



Bridges Curriculum: Key Policies

Learn the essential information for UCSF School of Medicine Bridges Curriculum Teaching Faculty. Please be familiar with key policies and procedures.

New and Recently Revised Policies

School of Medicine Curriculum Governance recently passed the new Career Launch Attendance Policy, and updated the Clinical Work Hours policy and the Foundations 2 and Career Launch Grading and Assessment Policy. Please familiarize yourself with these policies.

CCEP is the most senior governing body overseeing the School's curriculum and policies.

If you have any concerns or questions about the CCEP policy process, please email bridges@ucsf.edu.

LCME and CCEP Contacts at the School of Medicine

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This Month's Topic: New Evaluation and Grading Procedures in Core Clerkships



In November 2018, based on the feedback of our faculty, students and curriculum governance committees, the Committee on Curriculum and Educational Policy (CCEP) made a policy decision to defer Honors grades until Career Launch. This decision follows our review of evidence about assessment and learning, and careful deliberation of options.

Beginning this month, UCSF core clerkships will be graded as pass/fail.

The reasons for this change are to support students' learning rather than focus on performance and 'looking good', and to promote fairness, equity, and wellbeing early in students' clinical training.

The new approach to assessment will emphasize students' development of essential skills, and students' own accountability for their learning by seeking feedback and setting goals.

Please review the full information below, and thank you for all you do to help our students develop into outstanding UCSF graduates.

How the Change in Grading Impacts Learners, Residents, and Faculty:

STUDENTS will seek feedback using the Bridges Brief Observation Tool. They are responsible for ensuring that a faculty or resident uses this tool to observe their history and physical exam, review their written work and evaluate their presentations. Students are required to collect two weekly in the block clerkships.

[Lindsey Cannon](#), Manager,
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Education

ALL FACULTY AND RESIDENTS should observe a targeted history or selected physical exam; review a writeup or progress note or listen to a presentation, and then use the **Bridges Brief Observation Tool** to provide feedback to the student in person and **document this in MedHub**.

These need not be prolonged encounters—a few minutes of observation and course correction can be incredibly impactful. **MedHub has a mobile app that can facilitate this for you, and you can find instructions here.**

Skills to observe are data gathering through history and physical exam, note writing, and oral presentations. We encourage you do this more than once with the same student to observe, give feedback, and then observe again to identify areas for improvement and suggest additional next steps for learning.

SELECTED FACULTY AND RESIDENTS who have the most contact with students will be asked by the clerkship director to complete the month-end summary evaluation. We have decided to release faculty who've had only sporadic contact with the student from completing the entire form; instead we ask that they commit to conducting and documenting their direct observations as noted above.

INTERNS will concentrate on coaching and helping students prepare for the assessments done by the residents and faculty and will not be asked to complete Bridges Brief Observation Tools or month-end evaluations. We hope that removing this task from your to-do list will be a positive change!

CLERKSHIP DIRECTORS will be responsible for reviewing the students' completed Brief Observation feedback at midpoint and helping the student plan to request additional observations and feedback on areas of relative weakness.

CLERKSHIP GRADING COMMITTEES will ensure that each student completed their Bridges Observations, synthesize their month-end evaluations, construct a narrative assessment that accurately reflects the student's performance, and then assign a pass or fail grade.

Feedback and assessment are most effective when provided by trusted faculty and residents who are committed to helping the student succeed. We know that this is your intent. In addition to committing to the responsibilities outlined above, you can communicate your commitment to student support by:

- Confirming with them your understanding of the reasons core clerkships are pass/fail at UCSF
- Recognizing the skills your students bring to clerkships based on their direct patient care and health systems curriculum in Foundations 1 of the Bridges Curriculum, and;

- Supporting their knowledge growth prior to their clerkship exams and Step 1 exams.

We know that some may have differences of opinion about this policy change and ask that if you do, you contact one of us or your clerkship director to discuss those differences, rather than discussing your concerns with the students.

Additional Resources on This Topic:

The rationale for this policy decision can be found [here](#).

You can also watch a [video](#) describing the change in clerkship grading and the rationale for this change.

If you have any concerns or questions about the change in evaluation and grading procedures in core clerkships, please email bridges@ucsf.edu.

For More Information About the School's Accreditation Process:

Find LCME-related information on the [Medical Education website](#).

Review archives of previous LCME Bulletins, [here](#).

Find answers to [frequently asked questions](#) about LCME.



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