Surgical Sub-Internship
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Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
Surgical Sub-Internship Syllabus

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Approved by the CEPC 6-11-19
Course Description

The surgical sub-internship will provide the student with hands-on experience guiding the transition from student to clinician within the realm of the general surgery specialty. This experience will include but is not limited to: case-based attending rounds, learning procedural skills under appropriate supervision, and a formal case presentation.

Please review the 4th year common clerkship requirements prior to starting this rotation - these can be found at the following website:


Medical Education Program Goals and Objectives

The surgery sub-internship emphasizes the clinical application of medical knowledge within the context of actual patient care and prepares students with the cognitive and procedural skills required to make the transition into their roles as future residents capable of providing safe and efficient care on day one of residency. The goal is to be at the level of a functioning intern upon completion of rotation.

Course Objectives

Knowledge for Practice:

Be able to present patient progress on morning rounds, attending rounds, and evening sign out. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)

Be able to discuss the basics of the operative interventions that have been participated in:

- Pathology and physiology leading to the operation. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)
- Basic steps involved in the operation. (2.3, 1.10)
- Basics of post-operative care required for that operation. (2.3)
- Develop an understanding of common post-operative conditions and their management. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 1.2, 1.6)

- Infection.
- Thromboembolic complications.
- Electrolyte imbalance/fluid loss and replacement.
- Post-operative anatomical and physiological changes.

Be able to discuss and present in formal didactics (using general knowledge, research of the disease process, and literature review) an interesting case experienced during this sub-internship. This should be a case that the Sub-I student has participated in. (2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6)
Patient Care

Demonstrate proficient history taking and physical examination skills. (1.1)

Develop and discuss appropriate patient care plans with attending surgeons on actual and simulated cases. (1.3, 1.2, 1.6, 1.4, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 4.2)

Work up and manage common postoperative complications (such as postoperative shortness of breath, hypotension, chest pain, fever, wound complications, low urine output and acute mental status changes) during patient care duties. (1.3, 1.2, 1.6, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4)

Develop appropriate management plans for patient complaints and typical clinical challenges faced by first year surgery residents. (1.2, 1.6, 1.4, 1.5)

Demonstrate ability to properly counsel patients and obtain proper surgical consent under the supervision of a chief resident or attending surgeon. (1.8, 5.2, 2.5)

Perform appropriate wound care for patients as judged by the attending or the senior resident on the service. (1.10)

Demonstrate mastery level performance of the following skills: (PCMC 4) (1.10)

- Knot tying: surgeon’s knot, single handed knot and two handed knot.
- Suturing skills for subcuticular and vertical mattress sutures.
- Basic laparoscopic techniques via simulation center.

Observe and gain an understanding of: (1.10)

- Central line placement
- Chest tube placement and management.
- Nasogastric tube placement and management.

Interpersonal communication skills

Competently present and discuss with the senior surgical staff, and attending involved, a clinical case scenario reflective of adaptive thinking. (4.2)

Demonstrate professional communication skills. (4.1, 4.2, 4.3)

Demonstrate skills in appropriately handing off care of patients during patient care duties. (4.2)

Demonstrate effective case presentation skills in morning report, attending rounds, and a formal case presentation. (4.2, 4.3)

Collaborating in the timely and comprehensive maintenance of medical records in the creation of their student notes and presentation of their patients care plan to the involved residents and attending faculty.

Professionalism

Demonstrates appropriate attendance. (5.3, 5.7)

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Maintains appropriate attire (5.7)
Demonstrates appropriate communication. (5.1, 5.6)

Practice Based learning and improvement

Participate in morbidity and mortality conferences; 1 trauma and 1 general surgery. (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

Perform one formal case presentation
- With background research, literature review (3.4)

Learn to access surgical morbidity and mortality data. (3.5)

System Based Practice

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (6.1, 6.4)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients’ radiological evaluations. (6.4)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize in regards to OR scheduling. (6.3, 6.4)

Participate in multidisciplinary care. (6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2))

Inter-Professional collaboration

Behave with honesty, integrity, respect and compassion towards all patients, families, allied health professionals and colleagues. (5.1, 7.3)

Ask for and give appropriate and timely feedback to team members in a non-confrontational or non-defensive manner. And demonstrate ability to create a well-articulated plan for improvement (7.3, 7.4)

Personal and Professional Development

Demonstrate appropriate stress management techniques (8.2, 8.3)

Demonstrate appropriate time management (8.2, 8.3)

Demonstrate appropriate knowledge of ones’ own limitations. (8.1)

Course Format

The rotation block is to be scheduled from Monday of the first day through Friday of the last day and limited to 80 hours per week. Daily schedule to be designed and reviewed by the senior resident on the general surgery service to which you are assigned.

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The Sub-I will be expected to follow in-house patients during the course of this rotation and be able to present them at morning report and attending rounds. The Sub-I will choose one interesting case to be presented as a formal case presentation during Thursday didactics. The Sub-I will be expected to complete and turn in at least one history and physical exam with admission orders pertaining to a patient whose care they participated in.

Operative cases will be assigned the day prior to scheduled surgical intervention and the Sub-I will be responsible for dividing these cases between rotating 3rd and 4th year students. The Clerkship Director will assign cases based on needed operative procedures if an agreement cannot be reached in regards to case assignments. Need to review OR cases and the indications for the procedure which you are participating in as well as the basic steps involved prior to entering the OR so that you are prepared. Please write your name on the OR board so that staff is aware of participating medical students.

The Sub-I will need to be in constant communication with the senior surgical resident on staff to see if other duties can or need to be met. The Sub-I will be required to write one progress note and one post-op note to be copied and signed off on by the Clerkship director. The Sub-I will be responsible for checking in with the senior surgical resident prior to completing the day’s work. The Sub-I is expected to participate in sign out and be able to provide sign out information on the patients they operated on. The Sub-I will be assigned 1 weekend day call every other weekend. The Sub-I must complete one tertiary survey during the course of the rotation.

Didactics are scheduled to take place during this rotation on Thursday mornings 7:00 AM -12:00 PM, - Attendance is mandatory for didactic sessions and also for general surgery morbidity and mortality conference and for the trauma service. Exceptions to this policy can be given for circumstances related to clinical duties or work hour restrictions and must be approved by the clerkship director.

Students will be scheduled two Fridays for a 24 hour shift. Includes 4 hours for continuity of care.

**Course Schedule/Calendar**

To be determined after discussion with the senior general surgery resident of the service to which the student is assigned. OR schedule to be determined as described above.

**Course Logistics**

**Op Log Requirements**

Case Logs-Must document all cases that you participated in

Must See Cases- (20 total), including at least one of each of the below at the level of **assist or manage**.

- Hernia Repair
- Cholecystectomy
- Appendectomy
- Colon Resection
- Thyroid Surgery
- Breast Surgery
- Operative trauma
- Non-operative trauma

Must be written notes-

- SOAP Note-
- Post-Op Note-
- H&P with admission orders-

Tertiary Survey Form-

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Case Presentations-

Morning Report

Review of patient presentation to house staff and medical learners. (1-2 minutes)

Goals/Objectives:

Competently present and discuss with the senior surgical staff, and attending involved, a clinical case scenario reflective of adaptive thinking. (1.1-1.10) (2.1-2.6)

Demonstrate professional communication skills. (5.1-5.6)

Demonstrate skills in appropriately handing off care of patients during patient care duties. (4.1-4.4)

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (3.4, 3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients’ radiological evaluations. (3.4, 3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize in regards to OR scheduling in conjunction with the delegating and taking responsibility for remaining clinical duties. (8.18.5)

Participate in multidisciplinary care. (7.1-7.4)

Clinical Rounds

Daily report of patient progress, recap patient presentation and changes in clinical status. (1-2 minutes)

Goals/Objectives:

Competently present and discuss with the senior surgical staff, and attending involved, a clinical case scenario reflective of adaptive thinking. (1.1-1.10) (2.1-2.6)

Demonstrate professional communication skills. (5.1-5.6)

Demonstrate skills in appropriately handing off care of patients during patient care duties. (4.1-4.4)

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (3.4, 3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients’ radiological evaluations. (3.4, 3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize in regards to OR scheduling in conjunction with the delegating and taking responsibility for remaining clinical duties. (8.18.5)

Participate in multidisciplinary care. (7.1-7.4)

Attending Rounds

Student will meet with surgery faculty and follow attending schedule, Monday – Friday. This includes one week out of the four week rotation, increase experience of preoperative management.

Be prepared to present a patient whose care you are participating in.

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Presentation, disease process, interventions, and clinical progress.

Ask questions that stimulate discussion of differential diagnosis.

Discuss teaching points and latest treatment recommendations. (10-15 mins)

Goals/Objectives:

Competently present and discuss with the senior surgical staff, and attending involved, a clinical case scenario reflective of adaptive thinking. (1.1-1.10) (2.1-2.6)

Demonstrate professional communication skills. (5.1-5.6)

Demonstrate skills in appropriately handing off care of patients during patient care duties. (4.1-4.4)

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (3.4, 3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients’ radiological evaluations. (3.4, 3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize in regards to OR scheduling in conjunction with the delegating and taking responsibility for remaining clinical duties. (8.18.5)

Participate in multidisciplinary care. (7.1-7.4)

Formal Case Presentation

In depth discussion of disease process, clinical presentation, and treatment options.

PowerPoint format, to be presented during Thursday’s didactics.

30 mins duration, graded on knowledge, written and oral presentation, and use of electronic resources. (3.1)

Goals/Objectives:

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (6.1-6.3)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients’ radiological evaluations. (6.1-6.3)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize a formal presentation. (2.1-2.6)

Demonstrate the ability to perform research and synthesize data collected as it pertains to patient care. (3.1-3.5)

Course Textbooks and Supplies:

Access Surgery website via TTUHSC library as a required review and study of the pathology, surgical interventions, and patient care topics relevant to the patients that the Sub-I is following. Each pertinent subject can be searched using this resource.

http://www.elpaso.ttuhsc.edu/libraries/
Learning Assessments

SOAP note (graded HP, P, F).
Post-op note (graded HP, P, F).
Completed case log (graded HP, P, F).
At least one H&P with admission orders (graded HP, P, F)
Tertiary Survey Form (graded HP, P, F).
Evaluation cards- at least 10 with 2 filled out by faculty.

- One evaluation pertaining to the skills described above.
- 2 evaluations pertaining to transition of care.

Formal Presentation during didactics using PP (to be graded HP, P, F by the Clerkship Director or other appointed faculty member).

Midterm Evaluation with Clerkship Director during second week of rotation, to be scheduled on first date of rotation.

- The Sub-I should provide all evaluations, case log, and notes written to date.

End of Rotation Evaluation with Clerkship Director at completion of rotation, to be scheduled at Midterm Evaluation.

- The Sub-I should provide all evaluations, case log, and all required notes.

Any missed assignments should be discussed with the Clerkship Director so that a make-up assignment can be provided prior to End of Rotation Evaluation.

Failure to provide the required learning assessment tools may result in an incomplete in this rotation.

Grading Scale

Honors

- Exceeds expectations in the presentation, understanding, knowledge, and level of thought expressed by the student.

Pass

- Meets expectations in the presentation, understanding, knowledge, and level of thought expressed by the student.

Needs Improvement

- Fails to meet expectations in the presentation, understanding, knowledge, and/or level of thought expressed by the student.

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Student Roles and Responsibilities

Professionalism
Refer to common clerkship requirements.


Honor Code
Refer to common clerkship requirements.


Absence policy
Refer to common clerkship requirements.


You are expected to notify the senior surgical resident to which team you are assigned as well as the clerkship director as soon as possible in the event of an unplanned absence. Any absences greater than 3 consecutive days, or total absences resulting in less than 21 days on the rotation must be discussed and cleared by the clerkship director.

Supplemental Resources

Fourth Year Sub-Internship Helpful Daily Guidelines:

At the beginning of rotation:

Give phone numbers to interns, R2s, R3s, and Chief residents.

Notify everyone in advance of: days off, weekends on and off, and continuity clinic.

Weekday Daily Schedule:

Prior to beginning of rotation, contact senior resident to see when and where to meet. Senior resident will assign patients for SUB-I to see and follow throughout their course in house (make sure patient is not already being seen by another student.

-For each patient: review vitals, labs, imaging, cultures, in’s/out’s, medications and active orders for the past 24 hours.

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- Review previous progress notes, consultant notes, social workers notes, recent therapy notes, dictated/chart, and written H&P.

- See patient; perform a pertinent physical exam (need a chaperone if breast or rectal exam required), get translator if needed.

- Write a SOAP note in progress note section (time, date, write name, sign name)

- Repeat for each patient.

- Round with the team; ask questions when appropriate.

- Present your patient to the R2 or R3 before the team sees the patient, outside the room.

- Make sure to notify the resident of which patients you have seen prior to starting rounds, so that you do not miss the opportunity to present during fast-paced rounding.

- Be respectful while the resident and patient are talking and do not talk or distract the group.

- You are expected to enter each patient room, even if the patient is on contact precautions. Foam in/out. Wash hands for C. diff., etc.

*Rounding hint: it would be helpful to have a stack of outpatient PT, imaging forms, consult sheets, blank trauma tertiary forms on hand, as well as lube, red guaiac cards, scissors, alcohol wipes, a stethoscope, and dressing supplies.*

Rounds should be complete by 0715.

- At 0715, meet in ICU conference room (next to ICU bed 30). Sit at the periphery near your respective team (A/B).

- Listen attentively for the plans for each patient as the list is run (write down the plans! - These will be the things you can check on during the day in between surgeries!).

0730

- Morning report begins to discuss new admissions.

- Listen to presentations. View images. Ask questions as appropriate.

0800

- Go down to the board to check for changes and go see your patient. (Introduce yourself, examine the patient as appropriate (no rectal or breast exams), read chart, H&P, procedure, consent forms, labs, biopsy/pathology results in CERNER, imaging studies in PACS, etc.).

- Groups of medical students should NOT need to congregate near the board all at once, since the case assignments should have generally been decided beforehand, and names should have been written on the respective cards upon arrival to the hospital.

- Stay with the patient and follow them to the OR and introduce yourself to the circulating nurse and other members of the OR team.

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PM Check Out:

- At the end of the day: go to PM sign-out at 1700 in the ICU conference room.
- When going over your patient, be prepared to talk about the details of what happened during the day.
- Give updates on their status.
- Ask questions, voice concerns.
- When your team is done checking out (A/B), you may leave.
  However, if OR cases are still going on, students are still expected to cover them.
- If cases are starting right before PM sign-out, it is okay to miss sign out to scrub the case; just let another student know so they can inform residents if asked during sign-out.
- If a case from the day will start at 1800 or later, the night trauma medical student can scrub instead.
- Ask about the next day’s surgeries to prepare. Discuss case assignments with your respective senior to better prepare.
  - If residents are unavailable to give you schedule: look at the OR schedule (behind glass) in the hallway between Ortho Lounge and Main OR’s. [Ask the senior residents specifically where this is on the first days of the rotation.]
  - Read about the case prior to surgery so you have an idea of what is going on, relevant anatomy, etc.
  - Discuss who will scrub which cases with the other students.

Operating Room Etiquette

Introduce yourself to scrub tech. Inform them if you are scrubbing in, and give them your gown/gloves if needed.
Help circulating nurse move patient.
Ask to place Foley catheter if applicable.
Scrub into the case before the resident/attending.
You cannot scrub into robotic cases except at the very end of the case when the robot is undocked, to help close skin.
Ask where to stand and how best to help during the operative case.
Be prepared to answer any questions relevant to the surgery.
Assist with closure/dressings/moving patient.

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As is proper etiquette, wait until patient is extubated and help move the patient to the bed/gurney. Accompany the patient to the recovery unit or ask to go with the resident to talk with the family.

Check the OR board for next case.

Notify the next student that you are done, or meet the next patient in holding (repeat above).

Go eat if it is lunch time or go call/text the intern on the floor to assist with floor work.

Pull drains, do tertiaries, check orders, talk with social worker, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, consultant notes, new imaging.

Check your patients for any changes.

Generally there is 30-45 minutes from patient leaving OR to the new patient entering the OR/being intubated.

Pay attention to TSA’s (Time/Space Available cards) which can change throughout the day (do not pay attention to start times). Cases may be added on during the day. Make sure they are covered.

Make sure all cases are covered. For example, if scheduled for 0800 with one attending, do not schedule yourself for a case with a second attending that is “scheduled” to start at 1100 because it may actually start earlier at 1000, and you may not be out of the first surgery.

- General Surgery A:
  - Gen Surg: Andrade, Davis (must always have a student scrubbed).
  - OMFS: Fallah (only scrub if there are absolutely no other Gen Surg cases which need coverage by a med student).
  - Pediatric Surgery: Howe (only scrub if there is no dedicated Pedi Surg medical student).
  - Cardiothoracic Surgery: Eisenberg, Santoscoy, Lyn, Flores (only scrub if resident is scrubbed; ask to scrub first).

- General Surgery B:
  - Gen Surg: Chambers (must always have a student scrubbed).
  - Trauma: Tyroch, McLean, Rios-Tovar (must always have a student scrubbed).
  - Plastic Surgery: Castro.

- Locums A/B: Freemyer.

*Ideally, scrub into a case with an attending from your corresponding team so that you can round on your patient the next morning. Understandably, this may not always be possible depending on when cases are scheduled.*
**Example Rotation Calendar**

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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day 1 of Rotation</td>
<td>Begin following 2-3 in-house patients</td>
<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
<td>0700 Trauma M&amp;M 1200 Didactics Complete</td>
<td>Completed SOAP note by this Date</td>
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<td>0700 General M&amp;M Mid Clerkship Eval</td>
<td>Completed Post-Op note by this date</td>
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<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choose patient for case presentation by this date</td>
<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
<td>0700-1200 Didactics My Case presentation @0800</td>
<td>Must have skills eval and eval from Attending Rounds by this date.</td>
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<td>Complete Tertiary Survey form by this date</td>
<td>Rounds@0600 S/O 1700</td>
<td>0700-1200 Didactics Finalize Case Log</td>
<td>Final Day of Rotation Director</td>
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# Evaluation Cards used during the course of this rotation

## Mid-Clerkship Evaluation Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Encounter Document Student:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location: ICU Ward OR ED Clinic Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed: Procedure H/P Daily Rounds Consult Clinic Visit Other</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Scale Rating:</th>
<th>1 – Below M4</th>
<th>2 – Average M4</th>
<th>3 – Above M4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Knowledge:</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Technical Skills:</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Written communication:</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Verbal Communication:</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Team Work:</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<td>6. Other:</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Professionalism:</td>
<td>Serious Concern Slight Concern No Concern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Comments (Mandatory):

Was verbal feedback given to student? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Evaluator Name

Print: _____________________________ Sign: _____________________________

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# Example of Final Clerkship Evaluation:

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**Student:** Student Name  
**Assessment:** Final Clerkship Assessment  
**Rotation:** Scheduler 15 Rotation Name  
**Event:** Scheduler 15 Event Name  

### Knowledge for Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Honors</th>
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Please Justify the grade in this competency

### Patient Care and Procedural Skills

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Honors</th>
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Please Justify the grade in this competency

### Interpersonal and Communication Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Honors</th>
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Please Justify the grade in this competency

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needs Improvement</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Honors</td>
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</table>

Please Justify the grade in this competency

Systems-Based Practice

<table>
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<th>Grade</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needs Improvement</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Honors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Justify the grade in this competency

Professionalism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needs Improvement</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Honors</td>
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</table>

Approved by the CEPC 6-11-19
### Interprofessional Collaboration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Honors</th>
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</table>

Please justify the grade in this competency

### Personal and Professional Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Pass</th>
<th>Honors</th>
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</table>

Please justify the grade in this competency

### OSCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Pass on First Attempt</th>
<th>Pass on Second Attempt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Approved by the CEPC 6-11-19
NBME Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NBME Equated Percent Correct</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NBME Percentile</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Statement for MSPE

This is a narrative that describes the student's strengths during rotation and any persistent weaknesses that the student did not improve after feedback. You must include a narrative on the student's professionalism. Any feedback that you do not want to include in the MSPE should be included below in the "Comments" field. As a reminder, please use complete sentences and check your grammar, etc. as these comments go out to residency directors across the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments (Please write about strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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Please select a provisional Overall Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Honors</th>
<th>Incomplete</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Preparation for Teaching

Attending faculty and residents will be oriented to the experience by the Surgery Sub-Internship Clerkship Director or their designee, and provided copies of the syllabus and forms that they will use to assess student performance.

Residents will be required, as part of their training and orientation, to function as teachers. All residents are required to participate in a “Residents as Teachers” program that is administered by the Office of Graduate Medical Education. In addition, each resident will be provided copies of the Medical Student syllabus with particular emphasis on goals, objectives, and assessment methods and criteria.