INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE:

This policy outlines how grades are determined on required clinical clerkships.

CANCELLATION:

N/A

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY:

All Students on required clinical clerkships.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

1) Each component of the clerkship is directly aligned to one or more of the CMS Competencies of (I) Patient Care, (II) Knowledge for Practice, (III) Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, (IV) Interpersonal and Communication Skills, (V) Professionalism, (VI) Systems-Based Practice, (VII) Interprofessional Collaboration, and (VIII) Personal and Professional Development.

2) Students who achieve the minimum requirements for all curricular components will receive that grade irrespective of how other students perform.

3) If circumstances warrant, the Education Director reserves the right to lower the criteria in any or all categories. The rationale for this decision must be determined in consultation with CMS Administration and be documented for the next clerkship review by the Year 3/4 subcommittee.

DEFINITIONS:

N/A
## Clerkship Grading Policy

**PROCEDURES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Clinical Evaluation Score (66.6%)</th>
<th>Exam Score¹ (33.3%)</th>
<th>H (6.0) 80th percentile²</th>
<th>HP (4.0) 40th percentile²</th>
<th>P (2.0) Minimum percentile passing²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H 6.0</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>6.00 Honors</td>
<td>5.33 Honors</td>
<td>4.67 High Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H 6.0</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>5.56 Honors</td>
<td>4.89 Honors</td>
<td>4.22 High Pass</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5.11 Honors</td>
<td>4.44 High Pass</td>
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H = Honors      HP = High Pass    P = Pass

¹Exam benchmarks for Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Psychiatry, and Neurology Clerkships are calculated using NBME national
grading guidelines. NBME Emergency Medicine Advanced Clinical exam and Aquifer Family Medicine exam scores will be evaluated using cohort data and percentiles which most approximates student experience.

Percentile norms reflect NBME national grading guidelines and published quarterly percentiles of all examinees from LCME-accredited medical schools. These benchmarks are revised at the start of each academic year using the most recent year-end report available.

**Grade Calculation Method:** The final grade is calculated using four graded components*: (1) final/shelf exam, (2) clinical evaluation for Patient Care/Knowledge for Practice, (3) clinical evaluation for Professionalism, and (4) clinical evaluation for Interpersonal and Communication Skills. Each graded component is assigned a point value of 2 (Pass), 4 (High Pass) and 6 (Honors). The clinical evaluation scores are averaged to create one overall score, which is then assigned a weight of 66.6% of the final grade. The final/shelf exam is assigned a weight of 33.3% of the final grade. The final score of 2.00 – 6.00 is then categorized as Honors, High Pass, Pass, Unsatisfactory/Fail.

A final grade is assigned as follows:

- **Honors:** 4.89-6.00
- **High Pass:** 3.33-4.88
- **Pass:** 2.00-3.32
- **Unsatisfactory/Fail** <2.00 or unsuccessful achievement of pass/fail competencies and/or completion of other clerkship requirements.

For example, a student who achieves any combination of ‘Honors, Honors, High Pass’ on the clinical evaluation (clinical average=5.33), and a Pass on the final exam will receive a final clerkship grade of High Pass (overall score=4.22).

*Clerkship-specific performances may be calculated as embedded components within the most relevant core competency (e.g. the Surgery OSCE is assessed as a weighted component of the Patient Care/Knowledge for Practice competency). Please reference clerkship syllabi for grading rubric details. Student must demonstrate successful fulfillment of all competency standards and clerkship requirements to complete the clerkship. Clerkship-specific performances and requirements, including competency thresholds, are explicitly defined in Clerkship Syllabi.

**Professionalism:** Any unexcused absence may result in lowering the professionalism portion of the clinical evaluation by one category (ex. High Pass to Pass).

**Out of Phase Students:** NBME exam grades for “out of phase” students will be computed using the national quartile data that most approximates their experience. i.e., Students beginning their clerkships in mid-year will be compared with the national quartile from the beginning of
the year. Students taking the exam in their fourth year will be compared to the end of the year national quartile data.

Unsatisfactory or Needs Remediation:
- At the end of the rotation, students who have a failing grade in any of the applicable course components (final exam, clinical evaluation, and/or performances) will be assigned a temporary notation of Needs Remediation (NR).
- Students are required to take exams, if applicable, as scheduled and in the proscribed manner outlined in the CMS Clerkship Retake/Rescheduled Exam Policy.
- Clinical evaluations and/or rotation-specific performances requiring remediation will be addressed by the Education Director based upon the deficits.
- Students will have one opportunity to pass the remediation.
- If the student passes the remediation, they receive a grade of “Pass” for the rotation. If the student fails the remediation, they receive a grade of “Fail” for the rotation. A failure will result in the student repeating all or part of the rotation at the discretion of the Education Director, in consultation with the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education.

Incomplete:
- Incomplete (I) is not a grade, but a notation that a grade cannot be determined because the student has been unable to complete one or more course components due to extenuating circumstances.
- Extenuating circumstances must be reviewed and approved by the Education Director.
- A notation of I will be replaced by a grade if a student makes up the missing material, clinical time, and/or takes the necessary examination(s) as approved by the Education Director, within one calendar year, but otherwise will be changed to an F after one year or at the time of graduation.

POINTS OF CONTACT:
Assistant Dean for Clinical Education
Education Directors

REFERENCES AND RELATED POLICIES:
LCME Element 8.7