Objectively Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
Briefing and Instructions for all Campuses

Updated: 10-16-2019
PRIOR TO THE EXAM

- Wear clinic dress and white coat
- Bring a pen
- Bring your stethoscope
- You may not wear a watch; there is a clock in the room for timekeeping
- Students may “tour” the simulation rooms/area prior to the exam, especially if you are a visiting student. (Students must request this tour prior to exam as it is assumed that you have been to your campus simulation center prior to the testing date.)

OSCE EXAM

- Please introduce yourself as a medical student and use your name. Do NOT introduce yourself as Doctor or Student Doctor
- Remember to wash or sanitize your hands immediately before and immediately after the physical exam (at a minimum)
- No cell phones or PDA’s (Each clerkship will determine use of calculators)
- There are two types of stations during your OSCE: Patient Stations and Documentation Stations
- You will complete a patient note after each patient at a documentation station.* (*some clerkships may have an exception(s))
- Sign into the documentation screen with your UIN number
- You may or may not be provided scheduled breaks
  - During a break, you are allowed to go to the restroom or get a drink **one at a time**, but you will need to leave your clipboard containing all of your information with the Clerkship Coordinator
- Each student has a scheduled time and assigned rooms to follow
  - Your first station is marked in the first column of the Time Calling Schedule
  - You are to follow the station progression as indicated on the OSCE Schedule
  - Please alert your coordinator if you have any questions or not sure where your room is located
- You will have **fifteen minutes allowed for each patient station** (exception = Psychiatry, which is thirty minutes per encounter) and tracking your time is **your responsibility**.
  - You may be given a **five minute warning during your patient encounter**
- **There are sheets of blank paper on your clipboard**
  - You may use these sheets as your own personal notes that will NOT be graded
  - You can take notes while looking at the door scripts or during the patient encounters
  - All scratch paper must be turned in with your clipboard after your last OSCE station
- Do not remove the cover on the door sign or enter the room until it is announced
  - Upon hearing the announcement that you may look at the door sign and enter your station, the 15 minutes has begun
  - Age of the patient is what the door sign says, regardless of appearance
- When you enter the room, obtain a focused history, perform a relevant physical exam, and discuss your findings and recommendations with the patient
  - You must interact with the Standardized Patient (SP) just as you would a real patient
  - Assume routine patient encounter unless instructed otherwise
• Assume your exam findings are what you actually detect unless you are directed to a folder
  o SOME, but not all clerkships include folders with physical exam findings
  o As long as your history and/or exam was appropriate you will be directed to the folder
  o Do NOT look in a folder you are not directed to by the SP
  o OSCEs with folders have identical colored folders in all rooms. Therefore, do not assume there is a finding that you are “missing” if the SP did not refer you to a folder.
• You must actually perform each portion of the exam correctly and completely in order to get credit
  o You will not perform a breast exam, genital exam, hernia exam, or rectal exam on an SP; there may be stations with a GTA or MUTA, and you should follow the door sign in those instances.
  o If one of these invasive exams is indicated in an SP encounter, you may inform the SP. If you do not receive a folder, you should assume the exam WAS NOT PERFORMED and document that the exam is needed in the Diagnostic Studies area of your patient note.
• When you hear the announcement that time is up, immediately leave the station
  o The SPs have been instructed to terminate a session when the announcement plays
  o AFTER YOU HAVE EXITED A STATION, YOU MAY NOT RE-ENTER IT!!
  o You may proceed directly to the documentation station (even if you finish before the 15 minutes is up)
• The 10 minute timer for documentation will begin when the 15 minute patient encounter is over; you are responsible for tracking your own time via the timer.
  o You may be given a two minute warning during your documentation station
  o Your patient note will automatically submit when the 10 minutes is complete
  o Stay at your computer when you finish your documentation, even if you finish early, until you are told to move. This will allow other students to complete their station without distraction.
  o If there is a software problem, we will immediately go to a word template backup
  o If there is an issue with the computer, a paper template will be provided
  o Please begin your word or paper documentation where you left off
• Sounds are transmitted in the hallways; please be as quiet as possible
• Please DO NOT discuss any of the OSCE during or after the exam.
  o If anyone is caught doing this, they will automatically fail the exam

OSCE RECORDINGS

Each of your standardized patient encounters will be recorded during your OSCE and randomly reviewed independently by another faculty member for quality assurance and standardization. The recordings are used for:
• Quality assurance COM and CLRC to ensure that the stations are fair and reasonable
• Help educate future and/or present standardized patients, OSCE graders and/or medical students once certain stations have been retired

Having the encounters recorded is actually to your advantage. Pursuant to HSC policy, your video is kept as part of your student record for one year after you graduate and is then destroyed.