



# Required Clerkship Grade Standardization, Years 3 and 4

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**Responsible University Officer:**  
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**Policy Owner:**  
Office of Undergraduate Medical Education

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## Policy Statement

Determinates of the final grade in all clerkships must be clearly stated in the syllabus and on the clerkship website. All clerkships are expected to follow the recommended procedures listed below. Any exceptions must be approved by the Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

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## Reason for Policy

In order for students to fully engage in any learning experience it is important that they understand the ways in which they will be assessed and how the final grade will be determined.

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## Procedures

- All students on a required clinical clerkship in years 3 and 4 should have global performance assessment (on E\*Value) by *at least one Attending Physician*. (Certain clerkships may be exempted if an attending physician does not regularly see the student working with patients). *Rationale:* the Attending Physician conducts rounds, teaching sessions, and bedside patient care with the team, including the student(s), providing the opportunity to directly observe students' written and oral presentations, care and follow up on patients, critical thinking skills and professional behavior.
- All students on a required clinical clerkship in years 3 and 4 should have global performance assessment (on E\*Value) by *at least one Resident as the rotation and site permits*. Certain clerkships may be exempted if a resident does not regularly observe the student working with patients). The Resident should be the most senior resident who has a close working relationship with the student. *Rationale:* residents have a working relationship with students in day to day patient care, teamwork, professionalism, and conduct on rounds. However, not all sites have residents or assign residents to students on clerkships.

- Feedback to medical students is required at mid-course and should be ongoing throughout all clinical clerkships. It is also important for students to understand the value of feedback, and to have the skills to seek, understand, and utilize feedback on an ongoing basis for their entire careers as physicians. (See policy for Mid Course and Clerkship Feedback, Years 1-4, below)
- Any Attending Physician or Resident who rates a student on any Domain of Competency “Below Expectations” must provide written comments for that assessment. *Note: E\*Value has a general comment box at the end of the ratings where the rater will be prompted to enter comments.*
- The Clerkship Director determines the final grades for each student in consultation with site directors. The final grade should reflect the totality of the experiences with the student. The Clerkship Director has the authority to disregard an individual assessment based on judgment of the preponderance of the evidence.
- Language and criteria for a Failing Grade should be clearly stated on the syllabus.
- Language and criteria for a Failing Grade should be clearly stated on the Clerkship websites.
- Grading definitions must be included on Clerkship websites (see Definitions, below).

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## Definitions

### **criterion referenced exams**

Exams that measure how well a student has mastered a specific body of knowledge and/or skills.

### **norm referenced exams**

Exams that measure how well a student has mastered a specific body of knowledge and/or skills in comparison to others who take the same exam.

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## Related Information

- Policy: Mid Course and Clerkship Feedback, Years 1-4

*Approved by Education Council to post on February 21, 2012*