

**Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
Surgical Sub-Internship Syllabus**

Contact Information:

Dr. D. Younan
4th Year Surgical Sub-I Clerkship Director
Email: dyounan@ttuhsc.edu

Gabby Kutz
Interim Program Coordinator
Email: Gabriela.Kutz@ttuhsc.edu

Course Description:

The surgical sub-internship will provide the student with hands-on experience guiding the transition from student to clinician within the realm of the general surgery specialty and its subspecialties. This experience will include but is not limited to; case-based attending rounds, learning procedural skills under appropriate supervision, and a formal case presentation. Students will be assigned to one of the following services to complete their Sub-I requirement: General surgery at UMC , General surgery at THOP, Surgical oncology, Pediatric surgery, Vascular surgery, or Plastic surgery . Preference requests will be honored to the extent possible.

Please review the 4th year common clerkship requirements prior to starting this rotation.

Academic Success and Accessibility:

Office of Accessibility Services

TTUHSC EP is committed to providing access to learning opportunities for all students with documented learning disabilities. To ensure access to this course and your program, please contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) by calling 915-215-4398 to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting accommodations in the classroom and clinical setting. Accommodations are not provided retroactively, so students are encouraged to register with OAS as soon as possible. More information can be found on the OAS website:

<https://elpaso.ttuhsce.edu/studentservices/accessibility/default.aspx>

STATEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

To support the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso offers reasonable modifications based on the student's particular needs. Any student who is pregnant or parenting a child up to age 18 or has conditions related to pregnancy are encouraged to communicate their needs with their faculty and/or program for academic support. Students may also contact Norma Fuentes, the Manager of Accessibility and Student Advocacy, to discuss support options. She will work with the institution's designated Pregnancy and Parenting Liaison to ensure equal access to the University's education program or activity. Please email norma.fuentes@ttuhsc.edu or call 915.215.4398. Students may also submit a [Pregnancy & Parenting Support form](#) to request assistance.

For more information, please refer to [Texas Tech University System Regulation 07.15 – Pregnancy and Parental Status](#).

Counseling Assistance

TTUHSC EP is committed to the well-being of our students. Students may experience a range of academic, social, and personal stressors, which can be overwhelming. If you or someone you know needs comprehensive or crisis mental health support assistance, on-campus mental health services are available Monday- Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., without an appointment. Appointments may be scheduled by calling **915-215-TALK (8255)** or emailing support.elp@ttuhsc.edu. The offices are located in MSBII, Suite 2C201. Related information can be found at <https://elpaso.ttuhsce.edu/studentservices/student-support->

[center/get-connected/](#) Additionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached by calling or texting **988**.

Reporting Student Conduct Issues:

Campus community members who observe or become aware of potential student misconduct can use the Student Incident Report Form to file a report with the Office of Student Services and Student Engagement. Student behaviors that may violate the student code of conduct, student handbook, or other TTUHSCEP policies, regulations, or rules are considered to be student misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, harassment, drug use, or theft.

TTUHSC El Paso Campus CARE Team:

The university CARE Team is here to support students who may be feeling overwhelmed, experiencing significant stress, or facing challenges that could impact their well-being or safety. If your professor notices any signs that you or someone else might need help, they may check in with you personally and will often connect you with the CARE Team. This is not about being “in trouble”—it’s about ensuring you have access to trained professionals who can offer support and connect you to helpful resources. Additionally, if you have any concerns about your own well-being or that of a fellow student, please don’t hesitate to reach out to let your professor know. You can also make a referral to the CARE Team using CARE Report Form. Your health, safety, and success are our top priorities, and we’re here to help.

Medical Education Program Goals and Objectives:

The surgery sub-internship emphasizes the clinical application of medical knowledge within the context of actual patient care and prepares students with the cognitive and procedural skills required to make the transition into their roles as future residents capable of providing safe and efficient care on day one of residency. The goal is to be at the level of a functioning intern upon completion of rotation.

Course Objectives:

Knowledge for Practice:

- Be able to present patient progress on morning rounds, attending rounds, and evening sign out. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
- Be able to discuss the basics of the operative interventions that have been participated in:
 - Pathology and physiology leading to the operation. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)
 - Basic steps involved in the operation. (2.3, 1.8)
 - Basics of post-operative care required for that operation. (2.3)
 - Develop an understanding of common post-operative conditions and their management. (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 1.2)
 - Infection.

- Thromboembolic complications.
- Electrolyte imbalance/fluid loss and replacement.
- Post-operative anatomical and physiological changes.
- Be able to discuss and present in formal didactics (using general knowledge, research of the disease process, and literature review) an interesting case experienced during this sub-internship. This should be a case that the Sub-I student has participated in. (2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6)

Patient Care :

- Demonstrate proficient history taking and physical examination skills. (1.1)
- Develop and discuss appropriate patient care plans with attending surgeons on actual and simulated cases. (1.3, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 4.2, 4.4)
- Work up and manage common postoperative complications (such as postoperative shortness of breath, hypotension, chest pain, fever, wound complications, low urine output and acute mental status changes) during patient care duties. (1.3, 1.2, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4)
- Develop appropriate management plans for patient complaints and typical clinical challenges faced by first year surgery residents. (1.2, 1.4, 1.5)
- Demonstrate ability to properly counsel patients and obtain proper surgical consent under the supervision of a chief resident or attending surgeon. (1.6, 5.2, 2.5)
- Perform appropriate wound care for patients as judged by the attending or the senior resident on the service. (1.8)
- Demonstrate mastery level performance of the following skills: (PCMC 4) (1.8)
 - Knot tying: surgeon's knot, single handed knot and two handed knot.
 - Suturing skills for subcuticular and vertical mattress sutures.
- Observe and gain an understanding of: (1.8)
 - Bedside procedures as deemed appropriate based on your selected field of rotation

Interpersonal communication skills

- Competently present and discuss with the senior surgical staff, and attending involved, a clinical case scenario reflective of adaptive thinking. (4.2)
- Demonstrate professional communication skills. (4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
- Demonstrate skills in appropriately handing off care of patients during patient care duties. (4.2)
- Demonstrate effective case presentation skills in morning report, attending rounds, and a formal case presentation. (4.2, 4.3)

- Collaborating in the timely and comprehensive maintenance of medical records in the creation of their student notes and presentation of their patients care plan to the involved residents and attending faculty.

Professionalism

- Demonstrates appropriate attendance.(5.3, 5.7)
- Maintains appropriate attire (5.7)
- Demonstrates appropriate communication.(5.1,5.6)

Practice Based learning and improvement

- Participate in morbidity and mortality conferences; 1 trauma and 1 general surgery.(3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
- Perform one formal case presentation
 - With background research, literature review (3.4)
 - Learn to access surgical morbidity and mortality data. (3.5)

System Based Practice

- Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (6.1, 6.4)
- Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients' radiological evaluations. (6.4)
- Demonstrate ability to review and organize in regards to OR scheduling. (6.3, 6.4)
- Participate in multidisciplinary care. (6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2))

Inter-professional collaboration

- Behave with honesty, integrity, respect and compassion towards all patients, families, allied health professionals and colleagues. (5.1, 7.3)
- Ask for and give appropriate and timely feedback to team members in a non-confrontational or non-defensive manner. And demonstrate ability to create a well-articulated plan for improvement (7.3, 7.4)

Personal and Professional Development

- Demonstrate appropriate stress management techniques (8.2, 8.3)
- Demonstrate appropriate time management.(8.2, 8.3)
- Demonstrate appropriate knowledge of ones' own limitations. (8.1)

Course Format:

The rotation block is to be scheduled from Monday of the first day through Friday of the last day and limited to 80 hours per week. Daily schedule to be designed by the course faculty or senior resident on the surgery service to which you are assigned.

The Sub-I will be expected to follow in-house patients during the course of this rotation and be able to present them at morning report and attending rounds. The Sub-I will choose one interesting case to be presented as a formal case presentation during Thursday didactics. The Sub-I will be expected to complete and turn in at least one history and physical exam with admission orders pertaining to a patient whose care they participated in.

Operative cases will be assigned by the faculty or senior resident on service. The Clerkship Director will assign cases based on needed operative procedures if an agreement cannot be reached in regards to case assignments. Students are expected to review OR cases and the indications for the procedure in which they are participating as well as the basic steps involved prior to entering the OR. It is the student's responsibility to get the patient information from the resident the day prior to each procedure so that they may look the patient up ahead of time.

The Sub -I will need to be in constant communication with the senior surgical resident on staff to see if other duties can or need to be met. The Sub-I will be required to write one progress note and one post-op note to be copied and signed off on by the Clerkship director. The Sub-I will be responsible for checking in with the senior surgical resident prior to completing the day's work. The Sub-I is expected to participate in sign out and be able to provide sign out information on the patients they operated on. One day a week of night call coverage and two weekend day calls will be expected during the rotation and will be assigned by the course director in coordination with the 3rd year clerkship director.

Didactics are scheduled to take place during this rotation on Thursday mornings 7:00 AM -12:00 PM, - Attendance is mandatory for didactic sessions and also for general surgery morbidity and mortality conference and for the trauma service. Exceptions to this policy can be given for circumstances related to clinical duties or work hour restrictions and must be approved by the clerkship director.

Course Schedule/Calendar:

To be determined after discussion with the faculty and/or senior surgery resident of the service to which the student is assigned. OR schedule to be determined as described above.

Course Logistics:**Clinical Rounds**

As a member of the Surgical team, the student is expected to be able to report overnight events, report daily patient progress, recap patient presentation, and changes in clinical status.

Goals/Objectives:

Competently present and discuss with the senior surgical staff, and attending involved, a clinical case scenario reflective of adaptive thinking. (1.1-1.8) (2.1-2.6)

Demonstrate professional communication skills. (5.1-5.6)

Demonstrate skills in appropriately handing off care of patients during patient care duties. (4.1-4.4)

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (3.4,3.5, 6.1,6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients' radiological evaluations. (3.4,3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize in regards to OR scheduling in conjunction with the delegating and taking responsibility for remaining clinical duties. (8.1, 3.1)

Participate in multidisciplinary care. (7.1-7.4)

Weekly Schedule

The student will meet with an assigned surgery faculty and participate in the assigned faculty's schedule for the week Monday – Friday (i.e. clinics, operative cases, consults). This experience is intended to provide the student with a focused experience of preoperative and postoperative care, as well as provide continuity of care.

The student should choose 2 patients to follow on the assigned surgery faculty's service. The student should be prepared to present the patients' presentation, disease process, interventions, and clinical progress. Students are encouraged to ask questions that stimulate discussion of differential diagnosis and discuss latest treatment recommendations.

Goals/Objectives:

Competently present and discuss with the senior surgical staff, and attending involved, a clinical case scenario reflective of adaptive thinking. (1.1-1.8) (2.1-2.6)

Demonstrate professional communication skills. (5.1-5.6)

Demonstrate skills in appropriately handing off care of patients during patient care duties. (4.1-4.4)

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (3.4,3.5, 6.1,6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients' radiological evaluations. (3.4,3.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize in regards to OR scheduling in conjunction with the delegating and taking responsibility for remaining clinical duties. (8.1, 3.1)

Participate in multidisciplinary care. (7.1-7.4)

Formal Case Presentation

In depth discussion of disease process, clinical presentation, and treatment options. (3.1)

Goals/Objectives:

Demonstrate EMR proficiency in the ability to access records and review patient information. (6.1-6.3)

Demonstrate ability to access radiology and be able to review patients' radiological evaluations. (6.1-6.3)

Demonstrate ability to review and organize a formal presentation. (2.1-2.6)

Demonstrate the ability to perform research and synthesize data collected as it pertains to patient care. (3.1-3.5)

Course Textbooks and Supplies:

Access Surgery website via TTUHSC library as a required review and study of the pathology, surgical interventions, and patient care topics relevant to the patients that the Sub-I is following. Each pertinent subject can be searched using this resource.

<http://www.elpaso.ttuhscl.edu/libraries/>

Op Log Requirements:

The student should document participation in a minimum of 20 cases during the month long selective. These should be documented under the level of assist or manage.

Additional assignments:

The student should turn in one (1) of the following note types for patients seen while on service.

- Daily progress note
- Post-Op Note
- History & Physical with admission orders

Learning Assessments:

- Daily progress note (SOAP note) (graded HP, P, F).
- Post-op note (graded HP, P, F).
- Completed case log (graded HP, P, F).
- At least one H&P with admission orders (graded HP, P, F)

- Evaluation cards- **at least 10** to include, but not limited to:
 - 2 Faculty evaluations
 - One evaluation pertaining to the skills described above.
 - 2 evaluations pertaining to transition of care.
- Case Presentation (to be graded HP, P, F by the Clerkship Director or other appointed faculty member).
- Midterm Evaluation with Clerkship Faculty during second week of rotation, to be scheduled on first date of rotation.
 - The Sub-I should provide all evaluations, case log, and notes written to date
- End of Rotation Evaluation with Clerkship Director at completion of rotation, to be scheduled at Midterm Evaluation.
 - The Sub-I should provide all evaluations, case log, and all required notes.
 - Any missed assignments should be discussed with the Clerkship Director so that a make-up assignment can be provided prior to End of Rotation Evaluation.
 - **Failure to provide the required learning assessment tools may result in an incomplete in this rotation.**

Grading Scale:

- **Honors:** Exceeds expectations in the presentation, understanding, knowledge, and level of thought expressed by the student.
- **Pass:** Meets expectations in the presentation, understanding, knowledge, and level of thought expressed by the student.
- **Needs Improvement:** Fails to meet expectations in the presentation, understanding, knowledge, and/or level of thought expressed by the student.

Student Roles and Responsibilities:

Please refer to the “Common Clerkship Requirements Document” in regards to the following:

- Professionalism
- Honor Code
- Absence policy

In the event of an unplanned abscess, the student is expected to notify the senior surgical resident to which team you are assigned, the clerkship director, and the clerkship coordinator soon as possible. Any absences greater than 3 consecutive days, or total absences resulting in less than 21 days on the rotation must be discussed and cleared by the clerkship director.

Fourth Year Sub-Internship Helpful Guidelines:

Prior to the start of the rotation, the student is expected to:

- Undergo a brief orientation with the clerkship faculty.
- Contact the senior resident/chief of the service that is assigned in order to determine where the student should be on the first day.

During the rotation the student is expected to:

- Follow a maximum of 4 assigned patients for the course of the rotation. (**students will accumulate patients based on scrubbed cases and/or consults seen with the team**)
- Follow the patients whose cases they have scrubbed. Should this exceed the maximum number of 4, it can be left to the discretion of the senior resident/chief to determine which patient is of more educational benefit to the student. Any discrepancies can be taken to the clerkship director for clarification if needed.

For each patient, the student is expected to:

- Know the assigned patients.
- Review vitals, labs, imaging, cultures, in's/out's, medications and active orders for the past 24 hours.
- Review the admission history and physical, previous progress notes, consultant notes, social workers notes, recent therapy notes,
- See and examine the patient (**if performing a breast, vaginal, or rectal examination, the student must have a nurse at bedside)
- Write a daily progress note for patients and have it reviewed by the senior/chief resident of the service.
- Round with the team and present to the senior resident/chief prior to entering the room during AM rounds.
- Ask questions when appropriate.
- Be an active participant in the team to which you are assigned which includes: assisting in floor work along side any of the residents, following up on imaging, laboratory values,

procedures to be completed, consultations requested, and whatever “To-do” list that has been laid out for the day.

Rounding Etiquette:

- Make sure to notify the resident of which patients you have seen prior to starting rounds, so that you do not miss the opportunity to present during fast-paced rounding.
- Be respectful while the resident and patient are talking and do not talk or distract the group.
- You are expected to enter each patient room, even if the patient is on contact precautions. Foam in/out. Wash hands for C. diff., etc.

Rounds should be complete by 06:15.

-At 0615, meet with your team at your designated location

-Listen attentively for the plans for each patient as the list is run (write down the plans! -These will be the things you can check on during the day in between surgeries!).

0630

-Go down to the board to check for changes and go see your patient. (Introduce yourself, examine the patient as appropriate (no rectal or breast exams), read chart, H&P, procedure, consent forms, labs, biopsy/pathology results in CERNER, imaging studies in PACS, etc.).

-Groups of medical students should NOT need to congregate near the board all at once, since the case assignments should have generally been decided beforehand

-Stay with the patient and follow them to the OR and introduce yourself to the circulating nurse and other members of the OR team.

PM Check Out:

-At the end of the day: go to PM sign-out at a time to be determined by senior resident on team in the ICU conference room.

-When going over your patient, be prepared to talk about the details of what happened during the day.

-Give updates on their status.

-Ask questions, voice concerns.

-When your team is done checking out, you may leave.

However, if OR cases are still going on, students are still expected to cover them.

-If cases are starting right before PM sign-out, it is okay to miss sign out to scrub the case; just let another student know so they can inform residents if asked during sign-out.

-If a case from the day will start at 1800 or later, the night trauma medical student can scrub instead.

-Ask about the next day's surgeries to prepare. Discuss case assignments with your respective senior to better prepare.

-If residents are unavailable to give you schedule: look at the OR schedule in the teletracking monitor.[Ask the senior residents specifically where this is on the first days of the rotation.]

-Read about the case prior to surgery so you have an idea of what is going on, relevant anatomy, etc.

-Discuss who will scrub which cases with the other students.

Operating Room Etiquette:

Introduce yourself to scrub tech. Inform them if you are scrubbing in, and give them your gown/gloves if needed.

Help circulating nurse move patient.

Ask to place Foley catheter if applicable.

Scrub into the case before the resident/attending.

You cannot scrub into robotic cases except at the very end of the case when the robot is undocked, to help close skin.

Ask where to stand and how best to help during the operative case.

Be prepared to answer any questions relevant to the surgery.

Assist with closure/dressings/moving patient.

As is proper etiquette, wait until patient is extubated and help move the patient to the bed/gurney.

Accompany the patient to the recovery unit or ask to go with the resident to talk with the family.

Check the OR board for next case.

Notify the next student that you are done, or meet the next patient in holding (repeat above).

Go eat if it is lunch time or go call/text the intern on the floor to assist with floor work.

Pull drains, do tertiaries, check orders, talk with social worker, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, consultant notes, new imaging.

Check your patients for any changes.

Generally there is 30-45 minutes from patient leaving OR to the new patient entering the OR/being intubated.

Pay attention to TSA's (Time/Space Available cards) which can change throughout the day (do not pay attention to start times). Cases may be added on during the day. Make sure they are covered.

Make sure all cases are covered. For example, if scheduled for 0800 with one attending, do not schedule yourself for a case with a second attending that is "scheduled" to start at 1100 because it may actually start earlier at 1000, and you may not be out of the first surgery.

Example Rotation Calendar:

St	M	T	W	Tr	F	Sn
				1	2	3
4	5 Day 1 of Rotation	6 Begin following 2-3 in- house patients	7	8 0700 Trauma M&M	9 Completed SOAP note by this Date	10

	Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	1200 Didactics Complete Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	Rounds@0600 S/O 1700 24hour duty	
11	12 Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	13 Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	14 Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	15 0700 General M&M Mid Clerkship EvalRound s@0600 S/O 1700	16 Completed Post-Op note by this date Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	17
18	19 Choose patient for case presentatio n by this date Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	20 Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	21 Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	22 0700-1200 Didactics My Case presentatio n @0800 Rounds@0600 S/O 1700	23 Must have skills eval and eval from Attending Rounds by this date. Rounds@0600 S/O 1700 24hour duty	24
25	26 Complete Tertiary Survey	27	28	29 0700-1200 Didactics	30 Final Day of Rotation Director	31

	form by this date	Rounds@0 600	Rounds@0 600	Finalize Case Log	Rounds@0 600	
	Rounds@0 600	S/O 1700	S/O 1700	Rounds@0 600	S/O 1700	
	S/O 1700			S/O 1700		

Evaluation Cards used during the course of this rotation:

Clinical Encounter Document Student: _____

Date: _____

Location: ICU Ward OR ED Clinic Other

Observed: Procedure H/P Daily Rounds Consult Clinic Visit Other

Evaluation Scale Rating: 1 – Below M4 2 – Average M4 3 – Above M4

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Knowledge: | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. Technical Skills: | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3. Written communication: | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4. Verbal Communication: | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5. Team Work: | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. Other: _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7. Professionalism: | Serious Concern | | Slight Concern No Concern |

Comments (Mandatory):

Was verbal feedback given to student? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Evaluator Name

Print: _____

Sign: _____

Mid-Clerkship Evaluation Form:

Example of Final Clerkship Evaluation:



Student: Student Name

Assessment: Final Clerkship Assessment

Rotation: Scheduler 15 Rotation Name

Event: Scheduler 15 Event Name

Knowledge for Practice

Grade		
Needs Improvement	Pass	Honors
Please Justify the grade in this competency		

Patient Care and Procedural Skills

Grade		
Needs Improvement	Pass	Honors
Please Justify the grade in this competency		

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Grade		
Needs Improvement	Pass	Honors

Please Justify the grade in this competency

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Grade

Needs Improvement

Pass

Honors

Please Justify the grade in this competency

Systems-Based Practice

Grade

Needs Improvement

Pass

Honors

Please Justify the grade in this competency

Professionalism

Grade

Needs Improvement

Pass

Honors

Please Justify the grade in this competency

Interprofessional Collaboration

Grade
Needs Improvement Pass Honors
Please Justify the grade in this competency

Personal and Professional Development

Grade
Needs Improvement Pass Honors
Please Justify the grade in this competency

OSCE
N/A Fail Pass on First Attempt Pass on Second Attempt

NBME Score

NBME Equated Percent Correct
NBME Percentile

Statement for MSPE

This is a narrative that describes the student's strengths during rotation and any persistent weaknesses that the student did not improve after feedback. You must include a narrative on the student's professionalism. Any feedback that you do not want to include in the MSPE should be included below in the "Comments" field. As a reminder, please use complete sentences and check your grammar, etc. as these comments go out to residency directors across the country.			
Comments (Please write about strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement)			
Please select a provisional Overall Grade			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fail	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass	<input type="checkbox"/> Honors	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete

Preparation for Teaching

Attending faculty and residents will be oriented to the experience by the Surgery Sub-Internship Clerkship Director or their designee, and provided copies of the syllabus and forms that they will use to assess student performance.

Residents will be required, as part of their training and orientation, to function as teachers. All residents are required to participate in a “Residents as Teachers” program that is administered by the Office of Graduate Medical Education. In addition, each resident will be provided copies of the Medical Student syllabus with particular emphasis on goals, objectives, and assessment methods and criteria.