

Townhall 10 – May 20, 2020

## Foundation Phase

Thanks for all that you are doing to keep us informed! I was wondering when decisions about the fall semester for Foundation Phase will be finalized. I know that there was mention of plans for a combination of small group and virtual, but when can we expect to given more official, finalized information? Additionally, if a portion of our curriculum will be online, will there likely be a decrease in tuition? I know that this is a university decision, but when can we expect for this decision to be made and information to be shared with us?

Foundation Phase Thank you to everyone for supporting us through this uncharted times. I saw that Harvard School of Medicine announced last week that Fall 2020 for incoming class and few others will go online. Is there any updates on MS2 fall 2020 going online? I wanted to plan ahead for housing. Thank you.

We are planning on doing a hybrid version of the curriculum where some things will be on-line and some things will be in person (in small groups with appropriate social distancing). We are working on the details currently and should have more information to you in the next month or so. We are also making contingency plans for an all virtual curriculum if the pandemic forces us to deliver the curriculum this way. At this point I would plan on living locally. I have not heard of any plans to reduce tuition given the relatively fixed costs of education but would of course let you know as soon as we hear differently.

## NBME questions

Given the current situation with COVID, has there been discussion about making Step 1 P/F earlier than January 2022? If not, should we expect Step 1 to be P/F in January 2022 like originally announced?

The NBME has been in such disarray with the testing site problems they have been struggling with, I do not anticipate that they will move up the deadline to have Step 1 go pass fail. But we could of course let you know as soon as we hear differently.

Are students able to take Step 1 and 2 CK exams outside of the state if they are taken in areas that are not on the need to quarantine after you've been there list? I know there was earlier rules about not doing business outside the state and would appreciate clarification on whether medical licensing exams would be included under that policy. Thanks so much!

This is an important question we are trying to clarify with the Provost. It is a University rule that no business travel is allowed outside of NC. We are trying to make the case of an exemption for students traveling to take Step 2 exams given the difficulty students are having getting new dates. Hopefully we will have an answer to you in the next week.

It is my understanding that an excused absence will be provided for those of us rescheduled to take Step 2 CK during a workday in one of our blocks. Given how important "headspace" is for board exams like this, would we also be allowed to take the day before our exam off too? This was something I incorporated into my original study plan, but of course, plans are being rapidly changed.

Student Affairs will grant time off the day before a STEP 2 exam (especially Step 2 CS which requires more travel). But clinical time is invaluable to your education (especially in these times). Minimize time away when you schedule and as you plan.

### **Application Phase**

Has there been any additional discussion about changing the currently proposed HISC block schedule to make surgery 4 weeks and medicine 6 weeks? Since we have already done 2.5 weeks of surgery, to make the content more equal?

Because of the different groups of students entering Application Phase (some having done some time on App Phase and others not) the blocks on HISC in all trimesters will be the same length. The HISC course directors considered all options very carefully and this (5+5) is the option that worked best given all of the scheduling issues.

Will there be a required course (in addition to TAP) during the COVID-3 block for MS3s starting application phase for the first time in June?

There will be no additional course in June (except for TAP2 for students who are starting App Phase for first time). There will be small amount of prep material. . The course directors will shortly send you more detailed information about this prep material to restart Application Phase.

### **Individualization Phase**

For specialties that previously commonly saw students doing multiple away rotations, some societies are suggesting that medical schools allow students to take their home AI multiple times. I completely understand that the priority is have all students get an AI in their specialty choice before anyone repeats a rotation, but looking forward, has this been discussed as a possibility at UNC?

For undecided students who didn't get an AI for block 4, will they get priority for AIs in blocks 5 and 6? I don't see another way to decide on a specialty and feel that this is only delaying the selection process. It's stressful!

We know how stressful this must all be. We are working hard to tailor the curriculum for all students. We are working to give priority for a second AI to students who are undecided. We are also working to increase capacity for AI's to allow others to do multiple AIs.

MSPE Concern: With our MSPEs not being finalized until September, June 15th seems like a really early time to submit our final "noteworthy characteristics." Can we have more time to work on these before submitting them to Maureen?

This is a good point. We are changing the deadline to submit noteworthy characteristics to mid July. But begin to think about your MSPE early.

Hello! This is out of curiosity, regarding Individualization phase scheduling: in previous years, it appears that students would be generally required to do a rotation in block 8, which technically goes a month after ERAS could historically be seen by residency programs. However, this doesn't appear to be the case for this year (ie, we are being asked to take blocks 9-11 off even though the ERAS application won't be open to residencies until early block 9). Couldn't you argue that the blocks taken off for interviews should be pushed back a month as a result of the later ERAS date?

Do not plan on taking block 8 off for residency interviews. We recommend taking off blocks 9-11 as many students will likely have interviews in late October and early November. If you feel you do not need one of these blocks off contact Student Affairs. The number of blocks you need for residency will vary by specialty and by student. Talk to your college and career advisors about your specialty choice.

Indiv Phase: for blocks 5, 6, 7, and 8, which blocks count as summer semester and which blocks are part of fall semester? If we do clinical rotations in blocks 7 and 8, is it possible to get reduced tuition for the fall 2020 semester, since blocks 9 and 10 will be off for interviews?

The current tuition guidelines offer reduced tuition if a student takes less than 14 hours in one semester. Blocks 5-10 count towards fall semester, and blocks 11-14 count towards spring semester

I read that due to COVID-19, Craige, Jackson, and S11 decks will remain open until further notice. For block 4, does it mean as Indiv phase students on clinical rotations, we can just park our car there for free and not worry about getting ticketed? Or do we still need to pay and obtain parking permit for S11 lot like before? If we still need to get parking permit, can SOM consider waiving parking permit fees for students back on clinical rotation especially in Block 4? If CH Transit was running, parking permit/slot wouldn't even be an issue.

Are there any updates to the parking situation on campus? I did not request parking initially, as I did not think that I would have a rotation at UNC for block 4. It would be helpful to know if there is a need to purchase a pass for block 4 and if there is still availability.

Beginning Wednesday, March 18, on-campus parking is available in parking lots throughout campus for mandatory employees and students reporting to work. Cardinal and Bell Tower deck gates will remain down to facilitate health care operations. To ensure access in the event of an emergency and to maintain specific campus services, parking is not available in fire lanes or in accessibility and reserved spaces without the appropriate credential. The Dogwood Deck(opens new window) and Ambulatory Care Center Lots(opens new window) are expressly reserved for patients and visitors only. Parking updates will be provided as status changes. <https://move.unc.edu/parking/student-parking/>

will block 5 still begin on June 29th? Or are we losing the one week break in between block 4 and 5?

June 22-26 has been preserved as a break for Indy Phase students who started Indy Phase in March. TAP 2 will occur during this time for students starting Indy Phase block 5