

Townhall #5 Q&A April 13, 2020

Foundation Phase Questions

None

Application Phase Questions

More of a comment, but I think some type of re-entry into the wards week for both application phase and individualization students would be a great idea. Especially if its a modular thing where you could pick areas where you feel like you need to brush up on (presentations, suturing, emergency medicine, physical exam, ect)

We agree and are looking to the block from May 26 to June 26 for a period of re-entry and brushing up for Application Phase students

I am very appreciative of all of the work that was done for this course and for our administration helping to ensure that it will meet future graduation requirements for our class. However, I think a lot of it is busy work that is very centered around a very specific topic and isn't necessarily enriching all of our skills and clinical knowledge. My concern is that The Class of 2022/2021 is going to be about three months removed from the clinical environment as well as being engaged in learning and applying clinical knowledge. In particular, the Class of 2022 came immediately off of studying for STEP 1 to being in the hospital/clinics. Being enriched with that breadth knowledge was beneficial heading into clinicals. We are obviously very much still in the learning stage so I think narrowing our focus is a slight disadvantage to us. I don't believe that this course is a burden at all, but I think this time would be much better utilized if we had a method of keeping up to date on our clinical knowledge. I would definitely like if there was a way to incorporate studying for all of our future rotations in the course, not just the rotation that we were pulled from. Because with that, we risk being over prepared for just one rotation and underprepared for others. Maybe there could be like mini-bootcamps for each rotation? Such as giving practice cases to write pre-rounding/progress/H&P reports and utilizing Case Files, Online MedEd, UptoDate, and possibly even didactics and other question banks to allow us to continue to practice. I think providing these so we can have access to them to read and learn on our own time would be much more beneficial in the longterm to prepare us as physicians rather than just learning about one specific disease for an entire month.

We recognize that what you are learning is very different than what you thought you would be learning. We have been working hard to make the lessons of the COVID Medical Management course be more broadly applicable. The next two months will give you more broad options to hone your clinical skills. We have also worked hard to not pack your weeks too much so that you have the chance to continue to keep up your clinical knowledge base. We will work with the Application Phase course directors and the Office of Academic Excellence to get you more specific information on how you can keep learning on your own outside of the course and prepare to re-enter the clinical courses later this summer.

Individualization Phase Questions (class of 2021)

If we're continuing to apply for away rotations, what blocks should we be doing them in? I know many like myself were originally planning on them in blocks 5 and 6, but those seem less ideal now that we'll likely be starting back in individualization phase in block 5.

We just heard that VSLO will be placed into maintenance mode for 2-weeks which means that both outgoing and incoming applications will be placed on hold. This is to provide institutions some time to assess their ability to receive visiting students. We suspect many schools will restrict students in early summer.

This was asked at a previous town hall, but can we get an early webinar on how to best to prepare Personal statements and ERAS applications? (class of 2020)

Meeting about ERAS /personal statements scheduled for Monday April 27 @2p with Maureen Rosen & Alice Chuang.

this is a more life in general question, but any chance of getting someone from financial aid or Kenan Flagler to talk about how we can best be saving money during these times?

This is such an important issue. Financial Aid is scheduling webinars for students. We will also look to see if someone from Kenan Flagler could give a presentation

Before all the delays and closures, Step 2CK was set start including increased numbers of questions regarding systems-based practice, patient safety, legal/ethical issues, and professionalism starting in June/July 2020. Has there been any discussion from the NBME/USMLE that these changes will still go in effect during those months? With many of us delaying CK now it would be helpful to know as if we should increase studying in those areas to reflect possible questions we may encounter.

We were not able to find specific guidance on this question from the NBME website but will notify you if we hear updates on our national calls. We also feel you are well prepared for these type of questions given our UNC curriculum.

I am signed up for a permission only course for Block 5, do you know what will happen if we are indeed able to resume clinical rotations in Block 5? Am I still required/committed to this permission only course? Or would we all have clean slate and need to request Block 5 permission again?

We will redo the scheduling. We will carefully look at individual situations. If you are able to be rescheduled for that course, it does not seem like you should have to get permission again.

I want to start off by saying thank you for all your hard work in making the most of an unfortunate situation! We all greatly appreciate it. I wanted to make a suggestion regarding Indy scheduling for Block 5-14. Given that those of us applying for ERAS this fall need certain AIs, etc to be able to apply to residency, could we get preference for those AI spots? As opposed to LOA students who might be trying to schedule an AI for that first block back but have another year before they apply. I would suggest giving preference to those who are applying to residency and graduating in 2021 since spots are limited.

We will work hard to individualize the schedules and give students preference who are closest to graduation

Individualization Phase Questions (class of 2020)

With these changes, does it mean a near zero percent chance of getting reduced tuition for spring semester of MS4 year? (question from class of 2020 student)

It is a University decision. The University is aware of the financial pressures many students are facing and working to respond to those pressures. See also prior responses related to tuition.

Can bootcamp information be disseminated to all students so we can be better prepared for residency

We are collecting effective resources that you can use to further prepare for residency from all bootcamp directors. We will shortly post those resources on the TTR Sakai site by speciality

Covid Course in April and courses for May and June

Hi Administration! I am an Application Phase student and I've been trying to follow along the last couple town halls and have kept up with the town hall documents but I still feel a little confused. In regards to the COVID courses. I know the 4-week COVID-1 counts as elective credit for individualization phase. Today Johanna mentioned COVID-2 as another 4-week course in May with optional 2-week sessions afterward to hold us over till our hopeful end of June start date. To clarify, both COVID-1 and COVID-2 are counted for elective courses in Indy phase? Also, would the 2-week sessions count for any sort of credit or are they purely sessions for our own knowledge? Apologies if this is redundant, I just want to make sure I'm not missing any information. My classmates and I were a little confused by some of the conversations on possibly having COVID courses meet some Application phase clinical requirements as well as discussions on COVID courses not necessarily meeting LCME credit. Any clarification you could add on exactly what the COVID course count for/what the structure for COVID-2 looks like would be very helpful! Thank you so much for everything!

I was hoping that today you could provide us more information about the COVID electives being offered for the second 4-week course. When will we find out our options for courses? When will we sign up for courses? How will the sign up work?

We are finalizing the structure for Individualization Phase and it will most likely convert a second AI requirement to an elective requirement and a second ACS elective requirement to an elective requirement. The COVID Medical Management course (March 30-April 24) can count as one of those electives. We are planning for a number of different courses that students can select in the next block (April 27-May 22) to count for a second elective. To give students maximum flexibility some of those options will be 2-week options so that a student can take part in two 2-week options for one elective credit. Some of those options will be 4-week options and count for one elective credit. (note that students who still wish to take two AI may still choose to do so and the second AI will count towards an elective)

I agree with the previous town hall post regarding frustration over mandatory Covid volunteering and a lack of remote positions. It feels a bit like we are being exploited. Hospitals make enormous profits and employ a lot of people, many of whom are short of work due to changes in their department patient censuses. I do not believe an enormous organization such as UNC Hospitals is in need of massive mobilization of medical students to assist with their COVID response, regardless of how good it may

appear on our upcoming residency applications. If we want to follow the orders and stay at home, I think we should be allowed to do that. We can see in the news now how residents are being exploited in NY, making minimum wage and seeing patients without adequate PPE. The martyr culture in medicine does not apply to all future physicians, and I don't think we should be punished for that.

Service has always been an important part of training for UNC SOM students. There are many remote options on the volunteer webpage https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BgdyrKBhAW8ibf8_fVGxUGXv08Z-IUdp/view linked off the COVID webpage. Curating reliable content for your social media feed, checking on elderly neighbors who may need help with groceries, giving time to a COVID hotline, organizing virtual community game nights to increase socialization – these are just a handful of remote opportunities, and are contributing in important ways to the care of our community which is a fundamental part of being a physician and healer. If you are having trouble signing up for such opportunities, please contact Sarah Smithson or Beat Steiner.

Can you please either communicate earlier about when mandatory lectures/class meetings will be taking place, or make them non-mandatory to attend live/offer excused absences for volunteer activities? It makes it difficult to plan out other activities when we don't know when these things will be happening until a few days in advance.

We have tried hard to communicate in advance when live lectures are happening in the COVID course. We have tried to keep the class meetings at the times they were previously announced. We are aware that communication has been more challenging with the rapidly evolving situation and some events have been scheduled with less than ideal notice. We hope that you will continue to be patient with us and offer us grace during these challenging times.

General Questions

Could one of you speak to the recent JAMA opinion article about suspending medschool classes for a year to recruit medstudents into epidemiological/scut duty rolls? seems to be a terrible idea.

We did read the article. UNC SOM is not pursuing this option and I have not heard any other schools seriously pursuing this option. The article does raise the really important point about the need for the health community to work together to fight this pandemic.

This is a more life in general question, but any chance of getting someone from financial aid or Kenan Flagler to talk about how we can best be saving money during these times?

This is such an important issue. Financial Aid is starting again to reschedule the individual student financial planning meetings. We will look into providing more general sessions on financial wellness in this time of uncertainty and will reach out to Kenan Flagler faculty

Are students allowed to know COVID19 census numbers from the hospital?

You should be getting daily Vital Sign updates from the Health System that all other UNC HCS employees get. Currently COVID19 Census information is not shared with UNC HCS employees. More specific census data is provided to individual clinical teams.