

1. Thank you so much for continuing to have these townhalls! This is in regards to AOA consideration for August. My understanding is that the August consideration excludes those from our class who left for a LOA and includes those who are back from a LOA. My concern is that this is not an even playing field anymore given the fact our class was forced to take P/F courses for two months at least when those returning from a LOA were not. They had an opportunity to take H/HP/P/F courses and earn more competitive grades. How will this be taken into consideration to make it a fair assessment for AOA? Thank you!

Fall AOA will be for students graduating in the class of 2021. We have experience fairly evaluating students from different curricula (such as when we introduced the TEC curriculum) which is why we use a weighted average to account for differences in number of courses taken.
2. I would like to know how our identifiable personal health information entered each day through the new symptoms checks is being protected by SOM. Specifically who has access to the data, uses of the data (research, reporting), how it is stored and safeguarded with encryption, and how this new policy complies with privacy laws, regulations, and guidelines.

We are not using these data for research or reporting purposes; solely to help students receive administrative excuses and receive support as needed. IT Security has approved the Qualtrics platform for this use.
3. While I appreciate the reasons we are completing the Qualtrics covid screening form, there are a lot of fields to fill out considering we are expected to complete this every day. Would it be possible to streamline this? For example, just having us enter our PIDs would make the form much easier to fill out and could increase compliance. At a minimum, removing the email address field would help since many of us have long emails that are a hassle to type out on a phone. Thank you!

Thanks for the feedback. We are removing the name & email fields and you will be required to complete the PID to checking compliance. Other feedback for how to make this process easier would be very helpful.
4. With the Honors, High Pass, Pass stratification of clinical rotations, how has it become such a negative thing to get a Pass grade? It has become a huge stressor and anxiety-causing part of the student experience and wanted to see if there was any efforts on the administration's behalf to create a better learning environment (rather than having to suck-up to get better evals).

There have been substantial efforts over the last two years to improve the learning environment, and we are seeing positive results in reporting and student feedback. If you have specific concerns about mistreatment, please submit a report at <https://www.med.unc.edu/md/governance/mistreatment/> Every report is reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.
5. Is there a way that foot handles can be installed on doors in Bondurant (like I have seen them in bathrooms in Gillings)?

Dr Byerley is exploring this great idea with Planning.
6. Would students have to make up clinical time during 4th year if they were to get COVID? I know we were only allowed to miss 2 days per rotation, so I was just trying to figure out what application phase students were to do if they developed COVID. Would we have an incomplete grade until we made it up during individualization phase?

We are committed to working with students individually to assist them if they need to pause coursework because of any illness or other long-term concern. Students would be granted an Incomplete until they were able to reach proficiency in the competencies for the course. Some students and their course directors have been able to coordinate work at home to bridge the time off-site.

7. Hello, I understand that the Class of 2023 can now complete Step 1 after App phase. However, students would still have to complete and pass a proficiency exam to demonstrate competence prior to entering the Application Phase. Is this exam the Baby Step exam that is on the calendar for December 2020? Now that the Class of 2023 can take Step 1 after the Application phase, can foundation students receive more information about suggested timelines or tips if we decide to wait and take step 1 after App phase? Will this type of information be included in our 1st M2 class meeting or orientation day?

The OAE is currently developing the recommendations & processes & we will have more information by MS2 orientation.

8. Will it be possible to schedule the in-person, socially distance M2 activities (PCC, anatomy lab) on the same day so that students only have to travel to campus 1 day per week, if that?

We have explored this, but unfortunately these courses & activities would be offered in conflicting times, so on the few occasions students have to come to campus for anatomy lab, it would be on a different day than PCC.

9. Have the Loyalty Scholarships recipients been identified and contacted? Will we know if we are not chosen to receive the scholarship?

Loyalty Scholarship applicants were notified last week.

10. If exposed to a patient who tests positive for COVID-19 while both parties were wearing surgical masks, it states there is a low risk of virus transmission and that we may continue to report to work. Does this return-to-work policy also apply to non-UNC clinical rotation sites (such as CBLC outpatient clinics)?

Students should adhere to the guidelines of their clinical sites. At UNC practices, this is the policy. If you are at a non-UNC location, please ask your preceptor for the practice's policy.