

**UPSOM Curriculum Committee
Minutes of the 496th Meeting
April 15, 2024**

Jason Rosenstock, MD, Chair
Bill Yates, PhD, Vice-Chair

Business of the Curriculum Committee on April 15, 2024

Motion	Vote Tally	Approved?
Approval of Meeting Minutes from 3/18 & 4/01	10 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of Specialty Care Clerkship Site Changes	12 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of 2-week Elective Grading Scheme: Pass/Fail	11 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of Preclerkship Expansion from 2 weeks to 4 weeks in 2025	11 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of the Psychiatry Clerkship Report	10 Yes, 0 No	YES
Approval of the Foundations Segment Report	9 Yes, 0 No	YES

Voting Members Present: A. Aburachis, MS4; A. McCormick, MD, FAAP; B. Yates, PhD; B. Spataro, MD, MS; B. O'Donnell, MD; G. Null, MA; H. Hohmann, MD; J. Waxman, MD, PhD; J. Rosenstock, MD; M. Schmidt, PhD; M. Rahman, MS1; M. McDowell, MD; M. Sergent, MPH, MSL; N. Agarwal, MD; O. Torres, MD, MS; P. Drain, PhD; R. Schuchert, MD; S. Herrle, MD, S; S. Truschel, PhD; V. Agarwal, MD

Ex-Officio Members Present: E. Ufomata, MD, MS; L. Borghesi, PhD

Invited Colleagues and Guests: A. Brown, MD; A. Strong; B. McIvor, MD, FASA; B. McCague, MD; C. Schott, MD, MS, RDMS, FACEP; D. Brooks, MD; E. Lovallo, MD; E. Reis, MD; K. Scott, MA; K. Maietta, MPPM; M. Elnicki, MD; R. Powers, PhD; R. Peterson, MD

All members and guests remotely participated.

Dr. Rosenstock opened the meeting at 4:00PM.

Curriculum Committee members voted to APPROVE meeting minutes from 3/18 and 4/01.

Standing Subcommittees

CCES: CCES continues to meet weekly. Three ROMS proposals were discussed, approved and/or given feedback over the past two weeks. Additionally, because of a new partnership with Carlow University, the Dean sent out information regarding increased childcare for Pitt faculty and staff. Lastly, there is a new Chair of Medicine, Dr. Anne Marie Lennon, who has been invited to a future Curriculum Committee meeting to introduce herself and discuss education in the department.

CCQI: There was an LCME DCI kickoff meeting last week. They have formed a group to begin filling in the DCI over the next two months, aiming to identify risks, highlight important aspects, and address barriers before the self-study. This approach allows them to review the DCI twice before the self-study begins. The site visit will likely be in April 2027.

Curricular Design Subcommittee: Dr. Lisa Borghesi discussed the logistical challenges in implementing the curriculum, particularly regarding the Wednesday workshops. Due to the necessity of completing certain courses by March 1st for their DSRP, there has been a squeeze on other components, causing some discontinuity in the curriculum. Dr. Borghesi presented three questions for consideration: addressing logistical barriers, creating a cohesive theme for various courses and programs, and restructuring Wednesdays to accommodate the curriculum more effectively. Dr. Borghesi asked for ideas and suggestions which her subcommittee will review and act on.

Social Medicine: No updates.

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Specialty Care Clerkship: Site
Changes

For AY25, Dr. Stephanie Gonzalez has requested shifting site assignments for students. In the past, students completed one week each of ophthalmology, otolaryngology, oral health (dental medicine), and adult emergency medicine. Student feedback has strongly encouraged the clerkship to increase adult EM to two weeks and eliminate the oral health week, which would also help develop the 3RC Acute Care Clerkship experience down the road. Dr. Gonzalez has identified new community sites at St. Margaret and the VA that will accommodate this expansion. Discussions with students and dental faculty have been positive, with plans to explore alternative ways to integrate oral health education. Overall, the goal is to improve the clerkship while laying the groundwork for future growth in dental education.

The Special Care Clerkship site change request was **APPROVED**.

Preclerkship Course: Expansion for
2025

In February 2025, the Preclerkship Course was planning to increase from the current one week to two weeks (approved previously). However, to align clinical rotation schedules between CO26 and CO27 students, CO27 students would in February 2025 need to "wait" two weeks before starting their first rotation. Course Director, Dr. Joseph Suyama, has proposed to expand the course from two to four weeks during that transition time, to use those "extra" two weeks for an expanded preclerkship experience. The expansion would include clinical skill development, adjusting to clinical learning environments, work on communication, and some thread work—with content determined in part by perceived gaps in readiness unique to the transition from legacy to 3RC. This would be a one-time expansion; in 2026 the Preclerkship Course would return to its usual two weeks.

The Preclerkship Course expansion for 2025 proposal was **APPROVED**.

Two-Week Electives: Pass-Fail
Grading

Dr. Rosenstock discussed the approval process for two-week electives through the MS4 Subcommittee, aiming to launch them by February 2025. These electives provide options for students to explore content areas briefly before diving deeper into a four-week elective. Students will be able to select two-week electives as a "taste" of a field, distinguishing from a full four-week depth experience. Electives are usually graded in a tiered fashion, but to support student exploration, faculty and students have suggested making all two-week electives pass/fail. This includes the two-week Anesthesiology clerkship (students more interested in anesthesiology as a career would be advised to take the four-week version of the clerkship, which would be tiered grading).

A Pass/Fail grading system for two-week electives was **APPROVED**.

Psychiatry Clerkship Report

Dr. Ryan Peterson, clerkship director, presented an annual update on the four-week experience. Students work primarily at inpatient sites at Western Psychiatric, or at consultation sites at other hospitals. The clerkship has expanded its capacity from 14 to 18 to accommodate the large Class of 2026. Students learn psychiatric assessment and basic management strategies, assessed via clinical global ratings (50%), a Shelf exam (30%), and an MSE video (15%) in addition to professionalism. 61% of students receive Honors, 31% High Pass, with a Shelf mean of 83 (around national average). 99% of students feel like they are treated with respect; 96% are satisfied with the overall quality of the

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clerkship and 96% believe it's well organized. He discussed updates to educational components, including neuroscience and psychotherapy integration, as well as the addition of a psychiatric emergency services experience. He also addressed ongoing efforts to improve teaching and evaluation methods. Overall, the clerkship received positive feedback from students and continues to evolve to meet educational needs effectively.

The Psychiatry Clerkship Report was **APPROVED**.

Foundations Segment Review

Three leaders presented an overview of the Foundations segment: Dr. Lisa Borghesi (assistant dean for Foundations), Dr. Martin Schmidt (Keystone Fundamentals block director), and Dr. Rob Powers (Organ Systems block director). Dr. Borghesi emphasized the importance of integrating social justice and clinical relevance into the curriculum. They reviewed key changes in segment procedures, including increased emphasis on learning outcomes and a better alignment of grading procedures to fulfill that aim (e.g., shift to threshold grading, must pass every course, grades based primarily on cognitive performance rather than professionalism). The new curriculum facilitates deeper learning through a shift to active in-person learning and away from lectures, utilizing a case-based discussion format and a spiraling of curricular content over time, with weekly assessments (formative/summative), and office hours. Pass cutoffs have risen, challenging students to achieve mastery, and supports are in place to facilitate that learning. The social medicine thread is being covered in key courses; integration is improving. Students have been very satisfied with the clinical relevance of content, although there is worry about board relevance. Patient panels were very popular (e.g., half of KF cases had panels).

81% of students were satisfied with overall quality in KF and felt prepared to begin Organ Systems. Course satisfaction has varied during initial rollout; key elements in success were reviewed (e.g., expert availability, practice quizzes, newly prerecorded content, limited prework, physiology correlation in groups). The nephrology course achieved a 91% student satisfaction rate and was highlighted by students as a model for the new curriculum. Dr. Powers emphasized the positive aspects while acknowledging areas for improvement like overwhelming material, the need for more pharmacology and basic science review, better strategies for enhancing cohesion between courses and ensuring concise content delivery.

The Foundations Segment Review was **APPROVED**.

The next meeting is on Monday, May 6 at 4PM. Dr. Rosenstock closed the meeting at 5:38PM.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sergent, recording secretary.

Meeting minutes APPROVED by Curriculum Committee members on Monday, May 6.