

From: LCOM Curriculum Services
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 10:14 AM
Cc: Miller, John H.
Subject: Convergence: Attendance Policy & Course Info

**** SENT ON BEHALF OF DR. JOHN MILLER, INTERIM CONVERGENCE COURSE DIRECTOR ****

Dear Class of 2024,

I am writing as the interim course director for the Convergence course, the last course in the VIC Foundations. Each year at this time, a notice is sent to the LCOM first year class to announce the calendar and attendance policy for Convergence, and by doing so, hopefully avoid conflicts with personal events that are often planned months in advance. I am sending the same message this year with the current understanding that the course is scheduled to be in person. I appreciate all the disruption and change that you have experienced over the past year and recognize your efforts and ability to adapt to these circumstances. Nearing the end of the year represents a lot of resilience and I congratulate you on this great milestone!

Convergence will take place **from Monday, January 3, through Thursday, January 27, 2022**. I know that many of you are now making plans for travel over the Dec.-Jan. break and I wanted to clarify the **attendance policy for the Convergence Course**.

Convergence is a problem based learning (PBL) class and meets in small groups each morning to work on solving six clinic cases over the month. Attendance at the small group sessions is required. **A passing grade requires no unexcused absences. A marginal pass is given for one unexcused absence and a failure for more than one unexcused absence.** The small groups are very much working sessions for discussion, investigation, and “solving” the cases. Much of the learning in this class takes place in these groups, and if you miss a session, there is no way to make up the time. It is similar to work rounds in the hospital. As a result, absence due to vacation late or taking long weekends will not be excused.

For other absences (illness, etc.), you will need to submit a request for an excused absence. Instructions, expectations, and the request form for an excused absence can all be found in the policy [here](#). You will have one day off during the month: Monday, Jan. 17, 2022 (Martin Luther King Day), which will give you a three-day weekend. I hope this helps in clarification for your travel plans.

*** Please note: Friday, January 28th is the required Foundations USMLE practice exam**

Thank you,
John H. Miller, MD, FACP
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Larner College of Medicine