

JUNE 2023

CUNY Med Clerkship Monthly



Announcements & Reminders

Congratulations to the CUNY Med class of 2023: Thank you to everyone who joined in person or virtually on May 25th to celebrate and send off our 4th class of [CUNY School of Medicine graduates!](#)

On June 5th, **Dr. Rocco Lafaro** (our Surgery clerkship director at SBH) was presented with this year's SBH Medical Staff/CUNY School of Medicine **Excellence in Medical Education Award**. Congratulations Dr. Lafaro!

Student Academic Progress Committee (SAPC) call for self-nominations: If any clerkship directors are interested in learning more about the school and developing new medical education skills by serving on this important committee, please reach out to SAPC Chair, [Professor Katie Mendis](#).

Grading Changes for 2023-24:

- **Clerkship OSCEs:** Aside from Neurology, OSCEs will now count for 10% of the clerkship grade on all M3 clerkships, reducing the weight of clinical evaluations from 60% to 50%. OSCE scores will be averaged between the standardized patient checklists and structured notes.
- **Shelf Exam Percentile Equivalents:** The shelf exam will continue to count for 25% of the final grade, for all clerkships except Neurology. Note that the percentile equivalents have been adjusted to increase the points "spread" and better differentiate student performance.
- **Clerkship Requirements:** For core M3 & M4 clerkships, all requirements including PET logs (required diagnoses and procedures) must be submitted **by 5:00 pm on the last Friday of the clerkship**. These requirements must be met for students to pass the clerkship and for them to be eligible for honors.

VOLUME 5

Upcoming Events

Wednesday June 7th

ERAS opened for the 2024 residency application season

June 12th to 23rd

Clerkship Orientation course for **all rising M3** students

Monday June 26th

First day of clerkships for the **new M3** class!

Monday July 3rd

First day of clerkships for the **rising M4** class



Residency LORs

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

- **Be honest** if you do not think you can write a strong letter for a student. You can still support them by, for example, giving very detailed feedback on areas for improvement, or helping them strategize about finding other potential LOR writers.
- **Timeline:** Some faculty choose to write LORs throughout the year (while memories are freshest) while others prefer to wait until summer (when students have decided on a specialty, have drafted CVs and personal statements, and can generate the ERAS LOR Request form).

Whatever your approach, please:

- Make it very clear to the student **what you need from them and by when.**
- Communicate your timeline - Programs download applications in late Sept, so our advising team asks that all LORs **please be uploaded by September 15th at the latest.**

FORMATTING

Submit your LOR on letterhead. (Please email [Lauren](#) if you need a CUNY letterhead) Always include the student's full name as written on their ERAS LOR Request form, the AAMC ID #, and a statement that "[name] has waived their right to read this letter". Always include your clinical and academic titles/affiliations and an original signature.

CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

- **Opening paragraph:** This can follow roughly the same format for all your letters including an opening statement, an explanation of your role and how well you know the student, as well as a brief summary with dates, of their clinical experience(s) with you.
- **Body paragraphs:**
 - Focus on **competency-related skills and behaviors**, rather than personality-based descriptors which are less helpful and more *prone to bias*.
 - Always try to comment on **professionalism, communication, and knowledge** **Specific examples or anecdotes** are fantastic and really help your LOR "come to life". If you happen to have a nice quote from a patient, that's even better.
- **Concluding paragraph:** This is often about 2 sentences long and should include the **strongest recommendation you can make for the student**. This may vary from a truly superlative statement ("*the strongest ObGyn student of the year*" or "*among the top X% of students I've ever worked with*") to something more modest ("*will be a wonderful resident*" or "*I'd be very happy to have [Student] in our own residency program*").