

Townhall 6 April 21, 2020

General Questions

This is not a question. I just wanted to take the time to sincerely thank you all for hosting these weekly townhalls and for being so open with communication. I know this is a difficult time for everyone - students and admin included. As students, we don't always make your job any easier. I really appreciate the grace you have given us and the consistent message of hope and positivity you all are able to provide us with every week.

Please know that, for every frustrated and sharp comment or question, there are so many students how have never been prouder to be at the UNC SOM. These Town Hall meetings are so informative, transparent and uplifting. I am concerned that some of my student colleagues are directing their frustrations towards the wrong individuals and I would like to apologize on their behalf. For some, this may be the first time they are experiencing the challenging emotions of disappointment and unfairness, which many people from disadvantaged communities are all too familiar with. Thank you for your service and continued respect toward our student body. We truly are all in this together and that is what I feel each time I disconnect from our meetings.

Thank You

Any idea how this is affecting the timeline for the new MedEd building?

For now, the schedule for the new MedEd building remains on track, with a completion date still expected in late 2022 or early 2023.

I again what really want to thank yall for the amazing work done to put together these covid courses and think about the next few months with almost no notice. But I wanted to ask if plans are being discussed if NC gets a late wave and we can't start in July?

We are hoping that this will not happen but we are thinking of contingencies. We hope that even with a resurgence we will be better prepared (more PPE and more testing capabilities) and thus better able to keep students in clinical settings. If students are not able to go back into clinical settings we will need to look harder at what clinical competencies can be achieved in non-clinical settings.

Foundation Phase Questions

Has there been any discussions on whether foundation phase students will continue with virtual learning in the fall?

We have not made any decisions about this but need to remain open to the possibility. We will closely monitor prevalence of cases, testing capabilities, and guidance from the Chancellor. We will also learn from this experience and apply lessons learned to improving all phases of the curriculum

Application Phase Questions

If we are to have a 9 month application phase, would it be possible to have 3 months of CSP, 3 months of CBL, and 3 months of HISC? This would allow us to still function on a trimester curriculum.

Yes that is the plan approved by the Education Committee. Details of the plan were sent out this afternoon to the class of 2022

Can you explain what the process for doing an LOA year/MPH year will be with the changes in application phase?

Student Affairs is working to individualize plans for students going on a LOA and reaching out to those students.

Application phase question: What is the rush to get the class of 2022/current App phase students done by March 2021? If it's because the class below (2023) will be starting, why not distribute the effects of pandemic clerkship rescheduling more evenly across both class years? And have class of 2022 App phase be more like 10 months (instead of 9), finishing in April 2021 or so, and give the class of 2023 an extra month for Step 1 studying? Or if 2023 wouldn't take Step 1 until after App phase, have them take the Covid elective, other MS4 electives, or Foundation phase courses that were largely affected by remote learning (e.g. anatomy dissections and MSK)?

Would it be possible to extend the class of 2022's app phase to April 2022? This would allow more time for clinical rotation for c/o 2022, and more time to study for step 1 for the c/o 2023.

One of the strengths of the TEC curriculum is a prolonged Individualization Phase. Especially for this coming year, we want to preserve Individualization Phase so students can explore career options and complete courses to pursue their career interests. Starting Indy Phase does also help with capacity as current Foundation Phase students join Application Phase in March 2021

Individualization Phase Questions (Class of 2021)

Indiv phase: for students registered for step 2 CK in mid-May, should we still take an elective in block 3 which starts on Apr 27? I was considering not taking one in order to study, but I know there is the risk that the exam would be canceled.

This is a really hard question. We have a sense from NBME that Prometric Centers will again be open in May.

Are there any updates on the ERAS timeline for this cycle? I know there is consideration about possibly adjusting it given the pandemic; however, has anything come from that yet?

We do not have any updates yet but we are part of many groups asking the AAMC to extend the ERAS timeline

I had an away rotation confirmed in July. If the host institution is still willing to have me, may I attend in Block 5?

If you have a confirmed rotation in block 5 and the host institution is willing to have you, you should be able to take the rotation. Please check in with the institution if they have the capacity to take away students. It will also be important to assess sufficient PPE, teacher capacity, and patient volume.

Is there a way to opt out of Covid-Course-2? I'm starting to feel fatigued with thinking about Covid constantly.

Thank you for your hard work. With all these changes and the upcoming COVID-19 elective courses, will the limit on only taking 2 two-week electives be relaxed? I would love to take more and that could make it easier to meet learning objectives in a shorter period of time when we return.

Will we be required to take COVID 2? What if we would rather study or do research?

I'd like to begin by stating how much I value the dedication of faculty involved in designing this course. I understand that this was a difficult and stressful position to be in, to design a course at a moment's notice. My question involves future course plans. As yet, I have not found much value in the COVID course. Readings have by and large been publicly accessible, assignments are not engaging and are more reflection exercises that I can do on my own (we have not received any feedback on anything submitted, which I find ethically fraught). The speakers have been a value to hear from but there have not been many. To be frank, I would much rather spend my time keeping up on clinical knowledge that I feel slipping away day by day. I wonder if it is possible in the future, until we return to clinical activities, that we have the option (1) to participate in the COVID elective or (2) develop a study plan involving all of the clinical material we will be expected to know (for shelf exams, Step 2, and our careers). As the COVID course counts as elective credit, I find it reasonable that we have the choice to participate in it, especially considering that we are paying tuition—we should have stake in how our education is designed and how best our time might be spent.

I know that there will be a variety of COVID-2 electives and some will be 2-weeks long and some will be 4-weeks long. What will the sign up process be like? Will some of the courses have limited enrollment and will there be a lottery system? Will there be an opportunity to take more than 1 (or officially enroll in one while maybe auditing others)? When do you all think a list of these courses will become available?

Why can't we take research as an elective instead of COVID 2? The infrastructure is already there for taking research as an elective as it's something that students regularly do.

You will receive more detailed information about COVID 2 this week

Many of the selective options will be more clinical and less COVID focused in COVID2. COVID 2 will be optional for Indy Phase students. For Application Phase students, there will be flexibility to take course as a 2 week (3 hours) or 4 week (6 hour) course.

It is difficult to take more than two 2 week electives in 4 weeks given credit hour limitations

If you already have a research project and mentor established, you can work with the MD program registrar's office to enroll in that research elective for block 3.

I couldn't help but notice how the science of medicine curriculum really mirrors the COVID19 course. Given that all of us have done part 1 of the course, can opt to enroll in Science of Medicine instead of COVID part 2!

The Science of Medicine course in Indy Phase is a longitudinal course designed to finish with a capstone in the final semester of your Indy Phase.

Indy Phase: Since there will be changes in terms of requirements and it sounds like possibly more electives for graduation (or a shift increasing the proportion of electives), can those of us who have >6 hours of elective credit from 1st and 2nd year bring forward more credits to count? I ask because I am particularly proud of those courses and credits I took and I feel like it's a shame I can only bring forward so many officially and not showcase all of it to prospective residencies.

I will be returning to Indy Phase from a LOA. How will the modified curriculum apply to students who have already completed two AIs? Thanks.

All electives students take will show up on the transcript. They will show up as AI on the transcript. The changes we made to Indy Phase are only basic graduation requirements. So you can more elective credits forward. You can also take more than one AI, etc.

Indy Phase: I'm confused why there was a cap on the number of additions to Immersion Day this month- they capped it at ten additions (which immediately filled up) and a short waitlist. I see it as a potential positive for some of us to work on that aspect of our curriculum right now- especially since things further down the line will be more hectic with scheduling and rotations? Why is there a cap limit if we've previously had lectures with 390+ individuals in attendance?

The coaching component of the Immersion Day relies on small group teaching so registration is limited by the number of coaches available for small groups. We are planning to offer an additional Immersion Day in early May. We will release the date and registration as soon as possible

Indy Phase: I have enjoyed the plethora of SHS work in our curriculum currently for the COVID19 Course. That being said it is a lot of reading and work- are the plans to have this count towards some of the SHS indy phase requirement?

Given that the COVID19 course has separate course credit hours we need to be careful not to "double dip" We do think the increased focus on Social and Health Systems Science will help you become better physicians

For this next COVID-19 elective for May, will all students have to take this elective to remain a full-time enrolled student and receive financial aid? And if so, since there are options for two-week courses, will students have to take 2-two week courses to go through the whole month to be a full-time student or will one 2-week course suffice?

No, the majority of IP students already have a full IP curriculum due to Tri 3 AP, but if you only took 2 other courses the two week COVID course will maintain full status as well.

Indy Phase: For those of us who plan to re-start board exam dedicated studying for the next few weeks due to rescheduled exams- will we be allowed to take the covid course in block 4 if we completed COVID course in block 2? While it's been possible to slowly study during the COVID course- it hasn't been

realistic to do so in the dedicated, ramped-up nature necessary to be ready for test day along with the course-work.

We are not sure whether we will offer a COVID course in block 4 as we hope to have Indy Phase students back on clinical rotations at that time

Indiv phase: everything is so uncertain, and I am increasingly unsure about when to take Step 2. Is the school of Medicine going to allow Indiv phase students to take it later in the fall?

We are working on a revised policy to be allowed to take Step 2 exam later in the fall.

For students starting individualization phase who are planning to get an MPH, will the new changes in graduation requirements (changing AI and ACS requirements) apply to us? Since we don't gain any extra time by leaving and coming back in July.

The Indy Phase changes approved by the Education Committee on Monday will apply to the graduating classes of 21 and 22. We sent this document to the class of 2022 and 2021 this afternoon

Concern: UNC SOM hasn't sent an official email indicating whether rotations are canceled or not.

Question: Why not? A few notes are couched in Town Hall notes. As a LOA student I can't participate in COVID Management class or attend Town Halls. As of now UNC SOM has not told me not to show up to my rotation that is scheduled to begin on April 27. This seems like a glaring oversight.

We apologize for this oversight. Please reach out to Student Affairs. We will work to come up with a solution

Individualization Phase Questions (Class of 2020)

I have a few questions and grievances pertaining to Individualization Phase students, who have now matched, and the requirements of the COVID course. Why is this a required course in addition to the previous course I was enrolled in? How is it justified that I now need to complete 2 courses to graduate, rather than 1? I have completed all the requirements for my originally scheduled course and I should be done. It is disappointing that the clinical experience is not possible, but the answer to this is not to give additional busy work and repeat assignments that I completed in SHS4. I understand that UNC is trying to continue a positive learning environment and make the most of a difficult situation, but it doesn't help that when I should be preparing for residency I continue to have more and more hoops to jump through without any significant gain in my education.

COVID course was optional for Indy Phase Class of 2020 students. A small number of students were completing block 1 SOM or SHS5 courses. Because the clinical elements of SHS5 and Science of Medicine were not available, students were asked to participate in both SHS5 or Science of Medicine content AND the COVID course content as the best clinical preparation for students who will soon work in an environment with patients infected with COVID-19. This was the closest approximation to the previous iterations of the course, which required both SHS/SOM content and a full time clinical component (the form of the course taken by all other students in the class of 2020).

Class of 2020- if we already ordered graduation regalia and whatnot, are we getting refunded? If not, are we still going to be able to pick it up?

I just got an email about a refund for my tassel for graduation - I kind of still wanted the tassel, as a memento of sorts. Is there somewhere we can get one anyway?

Yes, students will automatically get refunds on regalia. There will also be an option to pay and keep the regalia by ordering here and having shipped to your home:

<https://unchapelhill.shopoakhalli.com/purchasewizard/Welcome>

Does class of 2020 have to do our LMS modules that are due this month since we are no longer in the clinical environment?

Hopefully these LMS modules are not too time consuming and contribute at least a small amount towards your education.

Thank you again for your amazing leadership through all this! I was wondering if you could add general updates given by you and other faculty/staff at the beginning of the Town Hall Q&A - this was the first one I've missed due to a conflict and I couldn't tell what updates were given or if there were any. Any updates RE graduation plans or other class of 2020 events (Pearls Day, etc.)?

That is a good idea to include brief synopsis of overview comments when we send out the Q&A afterwards. We are looking forward to a fun virtual graduation. Student Affairs will send out details soon.