student experiences should include opportunities to observe and participate in open and laparoscopic surgeries.

PATIENT CARE

Outcome 1: History and Physical Exam

Obtain a comprehensive and focused patient history and perform a complete and system-specific physical examination within an appropriate amount of time.

Outcome 2: Patient Populations

Develop competency in delivering patient-centered care across the lifespan by evaluating, diagnosing, and managing patients presenting with a surgical etiology, including acute, chronic, emergent, and preventive conditions.

Outcome 3: Upper-Level Involvement in Patient Care

Demonstrate upper-level involvement in at least 30% of patient encounters, defined as follows:

- a. ***HxPE, Significant A&P Attempt:*** The student performs a history and physical examination relevant to the surgical encounter and formulates an initial assessment and

plan but requires guidance or correction by the preceptor for completeness, surgical relevance, or accuracy.

- b. **HxPE, Extensive & Accurate A&P:** The student performs a thorough and relevant history and physical examination and independently formulates an accurate assessment and plan with little or no guidance from the preceptor.
- c. **Active Surgical Participation:** In the operative setting, assisting with procedures (e.g., first assist tasks where permitted, suturing, wound closure, instrument handling, and other appropriate intraoperative responsibilities) with minimal prompting.

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

Outcome 1: Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies

Determine the appropriate use of diagnostic and laboratory studies and interpret and explain results.

Outcome 2: Differential Diagnosis

Synthesize findings from patient history, physical exam findings, and diagnostic data to develop a broad differential diagnosis and present the case clearly and concisely to their preceptor.

Outcome 3: Most Likely Diagnosis

Apply clinical reasoning and medical knowledge to analyze patient history, physical exam findings, and diagnostic data to formulate and justify an evidence-based most likely diagnosis.

Outcome 4: Clinical Interventions

Determine appropriate evidence-based clinical interventions including treatment, pharmacotherapy, patient education, follow-up, consultation, and referrals as appropriate.

COMMUNICATION

Outcome 1: Patient Education

Effectively provide patient-centered education by clearly discussing informed consent, the risks and benefits of surgery, potential operative complications and expected outcomes, and postoperative care expectations to support informed decision-making.

Outcome 2: Interpersonal and Interprofessional Communication

Demonstrate effective interpersonal and interprofessional communication within the clinical setting by building rapport with patients, actively listening, navigating sensitive conversations,

and collaborating respectfully with members of the healthcare team to support high-quality patient care.

Outcome 3: Oral Presentation

Deliver clear, organized, and concise oral presentations of patient cases, including pertinent history, physical exam findings, assessment, and plan, while responding appropriately to questions and feedback.

Outcomes 4: Surgical Case Documentation

Document a surgical care case note based on a real patient encounter during the rotation, incorporating patient-specific risk factors, age-appropriate screening recommendations, health maintenance needs, and evidence-based care guidelines. This assignment will be submitted to the PA program.