



M.D. Program Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 17, 2026

Time: 3:01 PM – 3:45 PM

Chaired by: Dr. Marcy Verduin

Voting members present: Drs. Asmar, Carrazana, Castiglioni, Dexter, Gros, Khan-Assad, and Villacres; (M2) Kelley and (M3) Rodriguez

Attendees: Drs. Arenas, Del Toro, Hernandez, Kauffman, Kibble, Selim, and Tolentino; Ms. Berry, Ms. Borges, Ms. Brooks, Ms. Castro, Ms. Corsi, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Pirpich, Ms. Poole, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Van Blaricom, and Ms. Walton

Welcome New Voting Members – Dr. Verduin

- Dr. Piazza's and Dr. Rubero's term as voting members on the curriculum committee officially ended on June 30, 2026.
- Dr. Dil has replaced Dr. Piazza and Dr. Villacres has replaced Dr. Rubero for a term through June 30, 2029.

Consent Agenda – Dr. Verduin

- Members approved of the meeting minutes for June 19, 2026.
- Members approved of the UCF COM Policy 8.8.2 – Attendance Policy. Changes include the following:
 - Clarification that students cannot submit medical documentation signed by a physician who is a family member.
 - An expanded list of those with whom an M3 can request an excused absence for a meeting (e.g., AAL, Coach, Student Affairs, SASS, Career Services, etc.).
 - Clarification that CCom reps (and subcommittee reps) are excused from clerkships to attend meetings.
 - Other grammatical/title updates and minor clarifications.

M1/M2 Subcommittee – Dr. Kauffman

- Members approved of the Anatomy Assessment Proposal. The proposal recommends implementing short-answer practical assessments weighted at 3–5% of the course grade. Short-answer format is preferred because it better evaluates higher-order thinking, precise identification, spatial reasoning, and clinical integration. To support focused study, reduce spelling errors, and promote fairness, students will receive a structure list in advance of the

assessment. To minimize student stress and optimize preparation time, spacing these assessments from other major evaluations where feasible is recommended.

- **Members approved of the M1/M2 Course Grade Assessment Weights Proposal.** The proposal outlined the adjustments to the M1/M2 course grade assessment weights to reconcile several recently approved curriculum and assessment changes. These include:
 - the approved redistribution of course grade weight between Basic Sciences (BS) and Clinical Sciences (CS);
 - the addition of the Anatomy Laboratory Practical as a summative Basic Sciences assessment; and
 - the removal of the Autopsy Report as a summative assessment.
- These adjustments are intended to ensure that course grading structures remain internally consistent, transparent, and aligned with the approved assessment framework across the pre-clerkship curriculum.
- **Members approved of the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Task Force Plan.** The task force was charged with the following:
 - Review the strengths and challenges of the current biostatistics and epidemiology education series across the pre-clerkship courses, using the perspective of how it prepares the students for the core clerkships
 - Generate a plan to improve the biostatistics and epidemiology education series that can be implemented in AY26/27
 - Monitor the implementation of any actions taken during AY26/27 to allow for any needed adjustments
- The task force will conduct semiannual surveys with M1/M2 classes to assess effectiveness. The results will be reviewed and continuous improvement planned.

M3/M4 Subcommittee – Dr. Arenas

- **Members approved of the Pediatric Gastroenterology course proposal.** This is an existing course being offered at a new location – Nemours Children’s Hospital at Lakeland, FL.

PES Subcommittee – Dr. Castiglioni

- **Members approved of the 2025-26 IS-1 Recommendations.**
 - Course director's changes:**
 - Within the Health Systems Science (HSS) domain, the assessment structure will be revised to include one written essay and one MCQ-based examination, providing a more balanced evaluation of analytical and applied knowledge.
 - Beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year, introductory pharmacology content (including pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics) will be transitioned to the Foundations course. This will create additional curricular time (4 h) within IS-1, which

- will be used to introduce antimicrobials along with additional basic microbiology content and integrate them more consistently starting in the first week of the course.
- Changes will also focus on improving the anatomy and MSK experience. Didactic anatomy content will be expanded and introduced earlier, and anatomy laboratory sessions will be spaced more longitudinally across the second half of the course. In parallel, MSK clinical application sessions will be more closely aligned and streamlined with corresponding anatomy content to support integration of foundational knowledge with clinical applications.
 - In the clinical sciences domain, additional improvements are needed to enhance structure, increase opportunities for deliberate practice, and provide clearer, more actionable feedback for performance-based assessments.
- PES Recommendations:**
- For changes made in anatomy and clinical sciences instruction, review the upcoming Anatomy and CS Feedback Taskforce reports and implement recommended changes.
 - Review the balance of time given to each system within the course to determine if too much weight is given to one area (immunology) and not enough given to others (hematology and MSK)
 - To address the underlying upward trend in course and assessment performance, complete a detailed review of the assessments in all 3 domains, with psychometrician assistance, to identify the cause and begin to work towards a solution.
- **Members approved of the 2025-26 Surgery Clerkship Recommendations.**
 - Key Recommendations for Course Director**
 - Support planned changes outlined by the Clerkship Director related to Curriculum Transformation and the uniform adoption of grade composition across clerkships:
 - Discontinue graded quizzes and case report
 - New Reflective Essay assessment
 - Implementation of 4 didactic sessions
 - Direct observations and 2 H&Ps incorporated to clerkship grade
 - Strengthening structured feedback processes to ensure universal compliance
 - Site Variability and Learning Environment:
 - Agree with ongoing targeted intervention at Nemours and other identified sites, including:
 - Clear student roles and expectations
 - Faculty/resident expectations for teaching and feedback
 - Monitoring of learning environment concerns
 - Workload:
 - Continuing efforts to balance clinical workload and independent study time
 - Monitor impact of curricular changes on workload perception
 - Assessment Alignment with Outcomes:

- Monitor NBME and grade trends following curricular changes
- Consider alignment of didactic topics and assessments with NBME-relevant content (specific areas of low performance: applying foundational science concepts, cardio-pulmonary systems)

Recommendations for PES / Curriculum Committee

- Support clerkship assessment redesign and monitoring of outcomes
- Continue oversight of site comparability and learning environment quality
- Consider broader institutional strategies to support consistency across distributed clerkships

Student Updates

- M2s: No updates.
- M3s: Students are doing well and adapting to clerkships. Didactics has been a bit of a challenge for some students.
- M4s: M4 representatives were not in attendance; however, they reported via email that there were no updates from the M4s.

Announcements/Updates

- COM recently received two emails from graduates, both of whom expressed how their education at UCF COM has prepared them for residency.
- Step 1 data was shared. As of 7/17, the Step 1 pass rate is 100%.
- Interviews for the associate dean for student affairs begin next week. Students are encouraged to participate in the interview process.
- Interviews for the associate dean for medical education have concluded. No decision has been made at this time.
- Seven new modules for clinical teachers were released based on the faculty development needs assessment that identified opportunities for our various sites and specialties involved in the clerkship curricula.

Action Items

- No action items.