

From: Zehle, Christa H <Christa.Zehle@med.uvm.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2020 8:24 AM
Subject: Class of 2021 medical education updates - please review

Hello Class of 2021,

Thank you for all your patience and flexibility as the world responds to COVID-19. We understand that this has been a trying and confusing time for many and wanted to take a moment to provide some additional information, with the understanding that this is a very dynamic and rapidly changing situation.

I apologize for the length of the attached document, however appreciate you taking the time to review it. I hope we have captured all of your current questions and concerns, however if not, certainly feel free to reach out to us. We will provide additional information about travel back to Vermont from international or domestic locations as we get closer to your expected clinical re-entry.

We miss you and I hope to schedule a class town hall in the near future.
Stay safe and well,
Christa Zehle, MD

Christa H. Zehle, MD

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MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION OFFICE

[Drop In Sessions](#)

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Pronouns: she/her [[Why include pronouns?](#)]

Hello Class of 2021,

Thank you for all your patience and flexibility as the world responds to COVID-19. We understand that this has been a trying and confusing time for many and wanted to take a moment to provide some additional information, with the understanding that this is a very dynamic and rapidly changing situation.

Please know that as we navigate the impact of COVID 19 on medical education, our goal is to ensure that our students meet their medical education requirements and that the class of 2021 is fully prepped to graduate in May 2021 and enter residency shortly thereafter. Although the year ahead may look different for your class than it has for previous classes, there is flexibility in the Advanced Integration level to keep you enrolled in non-clinical course work until students are able to reenter the clinical environment.

In alignment with recommendations put forth by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the clinical climate at our affiliate health care organizations, the Governor's Stay Home Stay Safe mandate, and the President's recent announcement to extend physical distancing we will need to further delay medical student entry into the clinical environment. To limit the amount of time students are delayed entry into clinical activities, the **current plan is for students to resume clinical activities on May 4th, 2020**. Given the need to balance the health and safety of all students and the public, this plan could change and result in a later start date.

What will happen to my April 2020 clinical rotation that I have scheduled?

The Medical Education Leadership Team and Medical Curriculum Committee have decided that the least disruptive option will be to shift the Advanced Integration schedule for the class of 2021 forward and complete non-clinical courses for credit in the interim. Courses that you have scheduled to start April 6, 2020 will now start May 4, 2020 (see schedule below). We have decided to shift the schedule forward to enable students to preserve as much of their schedule, which was developed with the residency application process in mind, as possible. We understand there are limitations to any change, and we encourage you to [drop in for advising](#) if you have questions or concerns about the impact this will have on your schedule.

We will start working on OASIS changes now so **please do not make any changes to your April schedule** until these are completed. We will open your April 6 – May 1, 2020 schedules as soon as possible so that you can enroll in any of our non-clinical courses that are available.

What courses are available 4/6-5/1?

Emma Faustner sent an email on 3/31 that provides a list of non-clinical activities available. Other options include reading electives geared towards your intended specialty, fulfilling your Teaching Assistant/Scholarly requirement, or study for Step 2.

What if the new schedule has me now enrolled in a medicine acting internship, emergency medicine rotation or surgical subspecialty rotation during April 2021?

We hope to distribute some if not all of these during other months throughout the year. We will work with you to reschedule these requirements during a different block.

What if I have a rotation or bridge week to complete from clerkship year?

Clerkship course enrollment continues to be scheduled through Jacqueline Drouin and the clerkship team. Please be aware that the Bridge weeks may be modified and offered as a remote or longitudinal learning opportunity. The clerkship team is aware of class of 2021 students needing to enroll in a clerkship or bridge course and will communicate with you your options for meeting these requirements.

Does this impact my graduation?

The requirements for graduation currently remain unchanged and our recent modifications to the curriculum allow for students to continue to enroll in coursework and obtain non-clinical credit that counts towards graduation. Further delay into the clinical environment may impact the ability for all students to fulfill our current graduation requirements and if necessary, LCOM educational committees will review and make any necessary adjustments to these requirements.

Updates on specific areas:

LCOM Acting Internships/electives – At this time students remain enrolled in Acting Internships and electives and the Office of Medical Student Education is working with departments to ensure centralized communication regarding any changes. Although student involvement may have to look different depending on the department and affiliate site, the Office of Medical Student Education will work closely with students to identify other educational experiences if one of your rotations needs to be cancelled, to support your residency application and medical education progress. If you receive specific information about a rotation directly from a department, please pass the information along to [Emma Faustner](#) and/or [Dr. Eldakar-Hein](#) to review.

Away Rotations – Per national recommendations, LCOM and medical schools across the country are suspending away rotations. Due to uncertainty regarding travel over the next several months, UVM is cancelling approval for all summer travel. This includes both domestic and international travel occurring through UVM and external programs. Therefore, currently LCOM medical are not to participate in away rotation through July. We are working with our colleagues nationally to ensure that there is a uniform and equitable decision about away rotations for all students. The Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine Advising Students Committee has written a [consensus statement](#) regarding standardized letters of evaluation (SLOEs) and away rotations. We will continue to monitor updates from other specialties. Away rotations offered at LCOM/UVM Medical Center to medical students from other institutions are suspended until 5/31/2020 and likely will be delayed even further.

Step 2 CS/CK – Currently all U.S. and Canadian Prometric testing centers are closed until 4/16 and all Clinical Skills Evaluation Collaboration test centers which offer the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills exam are closed until **May 31, 2020**. It is possible that closures will be extended, and we are monitoring for updates from the NBME. USMLE will waive fees for eligibility period extensions and testing region changes. Eligibility periods will be extended automatically, requiring no action from examinees. Due to the uncertainty of testing dates, **students in the class of 2021 will be able to enroll in an additional 2 weeks of USMLE Step 2 study elective.**

Residency Applications – At this time there have been no official changes to the residency application timeline. We anticipate that the opening of the ERAS application will be delayed, and possibly other timelines adjusted. It is also possible that interviews will be conducted differently this year. It is not every year that 4th year medical students must deal with a viral pandemic. If you spend more time participating in non-clinical activities or are unable to participate in as many Acting Internships or specialty specific rotations as you had planned, it is our expectation that program directors will be understanding of the situation the world is facing.

We know this is challenging and that uncertainty can be stressful. Please know that the medical student services team remains available to all of you for advice and support. We encourage you to contact us with any questions ([StudentCOMServices](#)) or to sign up for a drop in meeting (see links below) with any of us. Thank you again for your patience and understanding throughout all of this. Take care of yourselves and continue taking care of each other.

With gratitude,
Christa Zehle, MD and the Medical Student Services Team

Sign up for a Drop-in Meeting:

- [Dean for Medical Education](#)
- [Deans for Students \(preclinical, clinical, CT Campus\)](#)
- [Director of Academic Achievement](#)
- [Director of Learning Environment](#)
- [Director of Student Wellbeing](#)

previously schedule	new schedule	Start	End
	non-clinical	6-Apr	1-May
4/6-5/1	1	4-May	29-May
5/4-5/29	2	1-Jun	26-Jun
6/1-6/26	3	6-Jul	31-Jul
7/6-7/31	4	3-Aug	28-Aug
8/3-8/28	5	31-Aug	25-Sep
8/31-9/25	6	5-Oct	30-Oct
10/5-10/30	7	2-Nov	27-Nov
11/2-11/27	8	1-Dec	25-Dec
12/1-12/25	9	4-Jan	29-Jan
1/4-1/29	10	1-Feb	26-Feb
2/1-2/26	11	1-Mar	26-Mar
3/1-3/26	12	5-Apr	30-Apr
4/5-4/30	Reschedule to a different time or a non-clinical course during 4/6/2020 to 5/1/2020		

