**CBLC Deans Letter Comments – Examples for preceptors who need to submit more robust comments**

Our preceptor comments are essential to writing a good dean’s letter so students can match in the appropriate program as residents. Here are some comment examples of great, good, and poorly performing students:

It may be helpful to watch this short video about filling out a student evaluation form:

<https://www.med.unc.edu/teachingskills/home/student-evaluations/>

**GREAT PERFORMANCE examples**

These are the best scores I have provided for a student in many years, but [STUDENT] richly deserves them. He is a remarkable individual with an advanced knowledge base, excellent clinical skills and intense curiosity and drive to improve the health status of our patients. Patients frequently commented on his performance and communication skills. He'll be a great colleague in the future and I highly recommend him for residency at a research-focused academic health center.

[STUDENT] was a pleasure to have in clinic. He is exceptionally mature and easily develops rapport with patients. He consistently sought out feedback and directly incorporated that feedback into his clinical work. He worked very well with the entire care team, involving nursing, social workers, care assistants, and patient preferences to craft personalized management plans for complex patients. Elements of his QI project were presented to leaders across the health care system and enthusiastically adopted at multiple clinics throughout UNC Health Care. He will excel as a practicing physician!

Outstanding performance in outpatient pediatrics. [STUDENTS] was thorough, thoughtful, and competent in dealing with a range of patients and parents from the newborn period through adolescence. He is able to function at a near independent level for evaluating, diagnosing, and treating acute illnesses. He is competent at providing appropriate preventive care using guidelines as well as discussing anticipatory guidance.

From the course director: One of two students who I would say stand out as truly exceptional this year.  I hope that he is on faculty at UNC some day soon.

**GOOD PERFORMANCE examples**

[STUDENT] did well clinically. He was able to key in on serious symptoms in a patient to rule out life threatening illnesses. One patient presented with ankle pain and he astutely checked for fracture. He even went with the patient to imaging to insure the patient's safety. [STUDENTS] took the time to find new ways for gathering important historical information for quality improvement with the use of our electronic medical records.

I have had the pleasure of being [STUDENT]'s Pediatric weekly preceptor since October 2017. We have shared in the care of many patients and their families in the context of general pediatrics, acute care visits, mental health care management, and health promotion & disease prevention. Given [STUDENTS]'s extensive clinical experience as a nurse in the emergency department, our clients have had the benefit of his gentle bed side manner, effective communication, and sharp clinical skills. He has successfully addressed sensitive topics with our clients like obesity counseling, developmental delays, adolescent sexual activity, drug & alcohol use, depression & anxiety through motivational interviewing. [STUDENTS] has continued to reflect in deliberate ways to improve his personal learning and clinical care throughout this rotation by integrating the latest research & epidemiology when relevant. I believe [STUDENTS] has been and will continue to be an asset to both health care & public health communities.

**POOR PERFORMANCE examples**

[STUDENT] is an enthusiastic student, however he continues to need growth in areas of history taking, synthesis of clinical material and generation of differential diagnosis, and prioritizing care. He needs to concentrate on the patient at hand, rather than theoretical situations, and sometimes is distracted by esoterica. He tries very hard, but did not seem particularly capable of responding to constructive criticism to modify his presentations and write-ups. [STUDENT] seems genuinely invested in becoming a good doctor, and will hopefully attain this goal with ongoing support.

In [STUDENT]’s enthusiasm, he sometimes is distracting in group settings.  He has worked hard to improve on yelling out and allowing others to participate.  While it is great to have enthusiasm, a little more thought before you contribute may help you get the correct answer.  Applying this to clinic would be helpful as well.  Finally, more introspection into how you are perceived would be good. This may help with self-control, knowing your limits when ill, and how patients are reacting to you.  I would continue to engage with coaching and academic resources to improve your interpersonal, communication and clinical reasoning skills.