Evaluating the EPA’s in the Clerkship Year: Findings of A Cross Sectional Study

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SUBMISSION ROLE: Research and Innovation Abstracts

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ABSTRACT BODY:

Short Description: We are working to align our curriculum to AAMC EPA’s by redesigning the Core Clerkships using backward design and a standardized assessment strategy. Our goal is to identify a process that can be generalized across our curriculum and to other institutions. We conducted a needs assessment, which identified disparities in assessment strategies between clerkships. Here, we present our approach, lessons learned in aligning a curriculum to the EPAs, and strategies to measure progression to entrustment.

Abstract: Problem Statement

In 2015, we began aligning our curriculum to AAMC EPA’s by redesigning the Core Clerkships using backward design and a standardized assessment strategy (3). Our goal was to identify a process that could be generalized across our curriculum and to other institutions. This includes:

1. Articulating what students should be able to do or understand upon completion of a Core Clerkship.
2. Designing assessments to evaluate student progression toward Entrustment (4; 5).
3. Structuring learning experiences needed for our learners to succeed on assessments.

Approach:

We conducted a needs assessment, including a review of current assessment practices. This review identified significant disparities in grading criteria, assessments and grade distributions between core clerkships. We accomplished this by:

- Identifying PCRS (2) competencies to address across clerkships.
- Crafting standard clerkship learning outcomes.
- Aligning outcomes with selected PCRS and EPAs.
- Identifying levels of entrustment (1) for each outcome.
- Creating a standard, electronic, EPA-based Preceptor Evaluation.
- Standardizing the assessment strategy and grading tier thresholds for each clerkship.
- Modeling potential impact on grade distribution and tiers (Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail).

Lessons Learned:

We will present the first year’s data in this four-year longitudinal study. We will share how redesigning the Core Clerkships affected our ability to: 1) evaluate skill development and knowledge using standardized assessments within and between clerkships; 2) gauge student performance; 3) improve faculty confidence in the evaluation process; 4) navigate challenges, and 5) use findings to make strategic improvements.

Aligning the Core Clerkships with the EPAs and PCRS improved the quality of learning experiences for our students. To further improve our assessment structure and student learning outcomes we will:

- Enhance Faculty Development to ensure more reliable score on Preceptor Evaluation.
- Develop a more robust “physical exam” assessment.
- Refine the framework to measure progression to Entrustment.
- Re-evaluate the Preceptor Evaluation point scale.

Significance:

Our model can be generalized across the curriculum and used by other institutions to align their curricula to the EPAs and development strategies to measure progression to

Level of Audience: Mid-career
Focus of Presentation: UME
References: Works Cited


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