Policy Statement

Students are required to pass all components stipulated in the clerkship syllabus in order to pass the clerkship. Clinical course grades may be comprised of the following: assessment in clinical performance, assessment of professionalism, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE), a final exam (written and/or oral), a paper, attendance, and other performance assessments specified by the Clerkship Director. Students who do not pass all required components will be failed and referred to the Committee on Student Scholastic Standing.

Reason for Policy

It is important that students be able to pass all clerkships and demonstrate mastery of content as specified in each of the clerkship content areas.

Procedures

A) The Clerkship Director is responsible for clearly defining performance expectations of students in the syllabus. This is to include: objectives, what components of the clerkship must be passed and at what level, and what is required to receive honors, excellent, satisfactory, or fail.

B) Mid-rotation feedback is required (see policy on Mid Course and Clerkship Feedback, Years 1-4)

C) End-rotation feedback is desirable.
   a) If a significant problem is identified but does not result in failure, the Site Director should notify the Clerkship Director and the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

D) If failure of a student is imminent, the attending physician must notify the Site Director immediately, who in turn must notify the Clerkship Director
   a) The attending physician, Site Director, and Clerkship Director will discuss the student's academic problem and recommend a plan for improvement. The course director or designated Site Director will then meet with the student to discuss the concerns and the
plan for improvement. This meeting should occur as soon as possible after the identification of the problem, and definitely before the completion of the rotation.
b) The plan for improvement should be communicated to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and the student’s Faculty Advisor.

E) If a student fails the final exam (NBME Subject “shelf” Exam or other) on the first attempt, but otherwise passes the clerkship, the student will be allowed a second attempt.
a) Should the student pass on the second attempt, the highest grade the student will be eligible to achieve is “excellent”.
b) Should the student fail on the second attempt, the student will fail the clerkship.

Related Information

Policy: Mid Course and Clerkship Feedback, Years 1-4

History

Effective:
March 2012

Amended:
November 2015 – Added information on final exam failure

Approval:
Passed by Education Council on December 15, 2015

Discussion:
Education Council – October 20, 2015
CEC Committee – November 6, 2015