

From: Carol Terregino

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 11:23 AM

Subject: COVID Update To Rising M3 and M4 Students

Dear Rising M3 and M4 Students,

As you have been informed in previous communications, we will conduct no clinical activities in the M3 or M4 year until March 31, 2020. We do not know what the national and local decisions will be, however we are planning contingencies to continue the medical education program until we return to normalcy.

In an effort to continue the M3 and M4 curricula we have developed the following contingency plans. Activation of these plans depend on national and local decisions and you will be informed as soon as these decisions are made.

For Rising M3 Students

The Academic Rules and Regulations Committee will be petitioned to allow students to begin their clerkships prior to the requirement to take USMLE Step 1. We do not yet have clarity on when testing will resume, however, when Prometric sites do reopen, we do encourage students to consult with Cognitive Skills on readiness and to take the exam.

We plan a lengthened Introduction to the Clerkship Experience to ensure your readiness to begin clerkships (full physical examination and BLS are activities that need to be added). We are considering beginning ICE week on 6.22.20. Student Affairs will be requiring students to confirm their availability to begin 6.22.20.

We will be assessing the clinical resources available (sites, patients, faculty) for the beginning of the *clinical* portions of the clerkships since there will be two cohorts of medical students needing clinical clerkships. As we are doing with the current M3s, we will begin the M3 year with online didactic sessions for clerkships.

For Rising M4 Students

The Academic Rules and Regulations Committee will be petitioned to modify the rule that students must complete all M3 core clerkships prior to being enrolled in M4 requirements.

We will continue the non-clinical didactic portions of the remaining core M3 clerkships, and some M4 experiences: EM clerkship, subinternship and critical care selective. (see below)

Scheduling of the M4 year will not begin before May 1, 2020.

We will be exploring best methods to accommodate these M4 didactics in the remaining M3 schedule.

This time for didactics and “protected” study time will not only be good preparation for clinical activities of M3 core clerkships but also for taking USMLE Step 2 CK, which we know many of you desire to take early in the M4 year.

We will petition the Academic Standing Committee to modify the number of required elective weeks for graduation in order to accommodate the M3 clinical core clerkships that have been impacted with this year’s changes.

We hope that this letter provides some clarity in these uncertain times. We will be scheduling a webinar closer to the March 31, 2020 date to respond to questions and provide further details.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terregino and the Education Team