

Curriculum Committee Minutes

Date	February 1, 2021
Time	4:00 – 5:30PM
Location & Zoom Info	Zoom: https://uw-phi.zoom.us/j/414136379 Telephone: +1 669-900-6833 or +1 646-558-8656
Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Whipple, Sherilyn Smith</i>
Attendees	Academic Co-Chair: <i>Sherilyn Smith</i> ; Executive Chair: <i>Mark Whipple</i> Voting Members: <i>Sherilyn Smith, Amanda Kost, Carolyn Bell, Cindy Knall, Courtney Francis, Elizabeth Buhler, John Willford, Laura Goodell, Leanne Rousseau, Matt Cunningham, Peter Fuerst, Ruth Lewinski, Zach Gallaher</i> Guests: <i>Brenda Martinez, Bruce Silverstein, Cynthia Sprenger, Darryl Potyk, Devin Sawyer, Edith Wang, Frank Batcha, Gerald Tolbert, Jeff Seegmiller, Jessica Wheeler, Kathy Young, Kelley Goetz, Kellie Engle, LeeAnna Muzquiz, Malika Rose Hale, Marilyn Cope, Marj Wenrich, Martin Teintze, Maya Sardesai, Meghan Kiefer, Michael Campion, Nick Cheung, Rebekah Smith, Sara Kim, Sarah Wood, Tara Gates</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QUORUM REACHED: 13	
Regrets	Voting members: <i>Ben Trnka, Brenna Ostertag, Eric LaMotte, John Scott, Kris Calhoun, Mara Rendi</i>

Agenda

	ITEM	LEAD	TIME	ATTACHMENT	ACTION
1	Approve January Minutes	Sherilyn Smith	5 min	Attachment A	Decision
2	PEAC charge for required clerkship grading: e-vote outcome	Mark Whipple	5 min		Announcement
3	Prerequisite Workgroup Report	LeeAnna Muzquiz	25 min	Attachment B	Discussion
4	Clerkship subject exam failure workgroup's recommendations	Mark Whipple	25 min	TBD	Discussion / Decisions

Next Meeting: March 1, 2021

1. Approve January Minutes

Discussion: The January minutes were reviewed.

DECISION REQUIRED?

[13] VOTES FOR

[0] VOTES AGAINST

Decision: The Curriculum committee approved the January meeting minutes.

2. PEAC charge for grading: e-vote outcome

Announcement: The PEAC charge discussed at the January Curriculum Committee meeting was approved via e-vote. See the approved language below:

Each required clerkship uses a slightly different method to both calculate the clinical numerical grade, and then combine the clinical numerical grade with the final exam score to come up with the final numerical grade for the clerkship. After examining these methods, the rationale (and benefit to the school) for retaining these differences in grading method is unclear. Grading differences also add unnecessarily to the cognitive load experienced by the students as they navigate the eight required clerkships. The Curriculum Committee charges PEAC to recommend a single method of determining clinical numerical grade and final numerical grade that can be used across all required clerkship departments. Details about what is considered in-scope vs. out-of-scope for this charge are listed below:

In-scope:

- Best practices for calculating the clinical numerical grade
- How the clinical numerical grade is combined with the exam score to create a final numerical grade
- Performance standards for exams (e.g., threshold for passing, threshold for honors)
- Percent honors awarded across clerkships

PEAC will present their recommendations to the Curriculum Committee in July 2021.

3. Prerequisite Workgroup Report

Discussion: A workgroup led by Dr. LeeAnna Muzquiz, Associate Dean for Admissions, reviewed and updated the UWSOM prerequisites (last reviewed in 2008) to meet the expectations of the current curriculum. The recommendations developed by the workgroup focus more on competency-based prerequisites as opposed to prescribed coursework. The new prerequisites also include descriptions of how students demonstrate competency. There will be an updated secondary question on the UWSOM application where applicants will be asked to describe their competency (peer institutions use this method).

Additional changes include updated and cleaned-up language to make it easier for:

- Applicants to understand
- Undergraduate academic advisors to counsel pre-med/pre-health students
- Staff to determine if an applicant has met a prerequisite

The workgroup consulted individuals working in the Foundations Phase throughout WWAMI and reviewed data to determine that biochemistry should be a required prerequisite.

The workgroup's recommendations were approved in October 2020 by the Faculty Council on Academic Affairs and will be implemented for the E-23 cohort. See the workgroup's report in the meeting handouts for details.

If committee members have suggestions on how best to message these changes, feel free to e-mail Dr. Muzquiz.

4. Clerkship subject exam failure workgroup's recommendations

Discussion: In December, the Patient Care and Explore & Focus committees charged a workgroup to develop a different approach around clerkship subject exam fails. The current policy requires students repeat the entire clerkship if they fail a subject exam. This has negatively impacted students' trajectory to graduate on time and may not be the best remediation approach for all students. Additionally, clerkships are facing capacity issues.

The workgroup used the existing Thursday clerkship huddles to discuss different approaches with stakeholders, including Dr. Allen, Student Affairs, Academic and Learning Technologies (ALT), and clerkship representatives.

The workgroup recommends making passage of the subject exams an academic requirement for moving onto the next phase of the curriculum (students must pass all Patient Care Phase clerkship exams to move onto the Explore & Focus Phase and they must pass all Explore & Focus Phase clerkship exams to graduate). Most students are already doing this by successfully passing the exam as part of the clerkship. The proposed change allows clerkships to potentially change their grading structure to allow students to pass who failed the exam but would not benefit from repeating the entire clerkship. The workgroup proposes making this change active for the 2021-2022 clerkship year.

The committee had the opportunity to ask questions:

QUESTION – If a student completes all Patient Care Phase required clerkships and still needs to pass an exam, what do the logistics look like?

ANSWER – It would be similar to the Step 1 policy waiver currently in place due to COVID-19 (students can opt to delay Step 1 until after the Patient Care Phase, but before entering Explore & Focus Phase). The details will need to be fleshed out. One possibility is that students would not be allowed to start elective clerkships until they passed all these exams.

QUESTION – How far out will the School allow students to retake an exam they failed?

ANSWER – From a curriculum standpoint, we would only dictate that students cannot enter the next phase until they've completed all these exams. It would be beneficial to allow some flexibility in the policy and not be too prescriptive. However, that doesn't imply that the best course of action is to wait.

QUESTION – How often are students in the situation of doing well clinically but failing an exam?

ANSWER – About half of the time. Clerkship directors express that half of the exam failures are a surprise and the other half are not.

An important note – the initial exam grade will stay on a student’s record. The retake grade will not replace the original grade. There will need to be discussions with Student Affairs on how best to report this on a student’s MSPE.

This proposal currently impacts a very small number of students. However, this may change if clerkships update their grading structure and decide to raise the passing threshold on NBME exams. Currently, many clerkships have lower passing thresholds than they would like since the ramifications for failing an exam are so great (having to repeat the entire clerkship).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[13] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
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Decision: The Curriculum committee approved the proposed Academic Requirements policy revisions as written for the entering class of 2019 and subsequent classes.