

OST 627

Fundamentals of Health Policy and Advocacy

CLERKSHIP ELECTIVE ROTATION SYLLABUS (VIRTUAL ROTATION)

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At Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM), we are constantly working to improve our curriculum and to meet accreditation guidelines. We need to meet the challenges of modern medicine that force us to innovate. While changes will generally be instituted at the beginning of the school year, changes may also be implemented semester to semester.

Please be mindful of the need to read your syllabi before beginning your rotation.

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ROTATION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENT	SUBMISSION METHOD (for submission due dates, refer to table at the end of the syllabus)
Complete the 5 modules within D2L and complete the Attestation Survey	In Qualtrics
AMA Module	D2L Dropbox entitled "Health Care Policy and Economics"
Write a one-page Health Policy Brief and upload it to the appropriate dropbox	D2L Dropbox entitled "One Page Policy Brief Dropbox"
Write and submit op-ed on a healthcare issue	D2L Dropbox entitled "Op-Ed Dropbox."
Reflection Essay	D2L Dropbox entitled "Reflection Essay Dropbox."
Student Evaluation of Clerkship Rotation	Students will submit their rotation evaluations electronically at the conclusion of every rotation by accessing the Medtrics system: https://msucom.medtricslab.com/users/login/ . By the last week of each rotation, students will receive an automated email link connecting them to their assigned evaluation. Students can also access pending evaluations on the 'Home' or 'Evaluations' tabs within their Medtrics accounts.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This syllabus gives an overview of rotation goals and objectives designed to help you understand this subject's breadth and scope. As you progress through the rotation, you will perform certain activities intended to help you meet the identified goals and objectives. Please review this syllabus to ensure understanding of the rotation format, syllabus content, and MSUCOM expectations.

This course will fulfil elective requirements but does not count towards either medicine or surgery requirements.

ELECTIVE COURSE SCHEDULING**Preapproval**

- This course does not require preapproval from the IOR. The student should follow the below directions for elective course confirmation and enrollment.

Required Prerequisites

- This course does not require any prerequisite courses.

Course Confirmation and Enrollment

- The student must be an active student at MSUCOM.
- Student must complete five core rotations prior to any elective rotation.
- It is the student's responsibility to provide the elective site/rotation acceptance material to the COM.Clerkship@msu.edu for MSU confirmation and scheduling.
 - MSUCOM clerkship confirmation is complete when the rotation is visible on the students Medtrics schedule.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure enrollment prior to beginning any course/rotation.
 - Enrollment will be processed by the MSUCOM Registrar's Office upon clerkship confirmation.
 - Enrollment can be verified by the student by reviewing the Student Information System
- MSUCOM confirmation must occur at least 30 days in advance of the rotation.
- Once confirmed, the rotation may only be cancelled 30 days or more in advance of the start date.

ROTATION FORMAT

This rotation has been designed to cover primary topics in advocacy and health policy. Each week will focus on one didactic topic of importance. This is a virtual rotation 2-week elective for 3 credits. All coursework will be completed in D2L (Desire2Learn). This course may be taken for a maximum of 2 weeks.

This course will fulfil elective requirements but does not count towards either medicine or surgery requirements.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS

The goal of this course is to increase student understanding of the importance of physician advocacy.

OBJECTIVES

1. Define advocacy and why patients need advocates.
2. Understand the legislative process and how to access state and local government officials.
3. Know how to identify and research a healthcare issue.
4. Understand the basics of media advocacy.
5. Identify collaboration opportunities with community and professional organizations.

COMPETENCIES

Professionalism

- Promote public confidence in the osteopathic medical profession. (V.4.i)
- Apply the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, fidelity, justice, and utility. (V.6.f)
- Openly discuss cultural issues and be responsive to cultural cues. (V.7.c)

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Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- Describe the relationship among incidence, duration, and prevalence of a disease in a population. (VI.3.b)
- Identify opportunities for advocacy, health promotion, and disease prevention in communities served, and respond appropriately. (VI.5.3)

Systems-Based Practice

- Participate in health policy within the state or community. (VII.2.d)
- Demonstrate the ability to recognize public health systems, epidemiological systems, and individual systems in the practice of osteopathic medicine and utilization of resources. (VII.2.e)
- Demonstrate awareness of global issues affecting health and health care delivery globally. (VII.2.f)
- Demonstrate understanding of how current issues in the world are affecting the delivery of health care to patients and to the community. (VII.2.g)

COLLEGE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

In addition to the above course-specific goals and learning objectives, this clerkship rotation also facilitates student progress in attaining the College Program Objectives. Please refer to the complete list provided on the MSUCOM website (<https://com.msu.edu/>) and in the Student Handbook.

REFERENCES

REQUIRED STUDY RESOURCES

Desire 2 Learn (D2L): Please find online content for this course in D2L (<https://d2l.msu.edu/>). Once logged in with your MSU Net ID, your course will appear on the D2L landing page. If you do not see your course on the landing page, search for the course with the following criteria, and pin it to your homepage: **OST627 Fundamentals of Health Policy and Advocacy**.

If you encounter any issues accessing this D2L course, please email the CA (on the title page of this syllabus). It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to the course D2L page on the first day of the course.

Student D2L email addresses must be forwarded to your MSU email account.

SUGGESTED STUDY RESOURCES

Recommended Texts

Sessums, L., Dennis, L., Liebow, M., Moran, W., & Rich, E. (2011). *Health Care Advocacy: A Guide for Busy Clinicians*. New York, NY: Springer New York.
Available from MSU (Michigan State University) libraries at <https://link-springer-com.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/book/10.1007/978-1-4419-6914-9>

Recommended Websites

AMA Health Care Advocacy <https://www.ama-assn.org/health-care-advocacy>

AOA Advocacy <https://osteopathic.org/about/advocacy/>

AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) Advocacy <https://services.aap.org/en/advocacy/>

READINGS/OBJECTIVES/ASSIGNMENTS

ONLINE MODULES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Introducing Health Care Policy and Economics; AMA Ed Hub

<https://edhub.ama-assn.org/health-systems-science/interactive/18206432>

There are 5 (five) modules that are to be completed in D2L.

Module 1: Introduction to Advocacy

- Please read the three linked articles within this module.
- Complete the AAP Advocacy Modules.
- You will submit an attestation after completion of the modules.

Module 2: Identify and Research Healthcare Issue

- Please read the articles linked within this module.
- Take time to research a Health Policy Issue that you are passionate about.
- After reading the articles and deciding on an issue, please write a one-page policy brief using the articles as a guide.
- You will submit this to the dropbox and send this to your legislator as part of Module 3.

Module 3: Connecting with your Legislatures

- Using the links within the module on D2L, please identify your legislative stakeholders.
- Please contact them and introduce them to your chosen issue using the policy brief you completed in Module 2.
- You may contact them via email, phone call or in-person at coffee hours.
- You will complete an attestation that you have contacted your legislator.

Module 4: Interacting with the media

- Please read the articles linked within this module.
- Watch the Webinar: Media Advocacy through Storytelling: Using Personal Narratives to Promote Change.
- Submit your Op-Ed to the appropriate dropbox in D2L.

*We highly recommend that you submit your Op-Ed to the MSU COM (College of Osteopathic Medicine) student newsletter or to the professional organization newsletter of your choice.

Module 5: Collaboration in Advocacy

- Please identify an advocacy organization of your choice and contact one of their administrators.
- Set up a time to meet with them to discuss your issue and learn about their role.

*We have included some suggested organizations and discussion questions, but please take time to connect with an organization that is meaningful to you!

REFLECTIVE ESSAY

The body of your reflection should be 500 words and formatted as follows:

- double spaced,
- Calibri font, 11pt, 1" margins.

You should discuss your experience on this rotation including what you learned about advocacy, what it was like contacting stakeholders and discussing your issue with them and how you plan to include advocacy in your career. Do not include any information in the reflection covered by HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability).

The essay should be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox by 11:59 pm, the last day of the rotation.

ROTATION EVALUATIONS

Student Evaluation of Clerkship Rotation

Students will submit their rotation evaluations electronically at the conclusion of every rotation by accessing the Medtrics system: <https://msucom.medtricslab.com/users/login/>. By the last week of each rotation, students will receive an automated email link connecting them to their assigned evaluation for the respective rotation. Students can also access their pending evaluations on the 'Home' or 'Evaluations' tabs within their Medtrics accounts.

Unsatisfactory Clinical Performance

The Instructor of Record will review/investigate a student's performance on a rotation when a concern is raised by the supervisor(s), and/or when the Attending Evaluation of Clerkship Student contains any below expectation marks within the professionalism area, any unsatisfactory written comments, or a total of two or more below average marks on the evaluation. After investigations, the Instructor of Record will determine a final grade for the student.

Professionalism concerns, as well as accolades, will also be referred to the MSUCOM Spartan Committee Clearinghouse for resolution, per MSUCOM's Common Ground Framework for Professional Conduct.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The following assignments are eligible for corrective action. Students who were not successful on these assignments during the course will receive an NGR grade and permitted to go through a 'corrective action' process. Corrective Action and will be due no later than 14 days after the last day of the rotation at 11:59pm:

- Complete the Modules and the Attestation Survey
- Completion and submission of the One-Page Health Policy
- Completion and submission of the Op-Ed
- Completion and submission of the Reflective Essay

- Completion and submission of certificate of completion on Introducing Health Care and Policy and Economics; AMA Ed Hub

Corrective Action:

- The student will be required to meet with the IOR.
- The student will then be required to complete any missing assignments and author a 3-page essay on professionalism.

The student is responsible for contacting the Course Assistant (on the title page of this syllabus) if they believe missing assignments were reported in error, or if they are unclear about the corrective action process.

While it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the Attending Evaluation of Clerkship Student is completed, this requirement may extend beyond the corrective action deadline.

If a student **successfully completes** the corrective action process, as determined by the IOR, the student will receive credit for the deficient academic grading requirement(s) and be eligible for a change in rotation grade (from NGR to Pass, pending the Attending Evaluation of Clerkship Student)

As determined by the IOR, the student will receive an N grade for the course if all assignments and the corrective action process are **not completed** successfully within 14 days after the last day of rotation at 11:59pm (except for the Attending Evaluation). Additionally, a letter of unprofessional behavior for late submission of assignments will be sent to the MSUCOM Spartan Community Clearinghouse.

BASE HOSPITAL REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for completing all additional requirements set by the hospital/clinical site at which they are completing a rotation. Students are not responsible for reporting to MSUCOM the results of any requirements that exist outside of those listed above.

COURSE GRADES

All rotation requirements must be completed to determine a grade for the course. Students are required to ensure their rotation requirements are completed and submitted correctly.

P/Pass – means that credit is granted, and that the student achieved a level of performance judged to be satisfactory by the department according to the student's didactic and clinical performance.

NGR/No Grade Reported – means that a final grade ('Pass' or 'No Grade') cannot be determined due to one or more missing course requirements. The NGR grade will be changed to a final grade once all the completed course requirements have been submitted to and processed by MSUCOM (either to the department or Clerkship Team).

An 'NGR' grade will NOT remain on a student's transcript.

N/No Grade – means that no credit is granted, and that the student did not achieve a level of performance judged to be satisfactory by the department according to the student's didactic and clinical performance.

N Grade Policy

Students who fail this rotation will have to repeat the entire rotation and fulfill all (clinical and academic) requirements.

MSU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE STANDARD POLICIES

The following are standard MSUCOM policies across all Clerkship rotations.

CLERKSHIP ATTENDANCE POLICY

MSUCOM requires student participation in clerkship rotations and clinical activities with consistent attendance to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for successful program completion. This policy will define the policy and procedures regarding absences for clerkship activities. [Policy - Clerkship Absence 2025.pdf](#)

POLICY FOR MEDICAL STUDENT SUPERVISION

The MSUCOM curriculum includes required clinical experiences in a variety of clinical learning environments. The Medical Student Supervision Policy outlines all supervision agreements and expectations. [Clerkship Medical Student Supervision Policy.pdf](#)

MSUCOM STUDENT HANDBOOK

The Student Handbook is published electronically by MSUCOM for students in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program. This handbook does not supersede other Michigan State University or College of Osteopathic Medicine policies, regulations, agreements, or guidelines. <https://osteopathicmedicine.msu.edu/current-students/student-handbook>.

COMMON GROUND FRAMEWORK FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Common Ground Framework provides the MSUCOM community with a reminder of the unity of mind, body, and spirit that underlines the field of osteopathic medicine. The framework is a set of guiding, foundational principles that underpin professional conduct and integrity and applies to all professionals at work within the shared college community, independent of their specific roles or responsibilities.

<https://osteopathicmedicine.msu.edu/about-us/common-ground-professionalism-initiative>

MEDICAL STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The rights and responsibilities of students enrolled in MSUCOM are defined by the medical colleges of Michigan State University, including the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Human Medicine, and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Students enrolled in the professional curricula of these colleges are identified as "medical students." These colleges collectively define "Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities" (MSRR). This document addresses academic rights and responsibilities, governance, procedures for complaints, due process, and other topics. The current version is available on the MSU Spartan Life website

at the address below: <http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/medical-student-rights-and-responsibilities-mssr>

MSU EMAIL

MSU email is the official communication from faculty and staff to students and students are responsible for checking it daily and maintaining their MSU email accounts so that messages can be received. Students are responsible for responding to email in a timely manner or as otherwise outlined in course communication.

Forwarding MSU email to another email account or failure to check email are not valid excuses for missing a deadline or other requirements of the DO program.

Please Note: Student D2L email addresses must be forwarded to your MSU email account.

Further, students must use secure email when working in a hospital, clinic, or other health care setting if discussion of patient information is involved. MSUNet (msu.edu) email is secure; many web-based email systems including Hotmail, Gmail, and Yahoo are not. <https://osteopathicmedicine.msu.edu/current-students/student-handbook>.

DUTY HOURS AND FATIGUE MITIGATION

The accreditation standards for graduate medical education programs include restrictions on the duty hours of residents. Additionally, institutions are expected to promote a clinical learning environment in which duty hours are monitored and strategies exist to mitigate the effects of fatigue. [Clerkship Duty Hours and Fatigue Mitigation Policy.pdf](#)

STUDENT EXPOSURE PROCEDURE

A protocol has been developed by the University Physician to report incidents of exposure, e.g., needle sticks, mucous membrane exposure, tuberculosis exposure, etc., and it may be found here:

<https://osteopathicmedicine.msu.edu/current-students/clerkship-medical-education/injury-and-property-damage-reports>

Contact Associate Dean for Clerkship Education, Dr. Susan Enright (enright4@msu.edu), if exposure incident occurs.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION LETTERS

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) at 517-884-RCPD, or on the web at www.rcpd.msu.edu. Once a student's eligibility for (clinical and/or testing) accommodation(s) are determined, the student may be issued an Accommodation Letter. Students must present their letter to the Clerkship Team (COM.Clerkship@msu.edu) at the start of the semester in which they intend to use

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their accommodations (for tests, projects, labs, etc.). Accommodation requests received after the semester onset will be honored whenever possible.

If modifications, updates, or extensions to an existing letter are made after the semester begins, it is the responsibility of the student to submit the newest version to the Clerkship Team if he/she intends to utilize the accommodation going forward.

SUMMARY OF GRADING REQUIREMENTS

*For any below information requiring an item be uploaded to D2L, students must ensure it is put into the correct folder within the correct section for their course.

Requirement	Submission Method	Pass	No Grade Reported	No Pass
Review and complete all 5 Modules on D2L. Complete Attestation Survey.	Qualtrics	Completed 100% by 11:59 pm the last day of the rotation in Qualtrics.	Will be the conditional grade until all requirements of this rotation are met.	Failure to complete and submit within 14 days from the end of the rotation AND/OR Failure to complete the Corrective Action assigned
AMA Module	Submit the Certificate of completion to the D2L "Introducing Health Care Policy and Economics"	Must be completed and uploaded by 11:59 pm, the last day of the rotation, to the appropriate dropbox.	Will be the conditional grade until all requirements of this rotation are met.	Failure to complete and submit within 14 days from the end of the rotation AND/OR Failure to complete the Corrective Action Assigned
Write One-Page Health Policy Brief	Uploaded to "One-Page Health Policy Brief Dropbox" on D2L	Uploaded to "One-Page Health Policy Brief Dropbox" on D2L by 11:59 pm the last day (Sunday) of rotation.	Will be the conditional grade until all requirements of this rotation are met.	Failure to complete and submit within 14 days from the end of the rotation AND/OR Failure to complete the Corrective Action assigned.
Write an Op-Ed on a Healthcare issue	Uploaded to "Op-Ed Dropbox" on D2L	Uploaded to "Op-Ed Dropbox" on D2L by 11:59 pm the last day (Sunday) of rotation.	Will be the conditional grade until all requirements of this rotation are met.	Failure to complete and submit within 14 days from the end of the rotation AND/OR Failure to complete the Corrective Action assigned.
Reflection Essay	Uploaded to "Reflective Essay Dropbox" on D2L	Uploaded to "Reflective Essay Dropbox" on D2L by 11:59 pm the last day (Sunday) of rotation.	Will be the conditional grade until all requirements of this rotation are met.	Failure to complete and submit within 14 days from the end of the rotation AND/OR Failure to complete the Corrective Action assigned.
Student Evaluation of Clerkship Rotation	Can be accessed and submitted electronically by students within the dashboard of their Medtrics profiles	Completed 100% by 11:59 pm the last day of the rotation	Will be the conditional grade until all requirements of this rotation are met.	Failure to complete and submit within 14 days from the last day of the rotation