

Townhall Q&A 8 May 5, 2020

Graduation

Can someone explain what will happen for 2020 graduation? So we're basically just tuning in for prerecorded videos? We won't see anyone actually get hooded- ie were not pre-recording our hooding so it can play on the livestream?

Celebration will be pre-recorded and go live at 1pm on Friday. Here is the link: <https://www.med.unc.edu/graduation/> . We are coordinating with IT & 4th year co-presidents to have a Zoom for graduating seniors hosted by co-presidents. Students should share hooding on social media #UNCSOMCelebration2020.

All questions pertaining to class of 2020. Question 1: Will the student health plan cover us till we start residency? Question 2: When does library access end for graduating students. Question 3: Will we retain access to Outlook, and Onedrive post graduation, if not when will access be stopped so we can duplicate files currently on OneDrive.

Student Blue coverage for graduating students ends 7/31/2020.

Access to library usually ends several weeks after graduation. Once the student graduates, they have a few options: 1) to become a friend of the HSL library (which will provide them access to the AHEC Digital Library), 2) purchase a borrower card, or 3) join the alumni association which will enable borrowing privileges, but not access to our resources remotely

Students will retain access to ONYEN, One Drive and email for 180 day. As long as students download and install Office prior to leaving they are fine for software.

Tuition and Financial Questions

UNC SOM now has its own COVID Impact Fund supported by our generous donors. The fund recognizes the financial distress some of you are feeling due to the pandemic. We have created an application process. Please contact Student Affairs (Liz Steadman) or OSE₂ (Lisa Long) for more details.

Would you mind clarifying tuition for LOAers returning to the class of 2021 who would like to/are signed up to take a covid II elective in May? I would like to be confident that I won't be stuck with a big surprise bill because I decided to take a covid elective while I'm technically enrolled in the MPH. Thanks!

Taking COVID2 selective will not add summer tuition

Is Mrs. Sheila Graham still available for the c/o 2020 to consult with for loan repayment advice? Hey Mrs. Sheila!

Sheila Graham is working hard to support students and is definitely available to consultations around loan repayment

Indiv phase: if we take block 4 off, would that affect our status as full time students for financial aid purposes? (I completed coursework in blocks 1, 2 and 3)

Taking off block 4 will not affect status as full-time student

What is the latest update on c/o 2020 students that now qualify for half-tuition based on credit hours (cancellation of current block courses)? Has the SOM leadership been in contact with the UNC Registrar's office about this? Thanks!

The University has approved this reduction in tuition for students whose dropped block 14 courses put them below the tuition threshold. Please let us know if you are in this position and have not heard from the cashier

Foundation Phase Questions

When will students placed at Central Cross Regional Campus find out their rotation schedule and placements across the region? I remember it is sometime in the fall, but was wondering more about it.

Class of 2023 student assigned to Central Cross Regional Campus will receive a survey in the fall, allowing them to indicate preferred locations and subspecialty rotations. Students find out the final assignments weeks prior to each trimester. Coordinators take it trimester by trimester because subspecialty availability and capacity varies throughout the year. Likewise, preceptor availability fluctuates each trimester at each location.

When can people that need to remediate a block over the summer expect to receive information about that process? I received test dates and instructions to wait for a meeting for more information with block and course directors, but nothing since then. How do we go about this? What support is in place for the students in this position? How is this process impacted by the current COVID-19 situation? It's been very challenging to have little to no information, community, or support as remediation approaches, especially with it only being a few weeks away.

Remediation will happen virtually using the same content as was used in the block. UNC exams will be used as NBME customized exams are not currently available. We have experience using those exams so cutoffs are known

I found a research project for the summer but have not been able to find funding yet. Unfortunately I did not apply to CMSRP because I had made other summer plans that were cancelled. Would you have any recommendations for finding last-minute funding either within UNC or from outside our institution? I realize this may be a tough request.

It may be possible for you to qualify to get elective credit and receive financial assistance as you would be enrolled in an elective. Please reach out to Student Affairs

If I take an elective over the summer, will I be charged for it?

As a Foundation Phase student, you can take an elective in summer pay tuition & receive credit (& be eligible for financial aid) OR if don't want summer aid we can have dates go into fall and it will be rolled into fall tuition at no extra cost.

By what point can we anticipate knowing more information about the Foundation Phase curriculum in the fall? (i.e. whether it will be in-person, remote, or something in-between)

Sorry if this question has already been addressed, but do you have any idea as to when it will be determined whether classes will proceed in-person or remotely in Fall 2020? I'm assuming this will continue to be a University-level decision and not up to the School of Medicine?

Foundation Phase will start! And we are working on different options depending on the situation in August. Most likely it will be a combination of virtual teaching and small group teaching. Large group sessions will likely still be limited by then.

The University and the State will guide us on what social distancing restrictions but we will work hard to ensure the safety of every student, staff, and faculty.

Thank you again for holding these Town Halls and for your commitment and efforts to ensure our education continues. Are there alternative plans for current MS1s in case we are unable to start clinical rotations in February 2021? So much is still unknown, but if the situation hasn't improved by Fall 2020, it would be great to consider taking a year off for an MPH/MBA/MS or research just in case.

While we never know the future with 100% certainty we are confident that we can restart clinical rotations this summer and that we will start Application Phase in March as planned for the class of 2023

For MS1s, should we be signing up for Step 1 soon? I know testing is very backed up currently, out to September I heard. Will our classes testing next spring be significantly affected by the current back up?

Sign up for Step 1 does not happen until later in the fall. We anticipate that the NBME will have worked out problems by then

Application Phase Questions

I've completed 2 weeks of surgery, and when we go back I'll have 5 of surgery and 5 of medicine. Can it be changed to 4 weeks surgery, 6 weeks medicine so I have equal time in each?

Application Phase course directors are finalizing logistics of each rotation and are looking closely at equity across blocks

(App phase question) I know that this was mentioned in the previous town hall, but I would like to re-address it. If we already had plans for the winter break that has now been shortened, will the administration offer us any flexibility? The two week break we had scheduled is rare during medical school, and it's not like that visit to family can be replaced with the current limbo we're on, because travel right now (and probably for the rest of the summer) isn't possible. In addition, while I appreciate the altered schedule for app phase so we still finish on time, it does mean that the usually stressful third year is going to be even more fast and furious than we originally thought. In other words, that original longer break might be sorely needed. Would it be possible to still maintain our original winter break, which would only push back finishing app phase by a week? I strongly doubt many of my classmates would be displeased by finishing one week later, especially since it would allow us to visit family as planned and with time that cannot be replaced. Thank you for your consideration about this topic.

Facing a faster paced Application Phase is difficult. As you point out this is compounded by current restrictions on travel. These are extra ordinarily difficult times. As you can see from the published calendars, each of the phases are closely linked and change in one phase throws off the other phase. If individual students feel that they need a personal leave, please touch base with Student Affairs. Your personal wellness is so important to us!

COVID Electives and Prep Time

Is there an update on the plan for late May and Early June for the class of 2022? Could we get an update on options you're saying and whether or not we'll be in person or remote for that time? Thank you

The COVID 2 selectives will run through May 22. We hope that May 26 will be the restart of Indy Phase for the class of 2021. For the class of 2022, May 26-June 19 will be a ramp up period to allow App Phase students to hit the ground running when they restart App Phase on June 29. This prep material required during this time will improve your readiness to restart but is not intended to be overwhelming. You will not get elective credit for this time. It is considered a required re-transition time to App Phase. You will get instructions as to the nature of this preparation from your campus course leaders in the next several weeks. This time will also hopefully allow you to catch your breath a bit before you restart App Phase.

A group of you will also (hopefully) be taking Step 1 exam during this time. Some of you still need to complete the Transition to App Phase 2 course (TAP2) before starting App Phase. The timing of TAP2 has now been confirmed for June 22-26 a date I believe most of you were expecting. You will receive more information on this course shortly.

Individualization Phase Questions

Indiv phase: for students who are out of state right now, there is heightened anxiety surrounding the uncertainty about when we are resuming rotations. This is mainly because of the delay in re-scheduling rotations, and because we weren't aware until last week's town hall on April 28 that there will likely be a requirement to return to North Carolina 14 days prior to rotations. This may be difficult to actually accomplish for rotations resuming on May 25 as the scheduling process hasn't yet started. Can students who prefer to stay remote another month fulfill their 3rd or 4th elective requirement with a virtual elective in June?

I would like to qualify the expectation for time required to be back in the state prior to start of clinical rotations. According to what was said on the last meeting, you will require us to be back in North Carolina for 14 days prior to returning to rotations. For individualization phase students, you have said that you will send a survey sometime during the week of May 3-9 regarding block 4 scheduling and then let us know whether or not we have a rotation scheduled the week after (week of May 10-16). In order to have been back in the state for 14 days prior to start of block 4, we would have to return by May 10, which is before (according to this timeline) we would even know if we would have an in person rotation to return to. As you can imagine, this puts people who are out of state in a very difficult situation, including potentially unnecessary travel/potential exposures. Is there anything we can do to fix this timeline problem?

Hello, thank you all for working so hard on our behalf during this difficult time. My question is pertaining to students who will be returning to UNC for clinical rotations from other states. What are the official rules about whether to self-isolate before returning to the clinical setting? What if students are coming from a state with fewer cases than North Carolina?

Thanks for raising this issue. A number of you emailed me also. Since mentioning this during the townhall call last week and hearing logistic problems with this rule, we have talked with the clinical leaders at the campuses. The travel restriction will only apply to international travel. For all others you will be expected to complete a daily symptom check list and report if you have symptoms. You will receive more information on this protocol along with your Indy Phase course selection material tomorrow

Will there be enough room for everyone interested in EM to do an AI during Block 4? If not, how will you select who gets the AI first?

If there isn't capacity for all students to have a clinical rotation starting May 26th, will there be any preference given to those who are undecided about a specialty? And/or would it be possible for those of us who are decided to indicate if we don't mind opting out of a clinical rotation in the event that others could use those spots to make specialty decisions?

We continue to work really hard to find sufficient capacity. We are looking for more sites to teach and also finding new ways to teach in existing sites. Please give your teachers grace when you re-enter the clinical settings. They are working really hard to allow you to succeed. Things may not always be completely smooth as we try out new things.

If we can not find enough capacity we will prioritize students who have not had an AI and who need to graduate in 2021. We will work to individualize scheduling and information you provide us will be helpful. In the end if there is not enough capacity we will use a fair and transparent lottery system. We hope this does not happen and if it does we will have virtual electives for everyone, especially high yield clinically focused electives such as EM, POCUS, and radiology

Do you all have any guidance for how those of us who aren't based in Chapel Hill should approach housing for block 4? My concern is that we may not know where our rotation will be till a few weeks before it starts, and our schedule for blocks 5 and onward also won't be settled till later, which makes planning challenging. Has there been any discussion about bringing back AHEC housing in Chapel Hill till we have our schedules for the rest of the year finalized? Thanks in advance for any advise!

AHEC is aware that some housing selection will need to happen last minute. Please reach out to Student Affairs if you are having trouble. Chapel Hill AHEC housing is no longer available.

Question from Indiv Phase student: for block 4, could a Spanish for Health Professionals elective be offered virtually? (similar to MEDI 610, 613, and 615)

We will reach out to Marco Aleman to see what is possible. Thank you for the suggestion

update on ERAS timing?

The AAMC has not released any formal notice but in the national conversations that we are part of we are hearing that a shift in timing is likely.

In thinking about returning to the rotations, I had a question about the medical student lounge in the hospital. While the room/bathrooms are cleaned regularly, I was wondering if there could be a consistent supply of disinfecting surface wipes available for students to use on frequently touched surfaces throughout the day? I think it's important we be able to do this since so many students come in and out of that room.

The medical student lounge on 3 Anderson new the patient visitor elevators was recently renovated. We will make sure that there is a consistent supply of disinfectant in that room

Will there be an opportunity to add a (2-week) course later once we find out the step exam is cancelled?

There are a variety of 2 week electives available