

Surgery

Syllabus - CE 9195

Introduction

This syllabus provides basic information which will aid in planning for and participating in the Core Surgery Clerkship.

This clerkship is conducted under the supervision of the Chairperson of the Department of Surgery and the Associate Dean for Clinical Education. The Chairperson, or his/her designee, will assign the immediate supervisor(s) for each student or group of students. Student activities will be coordinated to combine didactic and practical instruction to optimize educational opportunities.

The goals for this clerkship are to: (1) introduce the osteopathic medical student to the field of surgery, (2) enable the osteopathic medical student to recognize common surgical disease processes and corresponding treatments, (3) incorporate a multidisciplinary approach to caring for a surgical patient, and (4) prepare the osteopathic student for a holistic approach to patient care, regardless of the specialty said student chooses to pursue.

The curriculum will emphasize the work-up, evaluation, and treatment and disposition of surgical patients. Students will obtain this knowledge through the completion of selected readings, online lectures, presentations, and exams. Students will incorporate this knowledge through their experiences in the clinic, hospital and operating room. Should there be questions regarding the conduct, objectives or content of the clerkship, please contact the Surgery Student Coordinator.

Locations

The Core Surgery clerkship is offered at several designated Core hospitals within the OSU-CHS system. Please find the locations and corresponding contact person(s) for each site listed below:

Tulsa:

Nathan Roberts, D.O., FACOS
Surgery Core Course Coordinator
918-747-5322

Kimbra Freeman, LPN CPC
Surgery Student Coordinator
Kimbra.freeman@okstate.edu
918-747-5322

Karen Muse
karen.muse@okstate.edu
918-747-5322

Durant:

Joe Harrison, D.O.
Family Medicine, Core Physician Coordinator
580-924-3400

Lawton:

Elissa Hunter, M.D.
Surgery, Core Physician Coordinator
Contact: Sharon Smith, GME administrator 580-585-5545

Nicole Neilson, M.S., RD/LD
SW Regional Coordinator
918-401-0073

McAlester:

John Martin Hayes, M.D.
Surgery, Core Physician Coordinator

Lori Boyd
SE Regional Coordinator
918-928-6074

Muskogee:

Jay Gregory, M.D.
Surgery, Core Physician Coordinator

Alexandra (Xan) Bryant
NE Regional Coordinator
1-918-401-0074

Oklahoma City:

Loyal Stierlen, D.O.
Core Physician Coordinator
405-644-5269

Nicole Neilson, M.S., RD/LD
SW Regional Coordinator
918-401-0073

Tahlequah:

Douglas Nolan, D.O.
Family Medicine, Core Physician Coordinator
918-458-3314

Alexandra (Xan) Bryant
CRH NE Regional Coordinator
918-401-0074

Department Faculty – Tulsa Campus

Adam Bradley, D.O.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery

Brian Diener, D.O., FACOS

Clinical Professor of Surgery

Douglas C. Foster, D.O., FACOS

Clinical Professor of Surgery

Nathan S. Roberts, D.O., FACOS

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
Surgery Core Course Coordinator

Michael Thomas, M.D., FACS

Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery
Chair, Department of Surgery

Hal Robbins, D.O., FACOS

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
General Surgery Residency Program Director

Learning Resources

1. **Textbooks.** Suggested texts include:

Jarrell, B.E. and R.A. Carabasi III. National Medical Series for Independent Study, Surgery, 5th Edition. Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, 2008.

Lawrence, P.F. Essentials of General Surgery, 5th Edition. Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins. 2013.

Other surgical textbooks that may be of use for this clerkship include Sabiston Textbook of Surgery and Schwartz's Principles of Surgery. Please refer to the NBOME website listed below for the recommended edition of these texts.

2. **Book Club.** Students will be responsible for giving a lecture to their peers and at least one attending surgeon. The topics for these lectures will be assigned by the course coordinator. Students will be notified of their assigned topic prior to their rotation. Attendance and participation are required to earn a passing grade.
3. **Online Surgical Lectures.** Students will be responsible for viewing all online surgical lectures through LCMS+. We are able to track the time that each student spends on each lecture through the LCMS platform. Completion of these lectures is required to earn a passing grade.
4. **NBOME Website.** <https://www.nbome.org/exams-assessments/comat/clinical-subjects/comat-surgery/> This link provides detailed information about the surgery COMAT. It also gives a breakdown of tested topics on the exam. Additionally, a practice exam is available.

Clerkship Objectives

1. The primary objective of the Surgery Core Rotation is to introduce the osteopathic medical student to the field of general surgery as well as several of its subspecialties.
2. By the completion of the core rotation, the student should have an appreciation for common surgical disease processes, as well as their typical presenting signs and symptoms, work-up and treatment.
3. The student will develop an understanding of the role of the primary care physician in the care of a patient with a surgical problem.
4. The student should apply knowledge obtained from basic science classes (anatomy, physiology, etc.) to surgical patient case scenarios.
5. The student should gain experience utilizing an electronic medical record, orally presenting patient vignettes to residents and attending physicians, and rounding on patients in the clinic and hospital settings. Unique to this rotation, students will be afforded the opportunity to scrub into surgeries, practice sterile technique and participate in surgical care.

Student Roles and Responsibilities

1. **Primary Responsibility.** The student's primary responsibility is to gain exposure, experience and knowledge about the field of general surgery. This is done through the Learning Resources (listed above) as well as direct patient contact in the clinic, hospital and operating room. Students are expected to:
 - A. **Gather data on the patient**
 - History and physical exam.
 - Laboratory and radiologic tests.
 - Formulate a differential diagnosis based upon the above information.
 - B. **Communicate**
 - Present pertinent information to a resident, attending, or the group.
 - Develop, compare and contrast your differential diagnosis to that of more experienced team members.
 - C. **Monitor**
 - Observe the clinical course of your assigned patients during their hospital stay.
 - Daily rounds as well as frequent unscheduled visits.
 - Chart review.
 - Read about the topics or case scenarios that you've encountered.
 - D. **Participate**
 - Students are encouraged to observe, scrub and participate in all procedures / surgeries during the clerkship.
 - Students are expected to attend all rounds, conferences, and didactic sessions.
 - Check with your attending or resident regarding times/locations of conferences.
 - Be present, prompt and engaged for lectures, rounds, etc.
 - Read the pertinent literature and discuss it with your colleagues.
 - E. **Synthesize**
 - Apply your medical knowledge to patient scenarios. Identify presenting signs and symptoms and begin to develop rational treatment plans, including surgical interventions.
2. **Attendance. 100% ATTENDANCE is expected** from all students on their clinical clerkship. Permission to be absent must be obtained from the course coordinator, and/or the department chairperson and/or the facility director of medical education (DME) prior to any planned absence. Absences for reasonable cause, as determined by the course coordinator, chairperson and DME, will be approved.
 - Absence due to short-term illness, accident, or personal matters (e.g., intern interviews) is expected to be made up by the student. Arrangements for reasonable make up should be made with and approved by the rotation director and the facility DME. It is the student's responsibility to immediately notify the appropriate person(s) when absence becomes unavoidable.
 - Longer leaves of absence must be approved by the Office of Clinical Education and the Dean of the College. Requests must be made in writing in accordance with University protocols.
3. **Rotation Evaluations.**
 - The student is required to complete an evaluation of the preceptor / rotation.
 - Conversely, the preceptor is required to complete an evaluation of the student.
 - The student's rotation will be considered incomplete, and their grade withheld, until both evaluations are completed.
4. **ACOFP OMT learning modules.**

Students will be assigned an online OMT module during their Core Surgery Clerkship, found at the following link: [ACOFP OMT learning modules](#). Read Chapter 14: The Surgical Patient in the

Somatic Dysfunction in Osteopathic Family Medicine 2nd edition. The module is accessible beginning on the first day of rotation. The quiz, available through Examsoft, must be completed before the final day of the rotation. Successful completion of the OMT learning modules is required to earn a passing grade.

Grading

Students will earn a grade of “Pass”, “Pass with honors” or “Fail”. The criteria for each grade are as follows:

1. To earn a **“Pass”** grade, the student must meet all of the following criteria:
 - No unexcused absences
 - Attendance and participation in book club
 - Completion of LCMS+ online surgical lectures
 - Completion of assigned ACOFP OMT learning modules
 - COMAT score of at least 90
2. To earn a **“Pass with honors”** grade, the student must meet all of the following criteria:
 - Achieve all of the “Pass” criteria
 - COMAT score of at least 110
 - A written narrative authored by the surgical preceptor explaining their rationale for the honors recommendation
3. A **“Fail”** grade may be issued in the following circumstances:
 - Unexcused absences or tardiness
 - Lack of attendance or participation in book club
 - Failure to complete LCMS+ lectures
 - Failure to complete assigned ACOFP OMT learning modules
 - Lack of professionalism, integrity, reliability, or responsibility
 - Significant deficits in medical knowledge or its practical application

Since OSU-CHS has adopted this Pass/Honors/Fail grading policy, it is strongly encouraged that preceptors meticulously complete the “Comments” section of their evaluations of the student. These comments will be used to generate the Dean’s letter which will be included in the student’s residency application packet.

COMAT Examination Remediation Policy

If a student fails the surgery COMAT Exam, they shall enter a formal remediation process. The student is encouraged to contact the Surgery Student Coordinator, Kimbra Freeman, as soon as possible to schedule an initial meeting with the student, Kimbra, and the Surgery Core Course Coordinator.

At this meeting, the Surgery Core Course Coordinator will interview the student about their clerkship experience, try to identify issues that led to COMAT failure, review topics of weakness as identified by the COMAT score sheet, and develop a plan for remediation. After remediation, the student will be eligible to retake the COMAT Exam. The timing of this retake will be individualized and agreed upon by the student and the Surgery Core Course Coordinator.

If the student fails the COMAT a second time, a grade of “incomplete” will be assigned for the surgery clerkship. The student will be referred to the Academic Standards Committee and/or the Student Success Committee for a plan of corrective action.

Disclaimers

This syllabus is an overall guide for the Surgery Clerkship, but is not intended to be all-encompassing or all-inclusive. It does not constitute an educational contract between the attending physician(s) and student. It may be edited or revised as needed.

The educational process is fluid and individual clerkship experiences may vary slightly. It is our goal to standardize the experience for all students as much as possible. We want you to learn as much as possible about surgery, and succeed on this rotation and in your careers.

Questions about the syllabus or the Surgery Core Clerkship should be directed to the Surgery Student Coordinator, Kimbra Freeman.

Updated July 2018