

## Longitudinal Computer Component of the Primary Care Clerkship

The longitudinal experience is an important aspect of the Primary Care/Family Medicine clerkship; we hope it will be an enjoyable and productive experience for you. Like the students assigned to the clinical and community longitudinal experiences, you will leave your clerkship one half day per week (same assigned afternoon every week) for 24 weeks, throughout your Medicine, Primary Care/Family Medicine, Surgery, two-week elective, and Anesthesiology rotations. The time is to be spent working on computer learning modules from the Johns Hopkins University Internet Learning Center. The clerkships have been notified that the longitudinal experience takes precedence over inpatient activities or clerkship responsibilities on the afternoon assigned. If you still encounter questions about your obligation to leave each week, please notify your clerkship director or site director **immediately**. The longitudinal experience is an important part of the Primary Care clerkship: **you cannot pass the Primary Care clerkship unless you satisfactorily complete and achieve a passing grade for the longitudinal component.**

### Expectations and Requirements

**Basic requirements.** The longitudinal component of the Primary Care/Family Medicine clerkship will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. However, you must pass this component in order to pass the overall clerkship. In order to pass, **at a minimum**, you must:

Leave your clerkship on at least 20 of the 24 half-days you are assigned and work on the computer modules.

Work through the modules and pass the post-tests with a score of at least 75% correct.

The following modules are mandatory: Diabetes, Hypertension, Asthma (2), HIV (2), Community Acquired Pneumonia, Anemia, Evidence-based Medicine (2). You may choose any additional 20 modules from the list of available topics. In total you must pass 30 post-tests.

Repeat any modules where your score on the post-test falls below 75% until you achieve the passing score (you cannot substitute another passed module for the one that you failed).

**Work hours.** The computer work on your longitudinal half-day is meant to be scheduled between 1PM to 5PM and ideally done on campus. You may obviously work on the modules when and wherever you like as long as the total required number is completed by the last day of the semester. We urge you, however, to stick to the schedule and **complete one or two modules every week**. You will remember the information best if you space them out and they will be of most help to you in your shelf examination preparation and Step 2 preparation if you allow plenty of time to complete them. We recommend spending a full afternoon completing the diabetes module and also the hypertension module. The others can be more easily combined but we do not recommend doing more than two subjects per afternoon. We also recommend making a schedule of modules that best suits your particular sequence of rotations, e.g. pre-operative evaluation module during your Surgery rotation,

dizziness and immunizations during Primary Care, and community-acquired pneumonia during Medicine.

## Directions for Accessing and Completing the Modules

The learning modules we are using come from a program developed by Johns Hopkins University through their Internet Learning Center. To use the system go to [www.hopkinsilc.org](http://www.hopkinsilc.org). The first time you log on you will be prompted to register as a first time user.

Your ILC group is **Internal Medicine Curriculum**

Your user group is **SUNY Downstate (be careful here** – if you sign up incorrectly, we won't have access to your work and won't be able to give you credit for all those hours).

On your profile, your sub group should be **off-site clinic**. Do not choose KCH, or VA.

After you register you will be notified at your email address within 12-24 hours that you are up and running. If you haven't heard from them within 24 hours and you have checked your spam, please contact us to let us know you are having difficulty.

Once you are logged into the system, you will find the available modules under just that heading, "Available Modules". Each module consists of a pre-test, a few objectives sections, and a post-test. You will receive an immediate score on the pre-test to let you know your starting point in that subject. As a reference point, PGY1's in Medicine across the country generally average about 55-60% on the pre-tests.

Each Objectives section starts with a multiple choice question. To advance you must answer the multiple choice question and open the Summary. The Summary is like a text book section with multiple links (bold-face words or phrases) to journal articles. The information you need for the post-test is in the Summary. We encourage you to read the text carefully and at least some of the accompanying journal articles.

Once you have finished all the Summaries you are allowed to begin the post-test. You will also receive an immediate score on the post-test; if it falls below 75% you need to repeat the module until you pass it. Note that you can open the post-test, look at it and then go back to the objectives sections before you actually choose your answers and submit the post-test. Not putting that last sentence in bold is meant to reward those of you who have actually read these directions carefully...

Once you have completed the post-test, regardless of your score, you will be able to print out a brief summary of the important points, the complete module, and/or the post-test. This is often worth doing because you cannot go back to a module you have finished in a previous session and just print out the sections you want – the system is set up so you have to click through everything again. So print what you may want while you are still in the module.

## Student Evaluation and Grading

At the end of the 24 weeks you will receive a grade just as you do for your clerkships. The grade will be pass or fail. As long as you have a score of 75% or higher in the 10 required modules and 20 additional ones of your choice by the last day of the semester, you will pass. As noted above, if you fail the longitudinal experience, your Primary Care block grade will be changed to a conditional and you will need to remediate. The conditional notation remains on your official transcript - don't let that happen!

Enjoy the modules - and use them to help with your shelf exam studying! Feel free to email [Jeanne.Macrae@Downstate.edu](mailto:Jeanne.Macrae@Downstate.edu) with your impressions of them.