



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
EL PASO

Paul L. Foster School of Medicine

# Syllabus

## Scientific Principles of Medicine (SPM)

PSPM 5021 (SPM I)

PSPM 5012 (SPM II)

Academic Year 2022-2023

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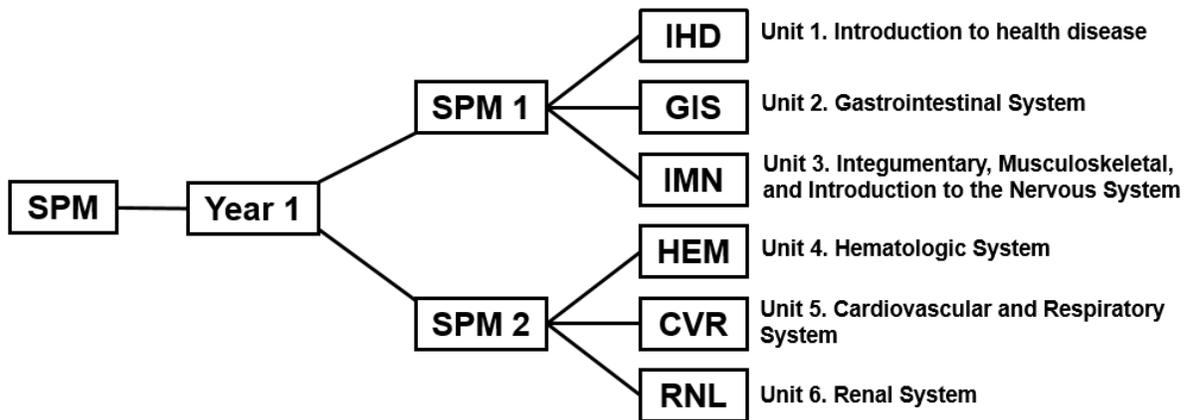
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## **Course Description**

The SPM course is designed to foster the rapid acquisition, integration and application of scientific knowledge fundamental to the practice of medicine. By using diagnostic scheme algorithms as conceptual frameworks for both learning and application, the knowledge structure and diagnostic skills of an experienced clinician will be developed from the very outset of instruction. Students will explore human health and disease within individual organ-system based units that are each organized into a series of 'clinical presentations' (e.g. gait disturbance, movement disorders, headache, seizure and epilepsy) that reflect the major ways in which a person would present to a physician. By learning the basic and clinical sciences synchronously and within the context of clinical presentations, a high level of integration and clinical relevance is achieved. The use of diagnostic scheme algorithms as conceptual frameworks for structuring and applying scientific knowledge is aimed at equipping students with the skills to make highly effective evidence-based diagnoses using scheme-inductive reasoning. This pedagogical approach, as implemented in SPM, has been shown to help mitigate the temporal loss of basic science knowledge, to help students think like experts when solving clinical problems, and to dramatically improve students' diagnostic success rates. In activities such as the Worked Case Example (WCE) and Tankside Grand Rounds sessions, students will learn to communicate effectively and function effectively in teams.

By its nature the clinical presentation-based curriculum will make students aware of the larger context and system of healthcare as many of the case based discussions incorporate consideration of risks and cost. Also, the SPM course incorporates experiences and activities, such as the Student Self-Assessment component (formative exams), that give students opportunities to assess their knowledge and identify their own strengths and deficiencies and then engage in self-directed learning to address knowledge gaps. A general overview of the organization of clinical presentation-based units in SPM is provided in the following schematic:



**SPM I (PSPM 5021):**

This first semester course of Year 1 consists of three integrated units: **‘Introduction to Health and Disease’** (IHD), **‘Gastrointestinal System’** (GIS), and **‘Integumentary, Musculoskeletal, and Introduction to the Nervous System’** (IMN). The sequence of clinical presentations within each unit has been structured so that the concepts developed during the study of one topic provide the foundation for subsequent topics. Basic information is provided for each clinical presentation including its clinical significance and a schematic representation of the relationships of the potential causes. These provide the basis for discussion of each of the underlying basic science principles. Each clinical presentation includes a set of basic science learning objectives related to the appropriate scientific concepts of anatomy (gross and neuroanatomy, including medical imaging), behavioral science, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, embryology, genetics, histology, immunology, microbiology, nutrition, pathology, pharmacology and physiology. Each clinician who presents a clinical presentation also prepares a process work sheet that details how an experienced clinician would think about the problem and how they would manage the differential diagnostic possibilities. These process worksheets also detail appropriate therapy for the different diagnostic possibilities. Discipline experts provide instruction using various teaching methods including lectures, laboratories, team-based learning (TBL), online learning modules and small group discussions. Both basic science and clinical faculty participate in this component of the instructional process.

**Unit 1: Introduction to Health and Disease (IHD)**

This 5-week unit is comprised of the following clinical presentations that introduce students to the basic foundations of health and disease:

Week	CP	Title

1	1	Periodic Health Exam and Preventative Healthcare
2	2	Well child exam/ The Child with Poor Growth
3	3	Sore Throat
4	4	Fever
5	5	Wound
Exam Week		

The molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying homeostasis, cell growth and division, quiescence, senescence and apoptosis will be introduced to provide a foundation for understanding the processes of health and disease. Biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology and pathology are featured prominently in this unit. Highlights include the student's experiences in the anatomy and microbiology laboratories.

#### Unit 2: Gastrointestinal System (GIS)

This 5-week unit investigates the gastrointestinal system within the context of the following clinical presentations:

Week	CP	Title
1	1	Dysphagia
2	2	Nausea and Vomiting
3	3	Abnormal Liver Function Tests and Jaundice
	4	Abdominal Distension
4	5	Diarrhea
	6	Constipation
5	7	Abdominal Pain
	8	Blood from Gastrointestinal Tract

## Exam Week

In this unit students will be introduced to the processes of motility, secretion, digestion and absorption, which form the functional basis of the gastrointestinal system. The numerous functions of the liver will be presented including those that relate to intermediary metabolism, blood detoxification, plasma protein synthesis and bile production, forming a foundation for recognizing, understanding and treating various diseases of the liver and hepato-biliary system. Within each of the clinical presentations the pathology and etiologies of region specific diseases are explained as they relate to the underlying basic science. There are anatomy sessions that highlight the anatomical basis for each of the clinical scheme presentations.

### Unit 3: Integumentary, Musculoskeletal and Introduction to the Nervous Systems (IMN)

This 7-week unit is an integrated presentation of the major basic science concepts related to the integumentary (skin, hair & nails), musculoskeletal, and nervous systems (with a deliberate focus on the peripheral nervous system). The course content is organized and explored in the context provided by a sequence of common and broadly applicable clinical presentations that include orthopedic, rheumatologic, neurologic and dermatologic issues:

Week	CP	Title
1	1	Skin Lesions: Rash-Non-Blistering
	2	Skin lesions: Rash with Blisters; Hair, Nails, and Ichthyosis
2	3	Skin Lesions: Tumors
3	4	Bone Fractures
4	5	Joint Pain
5	6	Musculoskeletal Lumps and Masses
	7	Deformity and Limp
Thanksgiving Week		
6	8	Pain
	9	Numbness and Tingling
7	10	Weakness and Loss of Motion

## Exam Week

Gross anatomy is featured during this unit by way of prosections, three-dimensional models, radiographs, computer assisted tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, angiograms, ultrasound images, and histological images. The neuroscience of movement and pain, the regulation of skeletal muscle contraction at the cellular and molecular levels, and the scientific principles of peripheral nervous system diseases are some of the themes explored in this unit.

### SPM II (PSPM 5012):

This second semester course of Year 1 consists of three units: '**Hematologic System**' (HEM), '**Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems**' (CVR), and '**Renal System**' (RNL).

#### Unit 4: Hematologic System (HEM)

This 4-week unit investigates the functions of the hematologic system within the context of the following clinical presentations:

Week	CP	Title
1	1	Coagulation Abnormalities
2	2	Abnormal Hemoglobin
3	3	Abnormal White Blood Cells
4	4	Lymphadenopathy
Exam Week		

Students will learn about the structure and function of the formed elements of blood as well as the components of blood plasma as they apply to health and hematologic diseases.

#### Unit 5: Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems (CVR)

This 7-week unit explores the normal parameters of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and investigates their dysfunction in the following clinical presentations:

Week	CP	Title
1	1	Abnormal Heart Sounds
	2	Cardiac Murmurs
2	3	Chest Discomfort

3	4	Syncope
	5	Palpitations
4	6	Abnormal Blood Pressure: Hypertension and Shock
5	7	Dyspnea
6	8	Cough and Wheezing
7	9	Cyanosis
	10	Hemoptysis
	11	Mediastinal Mass
Exam Week		

The faculty of the Department of Medical Education work together with cardiologists, pulmonologists, acute care physicians and other practicing specialists to present the topics using a variety of educational approaches. Several laboratory experiences are included to emphasize critical physiological concepts underlying the function of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.

#### Unit 6: Renal System (RNL)

This 4-week unit focuses on fluids, electrolytes, homeostatic mechanisms and the structure and function of the kidney. The following clinical presentations are covered in this unit:

Week	CP	Title
1	1	Abnormalities of Renal Function
2	2	Disorders of Serum Sodium
3	3	Intrinsic Renal Disease
4	4	Abnormalities of Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Exam Week		

## Educational Methods and Learning Experiences

SPM offers a robust learning experience by employing a variety of educational methods which are presented on site or virtually, depending on the current situation, including:

- Lectures (e.g. clinical scheme presentations)
- Large group interactive discussions
- Small group interactive discussions (Faculty Assisted Student Tutoring – FAST)
- Integrative team-based learning (TBL) experiences
- Laboratory exercises (e.g. Anatomy & Microbiology)
- Exposure to interprofessional education (Worked Case Example sessions and through instructions from a wide variety of professionals)
- The Student Self-Assessment (SSA) component (e.g. session-level quizzes, weekly formative exams)

Learning experiences are framed around each clinical presentation and consist of three main components: (1) Introduction & Diagnostic Scheme Overview, (2) Basic Science, (3) Synthesis, Integration and Worked Case Example sessions. The Introduction session is a clinician-guided overview of the clinical presentation and the underlying conceptual framework (diagnostic scheme) of scientific concepts utilized by expert clinicians to make effective diagnoses. The Basic Science sessions are designed to help students build an integrated foundation of clinically relevant scientific knowledge within the context of clinical presentations and their respective diagnostic schemes. The Worked Case Example segment emphasizes the deliberate practice of making evidence-based clinical diagnoses using basic science knowledge and scheme-inductive diagnostic reasoning; here, a high level of student engagement is promoted in a clinician-tutored small group or team-based learning formats.

### Tankside Grand Rounds (TSGR)

TSGR is designed to have students integrate their basic science knowledge in the context of clinical presentation schemes and relevant findings from a donor cadaver. In addition, this element is designed to assess students' ability to employ self-initiated learning strategies, work within a team, and communicate effectively with peers and other health-care professionals. TSGR is a team-based oral presentation activity in which anatomy teams will present an autopsy case that illustrates a clinical scheme, for example an autopsy case of a person who died from lung carcinoma; clinical presentation of hemoptysis.

The anatomy teams will be divided and given a particular organ system in which to identify an autopsy case that illustrates one of the common presentations in that organ system; these cases will be used to identify supporting material useful in the differential diagnosis and students will be expected to apply basic science concepts to the autopsy case they have selected. Faculty will judge the presentations and will evaluate the students' ability to apply the

basic science concepts they have been taught during the preclerkship years. Their presentation will be helpful in developing the ability to do presentations on the wards during their clerkships. The student groups will be expected to utilize the information provided to prepare a clinicopathologic correlation (CPC) which will be presented to an audience of their peers and faculty judges. Students will be supplied a rubric indicating the standards expected for the presentation. The clinical history, autopsy findings, and microscope slides will be provided in December of the second year of medical school and the presentation is expected to occur in April or May of their second year. If a student has an excused absence during the TSGR presentations at the end of the second year, they will be required to individually give the entire presentation to a faculty panel. As part of the presentation, the student should be prepared to discuss his/her contributions to the presentation and answer questions on all aspects of the case.

If a group or individual receives a grade of ‘remediation required’ for the TSGR component, the faculty will create a remediation plan specific to the weaknesses observed. This may include presentation of another case or preparation of other elements for presentation.

## Competencies, Program Goals and Objectives, and Outcome Measures

The Paul L. Foster School of Medicine education program goals and objectives are outcome-based statements that guide instruction and assessment as you develop the knowledge and abilities expected of a physician. All elements of the PLFSOM curriculum are derived from and contribute to the fulfillment of one or more of the medical education program’s goals and objectives, which can be found at [PLFSOM PGOs](#). SPM is designed to meet the following PLFSOM Medical Education Program Goals and Objectives:

Patient Care		
Educational Program Objectives		Outcome Measures
PC-1.1	Gather essential information about patients and their conditions through history taking, physical examination, and the use of laboratory data, imaging studies, and other tests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exam – Institutionally Developed, Written/Computer-based (Weekly SPM formative exams; End-of-unit SPM summative exams; Session-level summative quizzes)</li> </ul>
PC-1.2	Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exam – Institutionally Developed, Written/Computer-based (Weekly SPM formative exams; End-of-unit SPM summative exams; Session-level summative quizzes)</li> </ul>
PC-1.3	For a given clinical presentation, use data derived from the history, physical examination, imaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exam – Institutionally Developed, Written/Computer-based (Weekly</li> </ul>

	and/or laboratory investigation to categorize the disease process and generate and prioritize a focused list of diagnostic considerations.	SPM formative exams; End-of-unit SPM summative exams; Session-level summative quizzes)
<b>Knowledge for Practice</b>		
<b>Educational Program Objectives</b>		<b>Outcome Measures</b>
KP-2.1	Compare and contrast normal variation and pathological states in the structure and function of the human body across the life span.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam – Institutionally Developed, Written/Computer-based (Weekly SPM formative exams; End-of-unit SPM summative exams)</li> <li>• Exam – Nationally Normed/Standardized, Subject (NBME CBSE)</li> <li>• Session-level summative quizzes</li> <li>• Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
KP-2.2	Apply established and emerging foundational/basic science principles to health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam – Institutionally Developed, Written/Computer-based (Weekly SPM formative exams; End-of-unit SPM summative exams)</li> <li>• Exam – Nationally Normed/Standardized, Subject (NBME CBSE)</li> <li>• Session-level summative quizzes</li> <li>• Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
KP-2.3	Apply evidence-based principles of clinical sciences to diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making and clinical problem solving.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam – Institutionally Developed, Written/Computer-based (Weekly SPM formative exams; End-of-unit SPM summative exams)</li> <li>• Exam – Nationally Normed/Standardized, Subject (NBME CBSE)</li> <li>• Session-level summative quizzes</li> <li>• Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
KP-2.4	Apply principles of epidemiological sciences to the identification of health problems, risk factors, treatment strategies, resources, and disease prevention/health promotion efforts for patients and populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam – Nationally Normed/Standardized, Subject (NBME CBSE)</li> </ul>
KP-2.5	Apply principles of social-behavioral sciences to patient care including assessment of the impact of psychosocial, cultural, and societal influences on health, disease, care seeking, adherence and barriers to care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam – Nationally Normed/Standardized, Subject (NBME CBSE)</li> </ul>

<b>Practice-Based Learning &amp; Improvement</b>		
<b>Educational Program Objectives</b>		<b>Outcome Measures</b>
PBL-3.1	Identify gaps in one's knowledge, skills, and/or attitudes, and perform learning activities to address them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
<b>Interpersonal and Communication Skills</b>		
<b>Educational Program Objectives</b>		<b>Outcome Measures</b>
ICS-4.2	Communicate effectively with colleagues and other health care professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Small-group assessment rubric)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
ICS-4.3	Communicate with sensitivity, honesty, compassion and empathy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
ICS-4.4	Maintain accurate, comprehensive and timely medical records.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
<b>Professionalism</b>		
<b>Educational Program Objectives</b>		<b>Outcome Measures</b>
PRO-5.1	Demonstrate sensitivity, compassion and respect for all people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Small-group assessment rubric)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Professionalism Event Card)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
PRO-5.3	Demonstrate accountability to patients and fellow members of the health care team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Small-group assessment rubric)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Professionalism Event Card)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
PRO-5.6	Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all professional and academic interactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Small-group assessment rubric)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Professionalism Event Card)</li> </ul>
PRO-5.7	Meet professional and academic commitments and obligations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Professionalism Event Card)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>
<b>Interprofessional Collaboration</b>		
<b>Educational Program Objectives</b>		<b>Outcome Measures</b>
IPC-7.3	Participate in different team roles to establish, develop, and continuously enhance interprofessional teams to provide patient- and population-centered care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative Assessment (Small-group assessment rubric)</li> <li>Narrative Assessment (Tankside Grand Rounds Rubric)</li> </ul>

## Grading System

SPM is a pass/fail course. Successful passage requires that the student has not only achieved a level of competency as measured by performance on summative assessments, but has also demonstrated a commitment to professional responsibility by being an active participant in the educational experience that is defined by the curriculum.

### Formative and Summative Assessments

Regular formative student assessment and feedback are an important part of the educational experience. USMLE-style formative assessments (in-house exams and Firecracker quizzes) will be provided each week to allow students to monitor progress and to identify potential deficiencies that warrant early remediation through self-study. Grades on formative assessments are for diagnostic purposes only and do not count towards the student's final grade. Weekly formative assessments are listed on the Elentra calendar view under 'asynchronous learning' and will be made available during the weekly formative testing window. Once each formative assessment is completed, students will have the opportunity to review their score along with the answers and explanations for each question. For the in house formative exams, each student will also receive an individual e-mail listing the learning objectives that are linked to questions they missed. Note that formative assessment performance reports will be automatically generated at 12 AM on Mondays unless indicated otherwise on the Elentra calendar. These reports will be used to calculate class statistics, to send out individualized lists of missed learning objectives, and to populate the formative score tables on each student's e-portfolio. Consequently, students who don't complete a formative assessment prior to the automatic reporting deadline will not receive an e-mail containing missed learning objectives and will see a score of '0' on their e-portfolio entry for that formative. Each formative assessment will be subsequently available for students to re-take and review for the duration of the first year of the pre-clerkship curriculum.

End-of-unit summative (formal) exams will be given at the end of SPM Units 1-6. These exams will be customized and will consist of 2 components: 1) Exam comprised of questions from NBME test bank and 2) Institutionally developed exam composed of questions written by faculty. Exams will be delivered in-house and proctored on campus. Students must pass both parts of the exam with a minimum score of 65%. In accordance with institutional policy, students are required to use their own laptops for all computer based assessments including end-of-unit summative exams. For more information regarding this requirement, refer to the "Bring Your Own Device" policy in the [PLFSOM Student Handbook](#).

Tardiness for a summative assessment is disruptive, unprofessional, discourteous, and strongly discouraged. Students who arrive up to 10 minutes late for an assessment will be permitted

entry to the assessment area entirely at the discretion of the chief proctor and with regard to the effect that such entry may have on the students already present in the assessment environment. Students who are permitted late entry to the assessment will receive a professionalism event card and must finish at the scheduled end time. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late for an assessment will be denied entry and recorded as absent. An unexcused absence from a summative assessment will result in an initial grade of 'Fail' for the unit and an associated grade of 'DE' (Deferred) for the SPM semester course. Excused absences are granted through the PLFSOM absence link

<https://redcap.elpaso.ttuhschool.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=HRTM3YNEA8>

Students must follow the directions of the proctoring staff. Failure to comply with proctor instructions, will result in an event card for each infraction, and if severe enough, students can face expulsion from the exam. Failure to comply with all the guidelines and instructions set forth for summative assessments may result in a failing grade for the SPM unit at the discretion of the course directors. The student can be referred to the Grading and Promotions Committee (GPC) for review of the proctoring report, course directors' recommendation and for further action as they deem advisable.

### SPM Unit and Semester Grade Determinations

The semester courses SPM I and II, in addition to the CEYE, must be passed in order to progress to the second year. The SPM grading and promotion policy is designed to provide students with ample opportunity to demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skills.

Detailed information regarding institutional and school-level grading procedures and transcript notations can be found in the TTUHSC-EP '[Grading Procedures and Academic Regulations' \(HSCEP OP 59.05\) policy](#) and PLFSOM '[Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing \(GPAS\) Policy](#)'. SPM assessment and grading guidelines are summarized as follows:

1. **SPM Unit Grade (within a semester course)**

Unit and Course Directors are responsible for determining student progress. To receive a grade of pass (PA) for each SPM unit, a student must achieve a minimum score of 65% on each part of the summative exam.

One component of TBL is active participation by everyone. There will be active peer review of each group member by each member of the group. Less active members will likely receive unfavorable feedback and be encouraged to improve their preparation for the exercise.

## 2. SPM Semester Course Grade

Progress within the course will be determined by the Course Directors based on the student's performance in the Units of the course.

### 1) *Grading*

A. **Pass (PA):** All Units must be passed.

B. **Deferred (DE):**

- a) *If one or two SPM units are failed in the first semester, the first semester course grade initially will be recorded as 'Deferred' (DE) and will be revised to 'Pass' (PA) or 'Fail' (FA) pending the outcome of unit remediation during the optional January remediation date and/or at the end of the academic year.*
- b) *If one or two units are failed in the second semester, the second semester course grade initially will be recorded as 'DE' and will be revised to 'PA' or 'FA' pending the outcome of unit remediation at the end of the academic year.*
- c) In accordance with the PLFSOM ['Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing \(GPAS\)' policy](#), a student with 'DE' status may be referred to the GPC if it appears they are at substantial risk for academic failure.

C. **Fail (FA):**

- a) *If three SPM units are failed in the first semester, the semester course grade will be recorded as 'FA' and a recommendation will be made to the GPC for repeat of the year if the student is eligible.*
- b) *If two SPM units are failed in the first semester, the semester course grade be listed as 'DE' and the student will be given an opportunity to complete unit remediation during the optional January remediation date and/or at the end of the academic year. If an additional unit failure occurs in the second semester the student will receive a grade of 'FA' for both semesters and a recommendation will be made to the GPC for repeat of the year if the student is eligible. Similarly, if a student fails one unit in the first semester and goes on to fail two units in the second semester, a grade of 'FA' will be recorded for both semesters and a recommendation will be made to the GPC for repeat of the year if the student is eligible. Note that the above rules apply even if a student remediates a unit failure during the optional January remediation window.*
- c) *If a student fails three SPM units in the second semester they will receive a grade of 'FA' for that semester and a recommendation will be made to the GPC for*

repeat of the year or semester if the student is eligible. The grade for the first semester will remain as 'PA'.

## 2) *Remediation*

If a grade of 'DE' (Deferred) is recorded because one or two SPM units are failed within a semester, students will be required to pass a remediation exam for each failed component of the exam. The minimum passing score for an SPM unit remediation exam is 65%. If the remediation exam(s) for the failed unit(s) is/are passed, the semester course grade(s) will be converted from 'DE' to 'PA' (Pass). If the student fails to successfully remediate a failed unit, the corresponding semester course grade will be converted from 'DE' to 'FA' (Fail), and the student will be referred to the GPC with a recommendation for repeat of the year if eligible. See '[Important Dates](#)' below for a list of remediation exam dates.

Students on probation and repeating a pre-clerkship year will be subject to the following more stringent rules that apply to both fall semester and end-of-year reviews: For details, refer to GPAS policy #10

<https://el Paso.ttuhs c.edu/som/studentaffairs/student-handbook/section-two/GPAS.aspx>

## 3) *Grade Release*

Barring extenuating circumstances, SPM unit grades will be released within 14 calendar days of the summative assessment date. If a student wishes to challenge their unit grade, they must do so by contacting the Course Director within fourteen calendar days of receiving their summative grade.

## 4) *Professionalism*

Be aware that formative and summative assessment items are part of a collective pool of secured assessment items designed to ensure that student proficiency meets the minimum standards necessary for the eventual practice of medicine. As such, the integrity and security of this pool must not be compromised, and students are strictly prohibited from copying, reproducing, transmitting or distributing formative or summative assessment items. Any violation of this honor code, including failure to report a known offence, is a direct violation of the Code of Professional and Academic Conduct as described in the [PLFSOM Student Handbook](#), and could lead to academic warning, probation, or dismissal from PLFSOM.

## Important Dates

### 1. Summative Examinations

IHD Summative:	1 September 2022
GIS Summative:	14 October 2022
IMN Summative:	14 December 2022
HEM Summative:	2 February 2023
CVR Summative:	30 March 2023
RNL Summative:	3 May 2023
CEYE:	18-19 May 2023

### 2. Remediation Exam Dates

Students who are deemed eligible will be permitted to remediate up to two SPM unit exams or two SCI semester grades, or a combination of one SPM unit exam and one SCI semester grade, over the course of the academic year. Students are required to schedule their remediation exams via e-mail with the assessment coordinator ([norma.fuentes@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:norma.fuentes@ttuhsc.edu)). Eligible students may select an SPM/SCI/CEYE remediation schedule that best suits their individual needs. Remediation dates and signup deadlines are specified below\*\*:

Remediation Date	Signup Deadline
4 January 2023	21 December 2022, 12 PM
1 June 2023	26 May 2023, 12 PM
2 June 2023	26 May 2023, 12 PM
8 June 2023	2 June 2023, 12 PM
9 June 2023	2 June 2023, 12 PM
15 June 2023	9 June 2023, 12 PM
16 June 2023	9 June 2023, 12 PM

Note that students needing to remediate the comprehensive end-of-year exam (CEYE) will also need to factor this into the above Spring remediation schedule. CEYE remediation must take place over two consecutive days.

\*\*It is essential that students choose a schedule that allows their individual remediation requirements to be completed by the last available date. Failure to do so will lead to a grade of 'FA' for the associated SPM and/or SCI semesters.

## Course Policies and Procedures

### Attendance/Participation Policies

Students are expected to be present, to be prepared, and to be on time. Unless otherwise specified, lectures, labs and small group activities begin on the hour. The Paul L. Foster School of Medicine curriculum is modeled on the concept of 'learning communities' where each individual offers knowledge, skills and experiences that are unique and beneficial to the community. A number of SPM learning activities will rely on active student participation and teamwork, and therefore student's absence can be detrimental to the educational experience of their peers. As the effective practice of medicine requires physicians to demonstrate punctuality, teamwork, trustworthiness and beneficence, similar behaviors and attitudes will be expected of our students. As outlined in the PLFSOM '[Pre-clerkship phase attendance policy](#)', failure to meet the school's overall expectations for attendance and participation can lead to a number of consequences including failure of a course or referral to the GPC for professionalism concerns. The referral to GPC may lead to dismissal, if determined by the GPC.

### ***Required SPM activities***

Attendance and punctuality will be monitored for a number of required SPM activities including the following:

- Worked Case Example sessions
- Colloquium
- Specified lab-based learning sessions (e.g., Anatomy and Microbiology)
- Specified small-group interactive or team-based learning sessions

Sessions with required attendance or participation will be highlighted by a star on the Elentra calendar view at the beginning of each unit. Accountability and responsibility are important tenets of professionalism which pertain to medical professionals at all stages of education, training and practice. In this regard, medical students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and reliability for required educational activities in the SPM course including the weekly Worked Case Example sessions.

- Students will be counted as absent from a required SPM event (such as Worked Case Example sessions) if they have not signed in by 10 minutes after the scheduled start time.

- Students who sign in within 10 minutes after the scheduled start time will be marked as tardy.
- Sessions where attendance is required will be tracked using a Swipe-Card System or, when virtual sessions occur attendance will be taken by the coordinators using the virtual platform. A student who was recorded as tardy or absent will receive an automatically-generated notification email. The attendance record will become permanent **10** calendar days following the date of the notification email. In the virtual setting, the coordinators will send the student an email indicating that they are either tardy or absent; PLFSOM absence (Office of Student Affairs) will also be notified.

### ***Consequences***

Non-compliance with the SPM punctuality and attendance/participation policy will have consequences that are reflected in a student's academic record. These consequences may include: a failing grade on the basis of attendance or punctuality; required remediation or repeating of the course; documentation in the student's academic record and e-Portfolio; and reporting to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and the PLFSOM Grading and Promotion Committee. These consequences become important during the third and fourth years when students may be considered for prestigious awards or opportunities; professionalism cards count against the student attaining awards. GPC may recommend dismissal of the student based on lack of professionalism.

### **Professionalism 'Event Card' reporting system**

Four professionalism objectives are addressed in the SPM syllabus from the institutional learning goals and objectives:

- 5.1 Demonstrate sensitivity, compassion, integrity and respect for all people.
- 5.3 Demonstrate accountability to patients and fellow members of the health care team.
- 5.6 Demonstrate honesty in all professional and academic interactions.
- 5.7 Meet professional and academic commitments and obligations.

When a student fails to meet any of the above listed learning goals and objectives within the context of the SPM curriculum, an event card (see [Appendix](#)) will be filled out by the observing faculty or staff member. This card will contain the student's name, the date of the incident, the reporter's name, the associated institutional learning goal(s) and objective(s) related to the incident, and a brief description of the issue (e.g. 'Student had an unexcused absence for today's anatomy session and therefore failed to meet his/her professional and academic commitments and obligations').

There are a number of situations when this may occur:

- 1) Worked Case Example sessions.
  - An unexcused absence or tardy over the course of a unit will trigger the filing of an event card. Subsequent unexcused tardies or absences over the course of the semester will be met with similar incident reporting. Students are expected to meet all requirements for the missed activity.
  - Failure to engage in active participation.
- 2) Summative examinations.
  - Students who are tardy for a summative examination will receive a professionalism event card.
  - Failure to follow proctor instructions
  - Disruptive behavior
  - Dissemination of test items in any form. This includes written and oral.
  - Leaving an exam early (within two hours of exam start) without permission from the test proctors
  - Suspicion of cheating
  - Lack of preparation (forgetting charging cable, laptop, student ID)
- 3) Unspecified SPM sessions: any faculty may submit an event card (good or bad) when a student fails to meet, or excels at, one or more professionalism institutional learning goals and objectives.

The approved process for reporting on professionalism is summarized as follows:

- 1) Faculty or staff submits event cards to the Course Coordinator and College Mentor.
- 2) Course Coordinator collects event cards, creates a list of students who received event cards, and sends the list to the Course Directors, the Unit Associate Director, and College Mentor.
- 3) Information contained in event cards will be entered into Elentra and e-portfolio.
  - Information from the TTAS system will be recorded in each student's e-portfolio. This will allow the generation of an electronic report at the end of the semester which will be sent to the Course Director and College Mentors.

- 4) The following actions will be taken depending on a number of “negative” event cards filed against a student over the course of a semester:
  - a) First occurrence: Course Coordinator sends an email to the student and College Mentor informing that an event card has been filed.
  - b) Second occurrence:
    - Course Coordinator sends an email to the College Mentor requesting to meet with a student who received two or more event cards over the course of a semester.
    - College Mentor meets with the student to discuss professionalism expectations.
  - c) Third occurrence: Department of Medical Education sends student to Associate Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) to discuss.
  - d) Students with 5 or more event cards/absences (excused or unexcused) may be sent to GPC and face dismissal. Depending on the severity of the infraction (Tardiness vs. Cheating on an exam, Falsifying preceptor documentation, severe professionalism lapses, etc.), may be sent to GPC or Student Conduct Board after a single episode.

Documentation:

- 1) At the end of the semester (or earlier when warranted), the College Mentor will review all advisory sessions or professionalism comments and discuss negative trends with the student.
- 2) College Mentors from the students’ college, the ADSA, and the Director of Academic Support will meet to discuss each student’s progress on a monthly basis. This meeting will include reviewing documentation of any advisory meetings between the College Mentors and the student and/or any documentation of exemplary professionalism. At the end of the first year, a formative summary will be generated per student and posted on the student’s e-portfolio with a plan for improvement or acknowledgement of progress, meeting expectations, etc.
- 3) At the end of year two, the same group will meet to review all narratives and the committee authors a paragraph for each student commenting on the student’s professionalism to date. The statement will be forwarded to the student e-portfolio and will be used in its entirety in the pre-clerkship paragraph of the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE).

The student has a right to challenge an event card issuance as stated in the policy on challenging student grades, within 10 days of the infraction (please see Student Affairs Handbook).

## Excused absences

If a student is unable to attend or be punctual for a required session (whether delivered on site or online), he or she may be granted an excused absence through the Office of Student Affairs in accordance with the criteria set forth in the PLFSOM '[Pre-clerkship phase attendance policy](#)'.

Excused absences are granted through the PLFSOM absence link <https://redcap.elpaso.ttuhs.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=HRTM3YNEA8>

No credit will be given for any graded exercise missed without a valid excuse.

## Narrative Evaluations and Feedback

Examples of evaluation rubrics used for Tankside Grand Rounds are provided in the [Appendix](#). In the event that the rubrics undergo modification during the academic year, copies of the revised forms will be provided to students in advance of the associated activity.

## Textbooks

Required and recommended reading assignments are listed on the associated session pages in the Elentra calendar. Unless otherwise noted, textbook reading assignments will be available through the TTUHSC-EP electronic library. A curated list of relevant electronic textbooks is also available through the TTUHSC-EP Library at:

<https://elpaso-ttuhs.libguides.com/PLFSOMtextbooks>

## Professionalism, Plagiarism and Copyright Policies

Professionalism is a core competency in Medicine. In SPM, as with all other courses in the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, we expect students to adhere to the Standards of Professional Conduct and the Medical Student Honor Code as outlined in the PLFSOM Student Handbook and the TTUHSC-EP Institutional Handbook (available on the Office of Student Affairs website under '[PLFSOM Student Handbook](#)'). In particular, students must not copy, recreate, post or share SPM exam questions (formative or summative). Students who have delayed testing or remediation must not discuss the content of SPM exams with their peers prior to testing. Students must not submit false claims of attendance for required SPM sessions or attempt to sign-in for another student. Students must not attempt to obtain an excused absence for a required activity or examination through misrepresentation. Students must adhere to published

policies related to plagiarism and copyright protection. Depending on the nature of the problem and as determined by the course director, failure to act professionally may result in a grade of Fail for SPM regardless of the student's academic performance according to the PLFSOM '[Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing \(GPAS\)](#)' policy. A student who witnesses academic misconduct or other unprofessional behavior is obligated to report that violation or risk facing disciplinary action. Violations of professionalism could result in referral to Grading and Promotions Committee and possible dismissal from PLFSOM.

### Disability Support Services

TTUHSC El Paso is committed to providing equal access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities. To ensure access to this course, and your program, please contact the Academic Success and Accessibility Office (ASAO), 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 the ASAO as soon as possible. Please note: faculty are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from ASOA has been provided to the school and disseminated to the appropriate faculty member(s). For additional information, please visit the ASAO website: <https://el Paso.ttuhs c.edu/student services/office-of-academic-and-disability-support-services/default.aspx>.

# Appendix

## Faculty Roster: SPM Year 1 Unit Directors

### **Unit 1 – Introduction to Health and Disease (IHD):**

Jorge Cervantes, MD, PhD

Namrata Singh, MD

Ellen Dudrey, MD

### **Unit 2 – Gastrointestinal System (GIS):**

Curt Pfarr, PhD

Ricardo Belmares, PhD

Komal Marwaha, MD, PhD

Marc Zuckerman, MD (IM)

### **Unit 3 – Integumentary, Musculoskeletal and Nervous Systems (IMN):**

Ricardo Belmares, PhD

Jessica Chacon, PhD

Rebecca Campos, MD

Zainab Al-Lawati, MD (Surgery)

### **Unit 4 – Hematologic System (HEM):**

Curt Pfarr, PhD

Jessica Chacon, PhD

Javier Corral, MD (IM)

### **Unit 5 – Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems (CVR):**

Ellen Dudrey, MD

Houriya Ayoubieh, MD

Nathan Holland, PhD

Komal Marwaha, MD, PhD

### **Unit 6 – Renal System (RNL):**

Houriya Ayoubieh, MD

Nathan Holland, PhD

Fernanda Payan-Schober, MD (IM)

Event Card

<b>Student Name:</b>
<b>Faculty/Staff/Student Name:</b>
<b>Date:</b>
<b>Course (Circle One):</b> SPM   SCI   Medical Skills   College Colloquium   SARP   Other
<b>Description of Event:</b>
<b>Did this demonstrate exceptional professionalism? (Circle One)</b> Yes   No
<b>Did this demonstrate a lapse in professionalism? (Circle One)</b> Yes   No
<b>Suggestions for improvement?</b>

## Tankside Grand Rounds Grading Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Presentation skills	Professional level presentation	Satisfactory presentation	Adequate presentation, but lacks detail	Poor quality presentation which lacks detail
Picture utilization	Pictures labeled as to site, supportive of findings, with good understanding of their significance	Pictures labeled as to site, supportive of findings, and explanations show some lack of understanding	Pictures labeled as to site, not supportive of findings, and lack of understanding of their significance.	Pictures not labeled as to site, not supportive of findings and no understanding of their significance
Comprehension	Students are able to accurately answer almost all questions about the case	Students are able to accurately answer most questions about the case	Students are able to accurately answer a few questions about the case	Students are unable to accurately answer questions about the case
Preparedness	Students are completely prepared and have obviously rehearsed	Students seem pretty prepared but might have needed a couple more rehearsals	The students are somewhat prepared, but it is clear that rehearsal was lacking	Students don't seem at all prepared to present.
Content	Shows a full understanding of the case	Shows a good understanding of the case	Shows a good understanding of parts of the case	Does not seem to understand the case very well
Basic science content	Able to clearly explain basic science content relevant to their case	Explains some of the basic science content relevant to their case	Not much basic science material is explained, but can answer basic science questions	Not much basic science in presentation and /or can't answer basic science questions correctly
Collaboration with peers	Evidence that the group has worked together to complete the presentation	Group has worked together to prepare the presentation, but only a few can answer questions about the case	A few of the group worked together to prepare and present the case; others did not participate	Group did not work together to prepare or present the case.

Scheme utilization	An appropriate scheme is utilized and incorporated logically into the presentation	An appropriate scheme is utilized and partially incorporated into the presentation	Scheme utilization is limited and incorporation into the presentation is minimal.	No evidence of utilization of a scheme and/or no incorporation into the presentation
Correlation of findings with cause of death	Cause of death is very well correlated with gross and microscopic findings	Some correlation of gross and microscopic findings with cause of death is attempted	Minimal correlation between cause of death and gross and microscopic findings is attempted	No correlation between cause of death and gross and microscopic findings is attempted
Recent reference materials	Major diagnoses are researched and the results are incorporated logically into the presentation	Major diagnoses are researched and somewhat logically incorporated into the presentation	Evidence of active use of research materials is limited and incorporation into the presentation is minimal	No evidence of research into the major diagnoses and/or no incorporation into the presentation
Slides easy to read and follow	Order of presentation is logical and slides are easy to read and not crowded	Order of presentation is logical, but slides are crowded or hard to read	Presentation is hard to follow and/or slides are crowded or hard to read	Presentation does not make sense and/or slides are crowded or hard to read

Notes for faculty (questions to ask – not to share with students)

Comments for the team to receive: