

MD Education Program at UCF College of Medicine During COVID-19

April 21, 2020

Class of 2020:

Alternative on-line experiences have been made available for students so that they complete all requirements for graduation. Information will be provided by Student Affairs for Honors Session on May 8th and commencement on May 15th; both will be at 10 AM.

Class of 2021:

The UCF College of Medicine suspended clinical activity for third- and fourth-year medical students (Classes of 2020 and 2021) on Monday, March 16th, one day prior to when the AAMC asked medical schools to “pause” clinical rotations. Third year students were four weeks into the last two blocks of the third year. Faculty developed alternative experiences for the last two weeks of block 7 for Neurology, Ob-Gyn, Pediatrics and Psychiatry and deferred the subject exam to April 9th when the NBME made such available to students in their residences. Students will be graded with a letter grade in these four blocks. Students scheduled to complete these four disciplines in the last block of the year, were scheduled to begin the clerkship with an alternative experience on-line and are completing a 4-week on-line elective and will complete the clinical training in that discipline in the fourth year. These clerkships will be graded P/F. Students in the last two blocks of the year in Internal Medicine/Family Medicine and Surgery are completing the blocks with alternative experiences, taking the subject exam online in their residence May 8th and have the clerkship graded P/F. They will take a clinical elective in either IM/FM or Surgery in their fourth year to provide the clinical training/skills they missed. The Curriculum Committee approved these alternative arrangements for each of the clerkships at its Zoom meeting on March 20th to include the use of P/F in Block 8 for the six-week clerkships and in Blocks 7 & 8 for the 12-week clerkships. Members of the Class of 2021 are not scheduled to take Step 2, USMLE exam until late in May or June. The prometric testing centers have been closed into April and it is anticipated that they will be closed for a longer period of time necessitating students to reschedule. Some students have already had their Step 2 CS exam cancelled and will need to reschedule. This exam is only administered at five test centers around the country. There is concern nationally as to residency requirements, application deadlines and visiting electives. All of this is on hold until guidance is provided by national organizations – ACGME, NRMP, NBME, Prometric, VSLO.

Class of 2022:

Members in the Class of 2022 completed the remaining academic programs of the second year and had their last examinations (Brain and Behavior and Practice of Medicine) for the academic year postponed until May or later. Members in the class are scheduled to take the Step1, USMLE exam the first week of May 2020. Prometric testing centers that administer the exam are closed

through April 30. Should students not be allowed to test because centers do not open in time, the Curriculum Committee has approved that students can move on to the third-year core clerkships and have until May 11, 2021 to take the Step 1 Examination. The Curriculum Committee recommended that students would begin in May with 12 weeks of didactics taken from core clerkships, longitudinal curricular themes, telehealth, etc. They would begin their core clerkships August 10th. Six-week clerkships have been decreased to four weeks and twelve-week clerkships to eight. Grading for the core clerkships for this class only will be P/F.

Class of 2023:

Students in this class had four of their seven modules being presented in the M-1 year to complete when face to face classes were suspended in March. All the instruction has gone on-line to be completed by the end of May with examinations also being administered on-line and modules graded P/F. The Curriculum Committee approved the change in grading on April 9th.

Class of 2024:

Second look for applicants was held electronically. Faculty are preparing to move orientation requirements and academic programs that will begin August 3 on-line. A decision will be made by the Curriculum Committee May 15th or no later than June 1.