

In Person Essential Task Learning and Clinical Experiences: RFU's 2020 Summer Quarter.

As a community, RFU is committed to protecting the health and safety of all members, their families, and of our surrounding community. We are also committed to sustaining student progress, at all stages in their programs, toward becoming members of the research communities and the medical and health professions that they are dedicated to serving. As one of our core values, integrity guides RFU in our planning and response during this time.

We are taking care to plan for change in our academic programs and university operations that are likely to be needed, based on current information. This planning is also flexible, to allow for quick and reasoned response to external conditions we cannot control. We are gathering and analyzing data and information to make informed decisions and necessary changes as we learn more.

First, we have established guidelines for identifying essential task training and assessment activities for students that will be offered on-site and in person in accordance with the Restore Illinois plan.

Second, we are planning and preparing to implement necessary changes to program sequence and organization to best assure students can advance in their programs. We have determined that we need to implement a “flipped course” instructional approach, in which didactic learning is supported through distance education, and the use of our existing learning spaces is prioritized to hold necessary examinations, provide hands-on workshops and provide small-group learning activities.

To assist in making decisions for essential task training and assessment activities preparing students to enter or return to clinical experiences, we have established the following set of criteria to enable us to meet both of those commitments. The rules are based on a synthesis of the guidance provided by our affiliate partners, accrediting bodies, the state of Illinois, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Criteria to be Met for On-Site Clinical Education and In-Person Essential Task Learning: Summer 2020

RFU In Person Essential Task Learning

1. Faculty and administration determine that on-campus learning can be provided safely and appropriately under applicable national, accrediting body, and professional practice guidelines, and under the “Restore Illinois” plan.
2. The education provided on site and in person develops foundational proficiency in or competent practice of an essential skill set, required for advancement in the academic program.
3. The educational experience and/or assessment is necessary to assess student readiness to advance, or to prepare students for clinical rotation.
4. Required learning outcomes for the educational experience can only be met through in-person student participation on-site and in person.
5. Program faculty supervise and participate in the educational activity as appropriate.
6. The experience can be delivered in accordance with the State of Illinois’ limitations for group activities under the “Restore Illinois” plan.
7. A sufficient supply of appropriate PPE is available to all students, faculty and staff participating in the educational experience, provided through established and reliable mechanisms.
8. Students with a) existing accommodations, b) underlying conditions associated with adverse outcomes of COVID-19 infection, and c) restrictions to travel due to COVID -19 that prevent them from returning to RFU will receive appropriate accommodations through existing processes that will allow them to continue their education with minimal disruption.

Clinical Education at Affiliate Sites

1. Faculty responsible for clinical education determine that the site is able to serve as a safe and appropriate placement under applicable national, state, accrediting body, professional practice (i.e., advanced nursing practice, allopathic medicine, pathologists’ assistant, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician’s assistant, podiatric medicine, and psychology), and affiliate guidelines.
2. Faculty responsible for clinical education determine that students will only participate in direct patient care and interaction permitted under applicable national, state, accrediting body, and professional practice rules and guidelines.

3. Clinical education offered at affiliate sites is framed around a legitimate educational goal and identified learning outcomes and supervised by qualified faculty and clinical preceptors.
4. Faculty and clinical preceptors at affiliate sites are deemed able and ready to return to their educational experiences and rotations by both RFU and the affiliate partner.
5. There is sufficient clinical volume and diversity of experiences to provide the necessary and required educational experience for students at the clinical site.
6. A sufficient supply of appropriate PPE is available to all students who are placed in a clinical setting, provided through established and reliable mechanisms.
7. Sites can provide evidence that cleaning and disinfection protocols to reduce risk of COVID-19 infection are appropriate to the experience and in place.
8. All students entering a clinical placement have been trained in the use of appropriate PPE and have demonstrated the level of proficiency necessary to work safely in the environment.
9. Students with a) existing accommodations, b) underlying conditions associated with adverse outcomes of COVID-19 infection, and c) restrictions to travel due to COVID -19 that prevent them from participating in a required clinical experience will receive appropriate accommodations through existing processes that will allow them to continue their education with minimal disruption.