

TO: UKCOM Class of 2012

FROM: Terry Stratton, PhD
Assistant Dean, Assessment & Quality Management

Rosemarie Conigliaro, MD
Senior Assistant Dean, Curriculum

Chipper Griffith, MD
Associate Dean, Student Affairs

Todd Cheever, MD
Assistant Dean, Student Affairs

DATE: February 2, 2011

Subject: 2011 Clinical Performance Examination (CPX)

Since many of you are beginning to make summer plans – and have been wondering about the CPX timetable – we wanted to offer a brief update.

As you're aware, all students graduating from accredited U.S. medical schools are required to successfully complete the Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) component of the United States Medical Licensure Exam (USMLE). *At the University of Kentucky, it is a graduation requirement that each third-year student complete (and pass) the College of Medicine Clinical Performance Examination (CPX) **prior to taking Step 2*** **CS.** Students who pass the CPX may then take Step 2 CS any time before December 31, 2011 – per Student Affairs' guidelines.

To accommodate all eligible test-takers, the 2011 CPX will take place over 10 day-long administrations: July 16, 18-23, 25-27. The exact number of clinical scenarios per examination has yet to be determined, but each day will begin ~8:00 am.

In mid-April, we will begin the official sign-up process by asking you to specify those dates on which you ***absolutely cannot*** take the exam. Since we are most compelled to honor requests from students who are getting married (for example) versus those who merely want extra time to study for the USMLE, we will also ask for a brief justification for specific date requests. Exam dates will be assigned ***only after*** all requests have been received. Please note: This ***IS NOT*** a "rolling" or first-come, first-served process. Exam dates will be assigned only after everyone has had to the opportunity to respond.

The final exam schedule will be distributed by early May. Again, while we cannot guarantee any examinee a specific date, it is ***exceedingly rare*** than we are not able to accommodate any reasonable request.

The CPX is a pass/fail exam. In scoring this exam, individual performance is gauged in standard deviations (SDs) relative to the class – with breakdowns provided by station and skill set (e.g., history taking, communication, etc.). Generally speaking, areas are flagged in which students perform < 2 SD below their peers; however, we are most sensitive to ***consistent patterns*** of underperformance – since most everyone has one or two weaker stations. For failing scores, the Student Progress and Promotions Committee (SPPC) will review students' CPX results – taking into account their past clerkship performance – and make a decision as to what (if any) remediation might be warranted (e.g., specific exercises, repeat testing, or specific M4 course requirements).

Since the exam is norm-referenced, individual performances cannot be scored until everyone has taken the exam; however, *final results will be available within 5 business days of the last administration*. In addition, we offer end-of-day feedback following each exam administration.

Sample student reports and other related information are available via the Assessment and Quality Management website:

<http://www.mc.uky.edu/meded/tande/Annual%20CPX.asp>

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Stratton at 323-2785 <tdstra00@email.uky.edu>, Dr. Griffith at 323-5261 <cgrif00@email.uky.edu>, or Dr. Cheever at 323-5261 <tbchee0@email.uky.edu>