

# Objectives and Requirements for Clerkships and Required Clinical Experiences (2025-2026)

## CWRU SOM Educational Program Objectives

The following are the Shared Learning Objectives that pertain to all clerkships:

- Demonstrate consistent professional values and behaviors: compassion, respect, honesty, and ethical practice, meeting obligations in a reliable and timely manner, and recognizing and addressing lapses in professional behavior.
- Participate effectively as a member of the inter-professional healthcare team, recognizing contributions of others and promoting collaboration in patient care.
- Reflect on feedback to improve knowledge, skills, and attitudes with effort to grow in professional abilities.
- Communicate effectively, including written and oral communications, using active listening skills with patients, caregivers, and healthcare team members.
- Apply biomedical, clinical, and social/behavioral knowledge to clinical problems and patient care practices.
- Appraise and assimilate evidence from scientific studies and use new knowledge to improve patient care practices.
- Integrate effective history taking and exam skills in formulating appropriate differential diagnoses.
- Recognize how social determinants of health and the complexity of the healthcare system may impact optimal patient care.
- Participate in clinical experiences that include the defined common core clinical conditions, procedures, and activities related to the discipline at the appropriate level of supervision.

## **Core Requirements for the AGING Integrated Clinical Experience**

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate compassionate, effective and efficient history taking and exam skills for older adults.
- Develop an evidence -based health maintenance plan for older patients.
- Communicate the key components of a safe care plan and integration into community, including the role of interdisciplinary team members.
- Recognize how structural racism, ageism, and bias lead to health disparities, especially among underrepresented and vulnerable groups.
- Identify goals of care and patient/family preferences and assist with integration into patient management plan.
- Display sensitivity to cultural differences, differences in beliefs and backgrounds, and values that affect patient interactions with the healthcare system.

*Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Geriatric Syndromes (cognitive impairment, falls, incontinence, polypharmacy)

## **Core Requirements for the EMERGENCY MEDICINE Integrated Clinical Experience**

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate effective skills in gathering and presenting patient data and thinking through the differential diagnosis and treatment plan, with an emphasis on life-threatening conditions based on the initial chief complaint.
- Determine appropriate disposition for emergent care patients based on the patient's response to therapy and the availability of social support systems.
- Describe the role of the emergency department within the greater health care system.
- Describe the initial approach to the undifferentiated and the unstable patient.
- Display professional behavior such as showing up on time and to all shifts, as well as utilizing appropriate PPE based on ED guidelines.

*Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Abdominal Pain	Dyspnea
Acute Pain Management	ENT/Eye Emergency
Airway Management	Fluid Resuscitation/Shock
Chest Pain	Trauma/MSK Emergency

*Required Observed Activities:* Observed History, Observed Physical Exam

*Recommended Procedures:* Basic Airway Maneuvers, Point of Care Ultrasound, IV Placement

## Core Requirements for the FAMILY MEDICINE Clerkship

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Develop a cost-effective approach to differential diagnosis/diagnostic reasoning and solving patient-based problems.
- Formulate an evidence-based health maintenance plan for any patient across the life cycle, incorporating shared decision-making and motivational interviewing as appropriate.
- Demonstrates awareness of context of care, patient's values and health care system resources in clinical decision making.
- Recognize how structural racism, and bias lead to health disparities, especially among underrepresented groups.
- Apply the evidence-based principles of acute and chronic disease management to the care of a patient.
- Identify goals of care and patient/family preferences and assist with integration into patient management plan.
- Display sensitivity to cultural differences, differences in beliefs and backgrounds, and values that affect patient interactions with the healthcare system.

### *Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Abdominal Pain	Fever
Advanced Directives/End of Life/Palliative Care	Geriatric Syndromes (cognitive impairment, falls, incontinence, polypharmacy)
Altered Mental Status/Delirium	Hypertension
Anemia	Musculoskeletal Pain (back, shoulder, knee, hip)
Atherosclerosis (CAD, PVD, Cerebrovascular disease, Acute coronary syndrome)	Nausea/Vomiting, Diarrhea/Constipation, Gastroenteritis
Chest Pain	Obesity
CHF	Preventive Care/Health Promotion
COPD/Asthma	Renal Failure/Acid-Base Disorder/Electrolyte Disorder
Cough/URI/Viral syndromes/Pneumonia	Skin Problems (cellulitis, rash)
Depression	Smoking Cessation/Tobacco Use/Substance Use Disorder
Diabetes	Thyroid Disease
Dyslipidemia	Transitions of Care
Dyspnea	Unintended Weight Loss
Dysuria/Hematuria/Stones/UTI	Venous Thromboembolism

*Required Observed Activities:* Focused Physical Exam, Preventive Care Counseling

*Recommended Procedures:* Glucose Fingertick, Intradermal/IM/Sub Q Injection, Urinalysis, Urine HCG, Rapid Strep Test, Office-based Spirometry/peak flow

## **Core Requirements for the INTERNAL MEDICINE Clerkship**

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Communicate the key components of a safe discharge plan and reintegration into family, community, and workplace, including the role of care coordinator.
- Identify and suggest treatment for geriatric syndromes (e.g., delirium, dementia, depression, falls, incontinence, polypharmacy).
- Develop an evidence-based health maintenance plan for a patient of any age or gender.
- Recognize how social determinants of health, structural racism, and bias lead to health disparities, especially among underrepresented groups.
- Apply the evidence-based principles of acute and chronic disease management to the care of a patient.
- Identify goals of care and patient/family preferences and assist with integration into patient management plan.
- Display sensitivity to cultural differences, differences in beliefs and backgrounds, and values that affect patient interactions with the healthcare system.

### *Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Abdominal Pain	Fever
Advanced Directives/End of Life/Palliative Care	Geriatric Syndromes (cognitive impairment, falls, incontinence, polypharmacy)
Altered Mental Status/Delirium	Hypertension
Anemia	Musculoskeletal Pain (back, shoulder, knee, hip)
Atherosclerosis (CAD, PVD, Cerebrovascular disease, Acute coronary syndrome)	Nausea/Vomiting, Diarrhea/Constipation, Gastroenteritis
Chest Pain	Obesity
CHF	Preventive Care/Health Promotion
COPD/Asthma	Renal Failure/Acid-Base Disorder/Electrolyte Disorder
Cough/URI/Viral syndromes/Pneumonia	Skin Problems (cellulitis, rash)
Depression	Smoking Cessation/Tobacco Use/Substance Use Disorder
Diabetes	Thyroid Disease
Dyslipidemia	Transitions of Care
Dyspnea	Unintended Weight Loss
Dysuria/Hematuria/Stones/UTI	Venous Thromboembolism

*Required Observed Activities:* Interprofessional Patient Care, Oral Presentation, Patient-Centered Interview, Internal Medicine Physical Exam

*Recommended Procedures:* ABG, EKG, Rectal Exam

## **Core Requirements for the NEUROSCIENCE Clerkship**

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate the ability to perform and interpret a complete neurological examination.
- Demonstrate the ability in the neurologically ill patient to formulate a case, develop a differential diagnosis, devise a plan for diagnosis and management.
- Enrich prior knowledge in neuroscience through outside reading and searching the literature relevant to clinical case work.
- Recognize an acute change in neurologic status and work with the appropriate team to initiate care.
- Recognize and address pain secondary to neurologic disorders.
- Recognize appropriate indications for common neurologic diagnostic testing and imaging.

*Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Coma/Encephalopathy  
Dementia  
Dizziness  
Headache  
Movement Disorders  
Neuroinflammatory Disorders  
Peripheral Nervous System Disorders  
Seizure  
Stroke

*Required Observed Activities:* Neurologic Exam, Neurologic History

*Additional Requirements:* Assessment and management of patients with acute neurologic change, Management of chronic neurologic conditions, Participation in management of a neurological patient requiring post-acute care, Incorporate evidence-based medicine in formulating treatment plans for neurological patients

## Core Requirements for the OBGYN Clerkship

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Identify and participate in the diagnosis and treatment of common obstetric and gynecological problems within the interdisciplinary team.
- Identify when to refer a patient to an Obstetrician-Gynecologist (including subspecialties).
- Describe how to counsel patients about contraception, abortion or sterilization options while maintaining ethical principles, recognizing personal bias, patient autonomy, and cultural awareness.
- Apply knowledge of competent care for all gender identities, sexual orientations, and the need for trauma-informed care in obstetrical and gynecologic care.
- Apply situational awareness when approaching communication and patient care, recognizing clinical environments that have heightened acuity and emotions.
- Demonstrate the ability to compassionately, respectfully, and effectively communicate with and examine adolescents/women.
- Appraise the medical literature to demonstrate knowledge and clinical problem-solving skills necessary for the diagnosis and initial management of common acute and chronic illnesses in adult women.
- Know and apply women's health screening strategies and guidelines across the life cycle.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of pelvic/female anatomy and how it correlates with clinical care.
- Describe the physiology of normal and complicated pregnancy and the care of common medical conditions during pregnancy.
- Define the biopsychosocial model approach to female sexual function.

### *Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Contraception/Family Planning

Interpersonal violence

Labor (Normal)

Menstrual problem/Abnormal bleeding

Pelvic Mass

Pelvic Pain (Acute/Chronic)

Pregnancy (Complicated/High-Risk)

Pregnancy (Normal)

Vaginal Discharge/STIs

Women's Health (Osteoporosis/Menopause)

*Required Observed Activities:* Pelvic Exam (Bimanual/Speculum), OB/Gyn History

*Required Procedures:* Assist in the Delivery of an Infant/Placenta

*Recommended Procedures:* Breast Exam

## **Core Requirements for the PEDIATRICS Clerkship**

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to**

- Obtain history from a child in an age-appropriate manner, from third party historian when appropriate, and with specific attention to birth history and developmental histories.
- Perform a physical exam (including appreciating differences related to stages of development) on the following age groups: newborn, infant, toddler, school-age, and adolescent.
- Generate an age-appropriate differential diagnosis and understand initial management (diagnostic and therapeutic) for common pediatric conditions.
- Apply basic knowledge of normal growth and development from birth to adolescence, disease, and injury prevention (immunizations, anticipatory guidance), and common screening tests to pediatric health maintenance encounters for the newborn, infant, toddler, school-age, and adolescent age groups.
- Show effective patient/family-centered communication and engagement using appropriate language including incorporating patient/family perspectives, values, and goals into the clinical encounter.

*Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

- Behavioral (Abnormality/Concern)
- Cardiovascular System
- Central Nervous System
- Child Maltreatment Syndrome (e.g. Non-accidental Trauma, Neglect, Sexual Abuse)
- Dermatologic System
- Development (Abnormality/Concern)
- Emergent Clinical Problem
- Fever
- Fluid and Electrolyte Problem/Management
- Gastrointestinal Tract
- Growth (Abnormality/Concern)
- Hematologic Abnormality/Concern
- Jaundice
- Lower Respiratory Tract
- Musculoskeletal Complaint
- Nutrition (Abnormality/Concern)
- Upper Respiratory Tract
- Well Child Care (Newborn-1 month)
- Well Child Care (Infant 1-12 months)
- Well Child Care (Toddler 12-60 months)
- Well Child Care (School-Age)
- Well Child Care (Adolescent)

*Required Observed Activities:* Assessment of Child Development, Newborn Physical Exam



## **Core Requirements for the PSYCHIATRY Clerkship**

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate the ability to perform and interpret a psychiatric evaluation, including a detailed mental status evaluation.
- Enrich prior knowledge in Psychiatry through different methods of learning in addition to clinical work and didactics sessions, and ability to communicate newly acquired knowledge to peers and team.
- Recognize an acute change in mental status and initiate appropriate clinical work up.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply DSM diagnostic criteria for major psychiatric disorders and explain major treatment modalities.
- Contribute to care that is appropriate, compassionate, and effective for the medically ill patient with psychiatric symptoms.
- Identify intoxication and withdrawal for common substances of abuse (alcohol, opioids, cocaine, marijuana) and be able to discuss the common different levels of treatment options for common substances of abuse such as inpatient and outpatient treatment.
- Identify the connection between medical and psychiatric conditions and how this affects diagnosis and treatment.
- Recognize how trauma and other adverse childhood contribute to psychiatric presentations in childhood.
- Summarize the role of medications in the management of patients with substance use disorders.
- Appreciate different socioeconomic circumstances in a non-judgmental way and how it affects patient outcomes.
- Appreciate and provide resources to patients based on the student's understanding of different systems of healthcare.
- Identify skills that can help the student to promote work life balance.
- Recognize areas of potential quality improvement and verbalize them.

### *Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Anxiety	Personality Disorder
Bipolar Disorder	Psychological Trauma/PTSD/TBI
Delirium/Encephalopathy	Psychosis
Depression	Risk Assessment (self-harm/suicide/homicide/violence)
Psychopharmacology	Substance Use Disorder

*Required Observed Activities:* Mental Status Exam, Psychiatric History

## Core Requirements for the SURGERY Clerkship

**By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate habits of ongoing reflection using feedback from others as well as self-assessments to both identify learning needs (cognitive and emotional) and practice continuous personal improvement.
- Effectively communicate knowledge as well as uncertainties in all settings.
- Demonstrate appropriate level of clinical, basic, and health systems science knowledge to be an effective starting resident physician.
- Discuss the critical elements of surgical and nonsurgical care for each of the core conditions.
- Demonstrate effective skills in gathering and presenting patient data and generate a differential diagnosis and treatment plan.
- Demonstrate the ability to perform focused, self-directed reading in appropriate literature and share this with the team, particularly in relation to patients the student is seeing.
- Demonstrate selflessness for the benefit of the patient and the team.

### *Required Core Clinical Conditions:*

Abdominal pain	Fluid resuscitation/shock
Acute pain management	GI Bleeding
Airway management	Jaundice
Breast Pain/Mass/Nipple discharge	Nutrition
Cancer	Obesity
Chest Pain	Peri-operative Care
Dysphagia/GERD	Peripheral Vascular Disease
Dyspnea	Trauma/Acute MKS Injury
ENT emergency	Wound Infections

*Required Observed Activities:* Abdominal Exam, Suturing, Surgery History

*Recommended Procedures:* Female Foley, Male Foley, Nasogastric Tube