
AY 2025-2026

Emergency Medicine Clerkship

Clerkship Description

The Emergency Medicine rotation during the OPSEF Block is a unique learning opportunity designed to provide students with early exposure to the specialty and to the urgent and emergent care of children and adolescents. Students will assess undifferentiated patients and develop their own diagnostic and therapeutic management plans, integrating and applying knowledge from the other disciplines encountered in the block. Clinical experiences will be augmented by didactics and additional field experiences, including the 911 center and EMS ride out.

Clerkship Objectives

Patient Care

Goal: Students who are able to provide patient-centered care that is appropriate and compassionate.

Objectives: By the end of the clerkship, students should be able to:

- Obtain an accurate problem-focused history and physical exam (PC-1.1)
- Develop a diagnostic and therapeutic patient management plan for the patient with both an undifferentiated complaint and a known disease process (PC-1.3, PC-1.2)
- Formulate a differential dx when evaluating an undifferentiated patient: (PC-1.3)
 - List worst case scenarios
 - Prioritize likelihood of diagnoses based on clinical findings
- Patient management skills (PC-1.2, PC-1.7)
 - Monitor the response to therapeutic intervention
 - Develop appropriate disposition and follow up plans
- Patient communication (PC-1.6, PC-1.7)
 - Educate patients on safety and provide anticipatory guidance as necessary
 - Educate patients to ensure comprehension of discharge plan
- Interpret basic diagnostic tests such as, but not limited to labs and imaging (PC-1.3)
- Initiate basic resuscitation and stabilization (PC-1.5)

Knowledge for Practice

Goal: Students who are able to apply their broad knowledge base to patient care in the ED clinical setting.

Objectives: During the clerkship, the student will have opportunity to:

- Apply diagnostic principles from pre-clerkship years to the ED clinical setting (KP-2.2)
- Apply evidence-based principles to patient care in the ED clinical setting (KP-2.3)

Practice Based Learning and Improvements

Goal: Students who are able to apply scientific evidence to patient care, accept, and apply feedback for improvement of patient care practices.

Objectives: Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Apply corrective feedback (PBL-3.3)

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Goal: Students who are able to effectively communicate with patients, families, faculty, staff, residents and other students.

Objectives: Students will have opportunity to:

- Develop and demonstrate professional interactions and effective communication with ED faculty, staff and consultants (ICS-4.2)
- Demonstrate active listening skills (ICS-4.3)
- Establish a therapeutic relationship with patients and families (ICS-4.1, ICS-4.3)

Professionalism

Goal: Students who demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adhering to ethical principles, displaying sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Objectives: Throughout the clerkship, students will demonstrate:

- Respect towards patients and families whose lifestyles, culture and values may be different from their own (PRO-5.1)
- Ethical behavior, including patient confidentiality, privacy and consent (PRO-5.2)
- Reliability, by arriving on time and prepared for all required activities (PRO-5.3, PRO-5.7)
- Honesty and integrity in patient care (PRO-5.6)
- Professional appearance (PRO-5.7)

Systems-Based Practice

Goal: Students who demonstrate an awareness of the larger context of health care and understand how to effectively utilize system resources to provide optimal care.

Objectives: By the end of the clerkship, students should be able to:

- Describe the role of poison centers in the US healthcare system (SBP-6.1)

Inter-Professional Collaboration

Goal: Students who demonstrate the ability to effectively engage as part of an inter-professional team.

Objectives: Throughout the clerkship, student should have the opportunity to:

- Develop teamwork and inter-professional communication skills in the ED (IPC-7.3)

Personal and Professional Development

Goal: Students who demonstrate the principles required for lifelong professional growth.

Objectives: During the clerkship, students will have opportunity to:

OPSEF

- Develop proper judgment regarding when to take responsibility and when to seek assistance with patient care, based on their current level of training (PPD-8.1)

Integration Threads

<u>_</u> Geriatrics	<u>X</u> Patient Safety	<u>X</u> Communication Skills	<u>X</u> Professionalism	<u>_</u> Palliative Care
<u>_</u> Basic Science	<u>X</u> Pain Management	<u>X</u> Diagnostic Imaging	<u>X</u> EBM	<u>_</u> Clinical & Translation Research
<u>X</u> Ethics	<u>X</u> Chronic Illness Care	<u>X</u> Clinical Pathology	<u>X</u> Quality Improvement	

General Requirements

Course expectations include showing up for all shifts, on time, appropriately attired (scrubs or business attire, no dangling hair, no open toe shoes), ready to work, with a stethoscope and your ID badge. When evaluating real or simulated patients, always use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and be respectful.

ED Shifts will be at the following facility, additional facilities may be added later in the year:

- El Paso Children's Hospital, 4815 Alameda, 915-298-5443

If an emergency arises preventing you from working your shift or you are ill, e-mail the Clerkship Coordinator and PLFELPClerkshipAbsence@ttuhsc.edu. Should a student request changes to the schedule after being published, it is the student's responsibility to assist in assuring all duty hour requirements/restrictions have been met. Any shift changes should be requested a minimum of 48 hours in advance, excluding weekend hours, to ensure timely change to the schedules.

You are expected to act as the primary provider for the patients you see on your shifts. You will do a focused H&P, and then present the patient to the resident/faculty with a differential diagnosis along with a diagnostic and therapeutic management plan. Each student will be assigned approximately 24 clinical hours in the emergency department. You are required to work all assigned hours, even if it is beyond 24 hours. You will be required to work nights and weekends.

All patients are to be presented to faculty before pelvic and rectal exams, and before any procedures are done. **You are not to do any of these things without direct physician observation.** You must notify and obtain approval from the senior resident or faculty member for each patient you plan to pick up. If a patient appears unstable (i.e., looks really sick, has respiratory distress, or has abnormal vital signs) notify your attending or resident immediately.

Do not leave the department without advising your faculty. Expect to eat your meals in the ED, although you will be allowed to leave the department to get food from the cafeteria. There is a refrigerator and microwave in the Emergency Department for students to use.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based on attendance, participation, and your clinical shift assessment forms. Due to the brief duration of the course, **grades will be pass/fail only.**

PASS:

- Complete a minimum of 10 Op-Log entries
- 36 hours in the ED
- 9 hours on an EMS ride-out
- 2 hours at the 911 command center
- Clinical evaluations must meet a minimum standard of the following:
 - Professional behavior
 - Patient evaluation skills
 - Patient management skills

IN PROGRESS:

This grade will be issued at the end of the clerkship if the course requirements have not been met due to mitigating circumstances. Once the requirements have been met the grade will be changed to PASS.

FAIL:

- Unprofessional behavior
- Failure to complete required remedial work in the allotted time.
- Failure to complete course requirements to a satisfactory level.

Clerkship Experiences

Pre-Hospital Experience

Each student will spend 2 hours at the 911 Dispatch Center where dispatchers receive calls. You do not need to bring anything. You will be able to see firsthand what happens behind the scenes.

You will also spend one 9-hour shift with an EMS crew at a Fire Station within the city. The address will be provided on your pass on the day of orientation and in Scheduler. You may wear scrubs.

Objectives:

- Gain firsthand experience on how EMS responds to calls, assesses patients, and provides care in the field
- Become familiar with the challenges of providing patient care outside of a hospital or clinical setting
- Observe and gain appreciation for how EMS performs patient assessments, utilizes local patient protocols, and communicates patient information to hospital staff at time of transfer

Re-Assignment

Students with previous experience in the pre-hospital arena may request to substitute their hours with additional ED shift(s) totaling the same hours. The request should be made prior to the rotation starting.

Mid-Rotation Assessment

Progress will be assessed for each student at the midpoint of the rotation. Clerkship faculty will review your clinical evaluations and Op-Log entries.

Any student who is not making satisfactory progress will meet with clerkship faculty to discuss their perception of any problem, the student's strengths and weaknesses and current circumstances. Steps will be taken to determine the precise problem and to work out an appropriate course of action. If you are progressing well, you will receive a personalized online mid-clerkship evaluation from clerkship faculty and you will not be required to meet; but a meeting can be arranged if you request one.

Op-Log Entries

You will be required to complete Op-Log entries on all patients with whom you have direct, clinical contact; e.g., performing a patient's history and physical examination, or performing or assisting in a procedure. Each student is required to document in the Op-Log the following mandatory conditions: (1) nausea/vomiting (2) Fever. Involvement with a more advanced or critical patient in which significant faculty/resident teaching is involved should also be included.

If you are unable to complete all required diagnoses, please notify the Clerkship Coordinator and an alternate assignment can be assigned such as the following chapters from *An Introduction to Clinical Emergency Medicine*.

Required Diagnoses	Alternate Reading
Fever	Fever in children – Section 2, Chapter 28
Nausea/Vomiting	Vomiting – Section 2, Chapter 44

Clinical Evaluations

You are encouraged to seek out feedback from faculty and residents. Clinical shift evaluation forms can be completed in two ways. You may send the form via email to your faculty at the end of your shift through the Elentra system or you may hand them a paper copy to complete and hand back to you. For handwritten forms, take a paper copy with you and hand it to the faculty to complete at least 30 minutes prior to the end of the shift. If the faculty requests that you have the senior resident complete the form, then you may provide the form (or Elentra email) to the resident. Submit any handwritten forms you receive to the clerkship coordinator. Either option is acceptable, but doing them with paper leads to a higher response rate. We have asked all faculty members and senior residents to discuss their evaluation remarks with you personally at the end of each shift.

Recommended Online Resources

<https://www.saem.org/about-saem/academies-interest-groups-affiliates2/cdem/for-students/online-education/peds-em-curriculum>