



Twin Cities Campus
SURG 7550: Essentials of Surgery Clerkship
2024-2025

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Teaching Statement: We use an interactive style to stimulate the adult learner and foster critical thinking.

SYLLABUS STATEMENT:

The purpose of this document is to provide clarity about clerkship expectations and to provide transparency and accountability for all. Consider using this document as a guide for this clerkship.

CLERKSHIP DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on the evaluation and care of patients with surgical diseases. The clerkship is designed to develop core surgical knowledge and skills needed by all medical students prior to graduation.

Canvas Site: <https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573>

Clinical Sites: Students will be assigned to one of the following clinical sites:

- DU-1000 - Duluth
- SL-1003 St. Luke's Hospital
- ES-1008 Essentia Health - St. Mary's Medical Center
- MF-1056 - M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital
- MF-1068 - UMMC - East Bank
- HH-1001 - Hennepin County Medical Center
- HP-1010 - Methodist Hospital
- CM-1000 - Children's Minnesota - Minneapolis Hospital
- NM-1004 - North Memorial Health Hospital
- HP-1015 - Regions Hospital
- VA-1000 - VA Medical Center
- CC-1002 - CentraCare: St. Cloud Hospital

Prerequisites: Successful matriculation to MS3

Terms offered: All terms

Length of Clerkship: 4 weeks



CLERKSHIP LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

Clerkship Learning Objective	Assessment	Graduation Competencies	Graduation Competencies Subdomain	EPA
1. Actively participate in the care of surgical patients as a member of a team while supporting those they work with and prioritizing patient needs over self-interest	AM02, AM10: CSA	Patient Care Professionalism Interprofessional Collaboration	PC6 P3, P5, P6 IPC1, IPC2	9
2. Gather a patient history and perform a thorough abdominal physical exam	AM02: EPA H&P Attestation	Patient Care Knowledge for Practice	PC1 KP2	1
3. Give an oral presentation of a clinical encounter and propose an appropriate diagnostic and/or treatment plan for a patient with a surgical disease	AM02: EPA	Patient Care Knowledge for Practice	PC3, PC6 KP1	3, 6
4. Accurately document a clinical encounter in the electronic medical record	AM02: EPA	Professionalism	P7	5
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the pathophysiology of common surgical diseases, standards of diagnosis, and treatment and apply this knowledge to specific patient scenarios	AM05: Mid-clerkship Oral Exam AM05: OSATS Oral Exam AM02, AM10: CSA	Patient Care Knowledge for Practice Scientific and Clinical Inquiry	PC2, PC3 KP1, KP2 SCI1	2, 3, 4



<p>6. Articulate how diversity, equity, and inclusion impact the delivery of surgical care</p>	<p>AM12: Written Reflective Assignment AM12: DEI Session</p>	<p>Knowledge for Practice Interpersonal and Communication Skills</p>	<p>KP3 ICS3</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>7. Demonstrate sterile technique and perform basic suturing and knot tying skills</p>	<p>AM02: EPA AM003: OSATS Technical Exam AM01: RCE/PET</p>	<p>Patient Care Knowledge for Practice</p>	<p>PC6 KP2</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>8. Recognize and control life-threatening external hemorrhage</p>	<p>AM12: Stop the Bleed course</p>	<p>Patient Care Knowledge for Practice</p>	<p>PC4 KP2</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>9. Model professional and ethical behavior including, but not limited to, attendance, interpersonal skills, and respectful communication with patients and other healthcare team members</p>	<p>AM02, AM10: CSA AM012: Professionalism Points</p>	<p>Interpersonal and Communication Skills Professionalism Personal and Professional Development</p>	<p>ICS1, ICS2, ICS3 P1, P2, P3, P4, PPD1, PPD3, PPD4</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10. Solicit feedback regarding one's performance to foster lifelong professional and personal growth</p>	<p>AM02, AM10: CSA</p>	<p>Practice-Based Learning and Improvement</p>	<p>PBL1, PBL5</p>	<p>7</p>



Reference table:

Institutional Goals & Objectives	Entrustable Professional Activities	Methods of Instruction
UMN Competencies Required for Graduation	Refer to EPAs	Refer to AAMC Categories

CLERKSHIP OUTLINE AND CONTENT

During this course, students will have the opportunity to engage in the care of surgical patients in a variety of inpatient and outpatient clinical settings. Each student taking the course will be assigned to a clerkship site and faculty Clerkship Site Director. At most sites, students will be assigned to a surgical team composed of student(s), surgical trainees (residents and/or fellows), and supervising attending surgeons. Students will be expected to arrive on the wards with sufficient time to prepare for working rounds with their resident team and participate in any operating room cases, clinics, and teaching activities throughout the day. All students are expected to function as members of their respective surgical teams. Clinical schedules and call requirements vary by clerkship site. Students' arrival and departure times will also vary accordingly.

In addition to clinical exposure, the course involves a combination of in-person and virtual sessions which include orientation on the first day, Morbidity and Mortality conferences, Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, a Simlab, in-person DEI session, and the official Stop the Bleed course. Of note, students at Duluth are not required to attend the Simlab and Stop the Bleed in person. Please see the course schedule and Google Calendar for additional details.

The didactic content of the course follows the national medical student curriculum developed by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Association for Surgical Education (ASE). Students will need to go to facs.org/CoreCurriculum and register to access the relevant modules. Recorded lectures corresponding to each module can be accessed from the main page and are also included as links from the individual modules. Each module contains reading materials and questions that students may find helpful in their preparation for their clinical activities and USMLE Step 2 CK. Students will be expected to complete a subset of the ACS/ASE modules listed below. In order to complete all 12 modules over the 4 weeks, students are encouraged to complete 3 modules per week.

ACS/ASE Curriculum Modules:

1. Abdominal Pain,
2. Abdominal Wall and Groin Masses,
3. Breast Problems,
4. Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage,
5. Intra-Abdominal and Retroperitoneal Masses,
6. Jaundice,
7. Nutrition,
8. Perianal Problems,
9. Postoperative Care,
10. Shock,
11. Skin and Soft Tissue Lesions,
12. Trauma I: Initial Trauma Evaluation



Clerkship Weekly Calendar

Please refer to the [Google SURG Clerkship Calendar](#) for locations of the in-person sessions and Zoom links to virtual events. Students are encouraged to select this calendar so it remains visible throughout the rotation.

Surgery Clerkship Calendar (SURG 7550)					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Virtual Clerkship Orientation 3-4p	<p>In-person for all Twin Cities and St. Cloud students</p> <p>Virtual for Duluth students</p> <p>M&M & Grand Rounds: 7-8:30a</p> <p>Simlab: 10a-1p</p> <hr/> <p>ILT: 1-5p</p>			
Week 2		<p>In-person for students at Fairview</p> <p>Virtual for students at all other sites</p> <p>M&M & Grand Rounds: 7-8:30a</p>			
Week 3	<p>Reflective Assignment Due</p> <p>Mid-Clerkship CSA Due</p>	<p>In-person for students at Fairview</p> <p>Virtual for students at all other sites</p> <p>M&M & Grand Rounds: 7-8:30a</p>	H&P Attestation Due	<p>ILT: 8a-12p</p> <p>In-Person for all Twin Cities and St. Cloud Students</p> <p>Virtual for Duluth Students</p> <p>Lunch: 12:30p</p> <p>DEI Session: 12:45-2:30p</p> <p>Stop The Bleed: 2:30-4p</p>	Mid-Clerkship Oral Exam due
Week 4	OSATS Technical Exam Due	<p>In-person for students at Fairview</p> <p>Virtual for students at all other sites</p> <p>M&M & Grand Rounds: 7-8:30a</p>			<p>OSATS Oral Exam Due</p> <p>RCE Attestation Due</p> <p>Final CSA Due</p>



GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

The graded assessments are designed to evaluate individual achievement of the clerkship learning objectives.

Graded Assessments	Contents	Passing Requirement
1. EPAs	Standardized EPA forms completed by faculty, residents, and APPs, and ACEs	Complete 12 EPA assessments including at least one of EPA 1, 5, 6, and 12.
2. Reflective Assignment	Short essay	Submit in Canvas
3. Mid-Clerkship CSA	Standardized clinical evaluation by faculty and residents	Submit the CSA form in Qualtrics after meeting with the faculty preceptor or resident to discuss performance midway through the clerkship
4. H&P Attestation	Attestation form	Complete attestation in Canvas
5. Mid-Clerkship Oral Exam	Structured oral examination administered by resident or faculty	Submit rubric to Canvas
6. OSATS a. OSATS Technical Exam b. OSATS Oral Exam	-Structured skills exam to be completed by video -Structured oral examination administered by resident or faculty	Attain a total score of 60 or higher out of 100
7. Required Clinical Experiences (RCEs)	Patient encounter tracking log and attestation form	Log all 6 SURG RCEs in the correct Qualtrics form for your start year and submit RCE attestation in Canvas
8. Final CSA	Standardized clinical evaluation by clerkship site director or their designee	Submit the Final CSA form in Qualtrics. Must attain a score of 70% or higher to pass the course.
9. Professionalism Points	Standard for attendance and timeliness of assignments	Maintain 6 points or higher out of 10 possible points



1. Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)

Due: Last day of the clerkship

Students will receive assessments of their performance on the Core EPAs as a form of ongoing, real-time feedback throughout the clerkship. EPA forms may be completed by attendings on the student's team, Assessment and Coaching Experts (ACEs), residents of all PGY levels, and advanced practice providers (APPs). APP assessments cannot comprise more than 50% of the total.

For AY 24-25, outside of EPA 1, students will not be required to complete specific EPAs for each clerkship. Instead, students will be provided opportunities to demonstrate specific EPAs in each clerkship. And, students will continue to be required to submit, on average, 3 EPA supervision levels per week. The widespread opportunities to demonstrate EPAs, paired with required clinical coaching, will allow students to develop personalized plans for gathering EPA supervision levels to support entrustment by their Clinical Competency Committee.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/pages/surg-7550-epas-and-csas>

2. Reflective Assignment

Due: Monday of week 3

Students will prepare a two-paragraph essay reflecting on their experiences on the clerkship as they relate to the broader topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805594>

3. Mid-Clerkship CSA

Due: Monday of week 3

The Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA) is a revised and updated version of the Global Rating Scale (GRS). This assessment covers 5 professional criteria, discussions regarding EPAs and RCEs (Required Clinical Experiences), comments for the MSPE (Medical Student Performance Evaluation), and comments for student growth.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805587>

4. H&P Attestation

Due: Wednesday of week 3

You are expected to perform histories and physical examinations at levels that are appropriate to your experience level, particularly as it is expected your skills will grow throughout the clerkship.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/quizzes/875230>

5. Mid-Clerkship Oral Exam

Due: Friday of week 3

An oral exam will be administered at your site. You will be responsible for requesting to complete the exam with a resident or preceptor during week 2 or 3 of their clinical rotation.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805588>



6. OSATS

The OSATS is a two-part 30-minute individual performance-based exam. It involves a clinical scenario and a suture kit to test technical skills and a separate mock oral exam organized by site. The scenario requires the integration of skills learned in the SIM lab and communication skills learned during the clinical portion of the rotation.

A. OSATS Technical Exam

Due: Monday of week 4

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805590>

[OSATS Technical Exam Video Submission Form.](#)

B. OSATS Oral Exam

Due: Friday of week 4

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805589>

7. Required Clinical Experiences (RCEs)

Due: Last day of the clerkship

In order to successfully complete the surgery clerkship, you must log all of the Surgery (SURG) RCEs by the end of your surgery clerkship. RCEs logged during prior clerkships count toward this requirement. The 6 SURG RCEs are listed below. You are expected to log at least one of each RCE which can entail any of the listed subcategories.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805593>

Surgery (SURG) specific RCE List

	RCE	Subcategory	Level of Responsibility
Clinical Conditions	Herniation of the gastrointestinal tract	-Umbilical hernia -Hiatal hernia -Inguinal hernia -Abdominal hernia -Diaphragmatic hernia -Femoral hernia	Primary participation
	Skin and soft tissue infections	-Cellulitis -Folliculitis -Superficial abscess -Impetigo -Wound infection -Erysipelas	Primary participation



	Intestinal infection and inflammation	-Appendicitis -Diverticulitis -Inflammatory bowel disease -Inflammatory biliary disease (cholecystitis) -Colitis (C. difficile)	Observation
Procedures	Incisions, insertions, and repair	Laceration repair Laparoscopic surgery Open abdominal surgery Wound care Central line placement	Primary participation
	Sterile technique	Surgical hand scrubbing Gowning Gloving Establish a sterile field Maintain a sterile field	Perform with Direct Supervision
Presenting Concern	Gastrointestinal Bleeding	None	Primary Participation

8. Final CSA

Due: Last day of the clerkship

The Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA) is a revised and updated version of the Global Rating Scale (GRS). This assessment covers 5 professional criteria, discussions regarding EPAs and RCEs (Required Clinical Experiences), comments for the MSPE (Medical Student Performance Evaluation), and comments for student growth.

The CSA is used for both formative and summative purposes.

On the Final-CSA, the rating, attestations, and MSPE/growth comments are required, but the additional comments for each criteria is optional.

Only the **Final CSA** is to be used for a grade with a score of **70%** as passing.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805586>

9. Professionalism Points

Ten points are awarded to students for professional behavior on service. All students start the clerkship with 10 points. Late assignments/assessments and tardiness to scheduled activities will result in having 1 point deducted for each instance. A minimum score of 6 points is required to pass the Clerkship. Full points may still be earned in the event of special circumstances for which the Clerkship director grants excused absences.

<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/446573/assignments/3805592>



COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

The surgery clerkship follows the policies set forth by the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Excused Absences: As per school policy, students may be granted additional days off for excused absences required by medical school requirements (e.g., USMLE test dates) or for personal and family emergencies only. These absences must be approved by the clerkship director and communicated with the site director and site coordinator in advance or as soon as possible; otherwise, they will be considered unexcused. One day per two weeks averaged over the duration of the clerkship (i.e., two days over four weeks). Any excused absences in excess of this may result in a requirement to make up the days, receiving an “Incomplete” on the course, or a withdrawal from the course, as determined in discussion with the course director. Any unexcused absences may result in a failing grade due to the student not meeting the clerkship attendance requirements.

Please note that excused absences are meant only for unusual circumstances and are not offered as additional days off for non-emergent reasons or reasons unrelated to school requirements (e.g., for vacation or weddings).

Incomplete Contracts: Initiation of an Incomplete Contract for late assignments/assessments is the responsibility of the student. The clerkship director and coordinator will initiate contracts for completed assessments when scores do not meet the requirements to pass the course.

A list of additional medical school policies and useful resources:

All Medical Student Policies	University of Minnesota Medical Student Policies
Attendance and Excused Absences	Attendance Requirements and Excused Absences
Disability Resources	Medical Students with Disabilities
Duty Hours	Duty Hours, Years 3 & 4
Grades and Incomplete Contracts	Grading & Grade Appeals
Mistreatment	Student Mistreatment Policy
Professionalism	Student Conduct Code
Remediation	Scholastic Standing Committees



Syllabus Change	Except for changes that substantially affect the implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
Ethics Violations & Intellectual Responsibility	Procedure for Reporting Ethics Violations Statement of Intellectual Responsibility