

About the Family Medicine Clerkship

The Tulane Family Medicine Clerkship is a required 6 week experience for 3rd year medical students. Started in 1999, the Clerkship offers students their most complete primary care and community-based experience in medical school, as a structured, supervised office-based experience with a volunteer community physician in the region. During the Clerkship, students see patients with their preceptor, keep a log of their experience, have required study through the fmCASES and seminars, and complete and present an evidence-based, patient-oriented community project. Over the last decade, the Department has developed a network of over 100 family physicians across Louisiana, South Mississippi, South Alabama and the Florida panhandle that accept students. Preceptors have enjoyed the participation of Tulane students in their communities and offices, and have benefited by continuing education credit for teaching and participation in faculty development and CME events, an annual recognition event in New Orleans, newsletters and site visits. Originally developed and supported through three Federal training grants between 1999-2005, and 2010, the Family Medicine Clerkship has been a model within Tulane of community-based education. The Clerkship was shortened from its original 8 weeks to a 6-week rotation in 2003-04, the same year the Department and the Clerkship were recognized by the students with the Department of the Year award. The current Federal training grant allows us to integrate the AAFP-sponsored Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model within the Clerkship for students.

Criteria For Clinical Faculty Participation in 3rd Year Family Medicine Clerkship

In order to become or remain an active clerkship preceptor, you must:

1. Maintain current board certification in Family Practice.
2. Maintain an active family practice.
3. Complete an orientation to the Clerkship with departmental faculty prior to accepting a student. This can be done by telephone or a site visit.
4. Agree to precept at least one clerkship student per year.
5. Receive satisfactory ongoing evaluations of performance as a clinical faculty member.
6. Attend periodic Clerkship updates and faculty training sessions as offered.

Expectations Of Preceptors When A Student Is Present

1. Prepare the office staff for the arrival of the student.
2. Solicit the student at the beginning of the block about their level of training and prior rotation experiences as well as learning goals for the clerkship.
3. Orient the student with a discussion of your explicit expectations of the student during the Clerkship (i.e., call, hours, rounds, documentation, etc.)

4. Allow the student appropriate independence after a period of shadowing and orientation. It is typical for the average student to see between 3-5 patients per half-day clinic session.
5. Allow for frequent, brief, and timely feedback during the clinic day.
6. Conduct a mid-block student feedback session, with completion of the midblock evaluation form (not graded). Please discuss your evaluation with the student, as well as make goals for the remainder of the block.
7. Conduct an end of block evaluation session, with completion of the electronic-form in E-Value as required (graded). A link to this evaluation will be emailed to you at the appropriate time. The student's grade cannot be compiled until your final evaluation of the student is complete.
8. Allow time for Student Project development as appropriate for its importance in the curriculum; the project is worth 25% of the student's final grade. (The average student will probably need about ½ day per week to work on this, perhaps more towards the end of the block or if certain aspects of the project must be done during business hours.)
9. Allow the student adequate time for reading and completion of the fmCASES.
10. Maintain clinical responsibility for patient care delivered by the student while on the rotation, including providing adequate supervision.
11. Serve as a mentor for student's educational activities.
12. Communicate with the department directly if any serious concerns or performance difficulties arise with the student.
13. Maintain boundaries appropriate to the teacher-student relationship.

Commitment Of The Medical School Clerkship Faculty To Preceptors

1. Provide opportunities to clinical faculty for faculty development in teaching medical students through preceptor development workshops.
2. Offer CME credit for faculty development for free or at reduced fees through preceptor development workshops and periodic CME events.
3. Provide timely feedback of student's performance in the Clerkship and student's evaluation of the preceptor.
4. Solicit and encourage regular involvement of the preceptors in planning topics to address in the workshops, as well as, curriculum and policy development.
5. Be responsive to preceptor's concerns and questions regarding the Clerkship and students.
6. Be sensitive to constraints of teaching in private practice.
7. Complete clinical faculty appointments to the Tulane University School of Medicine all for those who teach Tulane students.