

**From:** [Zehle, Christa H](#)  
**To:** [Zehle, Christa H](#)  
**Subject:** February Wednesday Wonders  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 11:26:08 PM

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Dear Students,

It is hard to believe it is already February 2022. With February being the shortest month of the year, it will be Spring before we know it. Below are a few updates for this month.

**COVID-19: [How is Vermont doing?](#)** As of today (2/2): 677 new cases (105,569 total), 9.2% positivity rate; 88 patients currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 23 of those hospitalized in ICU.

**COVID-19: [How is Connecticut doing?](#)** As of today (2/2): 1,786 new cases (702,426 total); 7.43% positivity rate; 935 patients currently hospitalized with COVID-19.

**Face-Covering information:**

KN95 masks are available at the Davis Center Information Desks Monday – Saturday: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM and Sundays: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Students are required to bring their CATcard and will receive three KN95 masks.

**CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>

**Vermont Department of Health:** <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/protect-yourself-others>

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations** require all students complete the [Non-Employee Staff Vaccination Attestation](#) and upload a copy of your vaccination card as soon as possible and no later than February 15, 2022 in order to participate in clinical activities. Thank you for your compliance with this time sensitive request!

**We have heard that students are interested in an update about the future of Clerkship Grading. Below please find an update on the process and timeline.**

- Prior to Covid, grading during the Clerkship was Honors/Pass/Fail within a normative system in which the target was for the top third of students in the class to earn honors.
- With the onset of Covid in March of 2020, the Medical Curriculum Committee (MCC) approved a Pass/Fail grading system for the Class of 2022 and the Class of 2023. This decision was multifactorial but centered around equity and the anticipated impacts of the pandemic.
- Clerkship grading has been a hot topic nationally and locally. For the last 9 months we have had ongoing discussions in multiple venues about clerkship grading for the Class of 2024.
  - Multiple discussions have occurred at the Clerkship Directors MCC-Sub Committee meetings
  - A debate with stakeholders (students, clerkship faculty, residency program directors, ODEI representatives) was held in October.
  - A town hall with students was held in early January.
- Many factors were considered when developing the Clerkship grading proposal, including a Clerkship grading analysis (2015-2020) which demonstrated that URiM students had lower shelf exam scores across most clerkships, and were less likely to receive a grade of Honors, than non-URiM students. Further preliminary analyses were conducted on a single clerkship, which suggested that grade differences were driven by shelf exam scores. Clinical evaluations by preceptors and faculty (including residents) did not demonstrate a difference in URiM and non-URiM students.
- This week the Level Director of Clinical Clerkships submitted a Clerkship grading proposal on behalf of the Clerkship Subcommittee for review by the Medical Curriculum Committee.

The [Medical Curriculum Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at which time the MCC will review and vote on the clerkship grading proposal to take effect in March of 2022.

- There will be 3 options for the MCC to choose from:
  - Option 1: Keep in place the current temporary P/F grading policy due to the Covid pandemic.
  - Option 2: Replace the temporary P/F grading policy with an intentional P/F grading policy.
  - Option 3: Replace the temporary P/F grading policy with an intentional H/P/F grading policy, with clearer, more equitable criteria for honors.
- Students will be notified of the MCC decision in writing by Friday, February 18, 2022.

**Class of 2022:**

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) ranking option is now open. The following are resources to assist you with the ranking process:

- [Ranking programs in the Main Residency Match](#)
- [Entering and Certifying a Rank Order List support guide](#)

Assistance is available from the NRMP support staff Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM Eastern Time by emailing [support@nrmp.org](mailto:support@nrmp.org) or calling 866-653-NRMP (6767).

Assistance is also available from The Office of Medical Education Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, stop by, call (802) 656-0722 or email [Emma Faustner](#), Residency Placement Coordinator, or [StudentCOMServices](#). **Best wishes for a successful Match!**

The Association of American Medical Colleges **Graduation Questionnaire** opens on **February 14, 2022**. Whether you are "Lovin' Lerner" or want to lovingly share where we can do better, **your voice matters**. We carefully review the GQ results to identify opportunities for improvement and the GQ results are also important for our continued accreditation. Later this week you will receive additional information about an upcoming GQ launching event, so stay tuned!

**Class of 2023:** One more clerkship rotation before you are official 4<sup>th</sup> year students! Congratulations and remember to appreciate all that you have learned this year about the clinical care of patients.

**Class of 2024:** We are thinking of you as you prepare for your Step 1 exam. Take a moment to appreciate all that you have learned throughout the Foundations curriculum. You've got this!

**Class of 2025:** Attacks & Defenses is a tough, yet fascinating course. Absorb as much knowledge as you can from Dr. Raszka in these final days of the course !

Thank you to all who have participated in and provided feedback on our Associate Dean for Admissions, Associate Dean for Students, and Associate Dean for Curriculum candidates visiting campus virtually and in-person during January/February! We value your input!

Be well, be safe and enjoy the snow!

With appreciation and gratitude,  
Christa Zehle and the Office of Medical Education Team

I may at times send an email message after/outside work hours based on my schedule. I value your work-life boundaries and rhythm. Please do not feel any pressure to respond outside of your normal work or school hours unless it is convenient for you. Thank you!

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MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION OFFICE

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

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