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Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:43 AM

Subject: Online instruction for the NMGI course

Sending on behalf of Dr Rebecca Wilcox

Hello class of 2023.

We recognize that moving to an online curriculum is a major change for you. It is for us too! We have worked hard over the last few days to create a system designed to keep you progressing through the curriculum while staying engaged with the course, our faculty, and the Larner College of Medicine.

As always, your ongoing commitment and kind but direct communication will be essential. This is a process, and in this process, your feedback will be key to improving any rough edges or “didn’t think of that” issues that inevitably arise in a novel system. Beyond medical knowledge, this unprecedented moment provides us an opportunity to learn about ourselves in times of uncertainty. Our team is committed to the delivery of the NMGI curriculum and, from what I have seen in you class of 2023, you are committed to learning and to each other. Along with our family and community, education can anchor us in the face of uncertainty.

Please find below our initial plan for delivery of the on line curriculum. We have tried to address the many questions that you may have while remaining open and honest about the pieces that we are still working on. Drs Lounsbury, Moore, and Moynihan will join me at 1130 to review things further and answer any additional questions/concerns that you may have.

How are we doing online instruction in NMGI?

Your calendar in VIC Portal will still be the main source for getting materials and moving through the curriculum. We will be using a combination of asynchronous and synchronous methods. Our **asynchronous** method replaces CBLs, workshops, lectures, POCUS, and the 1st TBL next week. We are working to make ALL of next week’s course materials available as you go into this weekend. All materials that you are responsible for will be in the session on the calendar in VIC Portal. A session that displays the “i” icon has ALL needed material uploaded and ready for your review. You are expected to review all prep materials and complete the RQs for each day by 2pm EST. You will also have faculty versions of in-class presentations, with answers. We encourage you to go through these and challenge yourself to answer the questions prior to looking at the answer.

Each session will have a discussion board with two prompt questions from the faculty. The discussion boards are also a place to pose questions about topics or concepts you do not understand. Your participation in the discussion boards is expected and will be part of your grade for the course (5%). We expect you will contribute to a minimum of three discussion boards a week.

The day’s discussion boards will be closed each evening. They will be provided to the session faculty for review. Faculty will look for areas that need clarification and closure of knowledge gap. They will create a closure communication that will be posted back in the session’s materials in VIC Portal.

Our **synchronous** method replaces the clinical image of the week and pre-exam reviews and will include online office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays. We will use Zoom videoconferencing for these sessions. The Zoom link, and instructions, will be in your VIC Portal calendar.

What resources are available to students?

Tim Moynihan, PhD – Director of Academic Achievement will be maintaining academic support with zoom and phone appointments. In person meetings can also be conducted.

Dr. Prema Menon – Assistant Dean for Students

SIGs and SEG- the community you have already developed is really strong- even if not physically together- keep that community together

How will LCOM faculty and staff communicate with students during online instruction?

Email is still the primary form of communication. It is expected that you will check your email daily and preferable that you check it twice, morning and evening.

How will grading of NMGI be changed with online instruction?

There is no longer a clinical skills exam (CSE) or NBME in NMGI. Block exams will be delivered on their originally scheduled days, online, securely.

Previous grade breakdown:

Assessment	Format	Contribution to Course Grade
Block 1 Exam	MCQ- USMLE style	30%
Block 2 Exam	MCQ- USMLE style	30%
Block 3 Exam	MCQ- USMLE style	25%
Final examination – clinical skills	Simulation	Pass/fail
RQs	MCQ	6%
i/gRAT	MCQ- USMLE style	4%
NBME Cumulative Exam	MCQ- Administered by NBME	5%

Online grade breakdown:

Assessment	Format	Contribution to Course Grade
Block 1 Exam	MCQ- USMLE style	30%
Block 2 Exam	MCQ- USMLE style	30%
Block 3 Exam	MCQ- USMLE style	25%
RQs	MCQ	6%
iRAT	MCQ- USMLE style	4%
Participation in discussion boards		5%

What will NOT be delivered with online instruction (i.e. cancelled)?

GI tumor board, Food as medicine lunch series, the teaching kitchen elective, and the simulation portion of POCUS sessions (note: the non-simulation portions of POCUS will still be delivered). DIV is suspended.

Whom do I contact for what?

The Office of Medical Student Education is creating a document that lists who to call for different types of concerns.

How do I reach Dr. Wilcox?

Please email her at Rebecca.wilcox@uvmhealth.org. She will do her best to reply as soon as possible.

How should I contact faculty to clarify something that was not addressed on the discussion boards or in the clarification document?

Email is the preferred method for contacting a faculty member. LCOM has provided faculty Zoom videoconferencing capabilities and this could be used as well. In person meetings are the least preferred option as we support efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

We recognize this is a long email, with lots of information. In addition, we recognize that we have not answered all your questions. For instance, we are still working on a plan for TBLs and Pathology labs. We will be in regular communication with email and are setting up invitations to have you take part in Zoom focus groups. Thank you for your patience and your trust in the process.

JSM

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