



M.D. Program Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 16, 2026

Time: 3:01 PM – 4:15 PM

Chaired by: Dr. Marcy Verduin

Voting members present: Drs. Asmar, Castiglioni, Dexter, Gros, Khan-Assad, Lebowitz, Mehta, Rubero, and Slimani; (M2) Kelley, (M2) Tammaro, and (M4) Cunningham

Attendees: Drs. Arenas, Beg, Del Toro, Hernandez, Kalidindi, Plochocki, Selim, Tolentino, and Urquieta; Ms. Berry, Ms. Borges, Ms. Brooks, Ms. Castro, Ms. Corsi, Ms. Gillum, Ms. Poole, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Voorhees, and Ms. Walton

Consent Agenda – Dr. Verduin

- Members approved of the meeting minutes for April 17, 2026.
- Members approved of the UCF COM Policy 13 – Housing Policy. Changes include grammatical improvements, enhanced sentence structure, inclusion of a late move-in/out policy and associated fees, addition of trash fees per bag, and overall alignment of the policy with the code of conduct and the Student Housing Agreement.

M3/M4 Subcommittee – Dr. Arenas

- Members approved of the Principles of Aerospace Medicine course proposal. The elective introduces aerospace medicine through didactics, simulation-based ultrasound training, and NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) operational exposure. This is an M4 four-week elective that will be offered in April. M4 Elective 2-4 weeks was mistakenly marked off. Document will be updated with the correct number of weeks.
- Members approved of the MDE 8836 Psychiatry course proposal. This is an existing course being offered at a new location - HCA West Florida Hospital, Pensacola.

M1/M2 Subcommittee – Dr. Castiglioni

- Members approved of the proposed changes in Clinical Sciences weights for AY2026-27. The purpose of the change is to assign appropriate and proportionate weights to clinical sciences assessments during the pre-clerkship years. The CS Weight for AY25-26 vs. AY26-27 are as follows:

Course	AY 2025-2026	AY 2026-2027
Foundations	30%	25%
IS-1	40%	30%
IS-2	40%	30%
IS-3	40%	30%
IS-4	40%	30%
IS-5	40%	35%

- **Members approved of the recommendations from the Anatomy Education Taskforce.** Key elements are centered on (1) a comprehensive pre-lab preparation package, (2) a split-lab model that converts traditional 4-hour blocks into two 2-hour sessions with half the teams each for enhanced faculty guidance; (3) targeted, high-yield dissection supplemented by instructor-guided prosection demonstrations to decompress dissection time and further enhance faculty guidance, coupled with buddy tables strategically paired by proximity and donor sex to promote further exposure and better peer collaboration; (4) integrated lab-based practical assessments that shift dedicated anatomy testing away from NBME and TBL exams, thereby decompressing those assessments, reducing instructional dilution, and allowing faculty to focus more on clinically relevant normal anatomy rather than pathological content emphasized in MCQ-style questions; and (5) reallocated time for active learning plus dedicated medical imaging sessions, with optional after-hours enrichment dissections available for motivated students.
- **Members approved of the Clinical Sciences (CS) Feedback Taskforce Plan.** The purpose is to optimize the quality and quantity of clinical sciences feedback for performance-based assessment (PBA).

PES Subcommittee – Dr. Castiglioni

- **Members approved of the 2025-26 Neurology Clerkship Recommendations.** The five prior PES recommendations are documented as completed.

PES Recommendations for Clerkship Director:

- Support clerkship director's plans to enhance dedicated didactic time to: 1) align with new curriculum clerkship topics integration, 2) include active learning opportunities, and 3) meet revised clerkship learning objectives.
- Clerkship director report shows a gap in assessment of basic science clerkship objective; however, basic sciences knowledge is typically assessed in NBME subject exam. Recommend that the clerkship director review the NBME blueprint to see if this gap exists.
- Recommend adding details for faculty adequacy by site.
- Continue to monitor HCA Osceola site student satisfaction and grade distribution data.

PES Recommendations for Curriculum Committee:

- Continue monitoring ongoing plans to increase Orlando VA capacity.
- Volunteer faculty recognition: The curriculum committee should formalize a recognition program for volunteer faculty to acknowledge their contribution to the medical education program.
- **Members approved of the 2025-26 OB-GYN Clerkship Recommendations.**

PES Recommendations for Clerkship Director:

- Continue to address pending action items from last year's PES recommendations.
- Work with the assistant dean for M3/M4 and site directors to ensure comparable education experiences with a focus on resident engagement and learning environment.
 - Ensure use of standardized format for presenting clerkship and site expectations during orientation; the assistant dean for M3/M4 can assist.
 - Continue to address healthcare team dynamics and ensure respectful, collaborative clinical learning environment.

PES Recommendations for Curriculum Committee:

- Support assistant dean for M3/M4 to engage with site directors to work with faculty on clerkship expectations and learning environment.
- Support clerkship director in engaging with faculty development team to deliver Resident as Teachers and site-specific faculty development related to hospitalist model and learning environment.
- Continue to work with sites to standardize and streamline site onboarding (schedule, roles, logistics, EMR access).

Student Updates

- M2s: Students are doing well and enjoying their summer break.
- M4s: The rising M4 class has no major concerns; however, there are a few students that are concerned about the spread of mandatory sessions during post clerkships.

Announcements/Updates

- Dr. Piazza's and Dr. Rubero's term as voting members on the M.D. Program Curriculum ends on June 30, 2026. Dr. Dil will replace Dr. Piazza and Dr. Villacres will replace Dr. Rubero beginning July 1, 2026.
- Dr. Castiglioni gave a brief update on the UCF COM Medical Spanish Program.

Action Items

- Revise the Principles of Aerospace Medicine course proposal from (M4 Elective 2-4 weeks) to (M4 Elective 4 weeks).