

Rural & Indigenous Early Clinical Experience (ECE) Preceptorship Preceptor Guide 2026

The goal of the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus - Early Clinical Experience (ECE) is to provide 1st and 2nd-year medical students with a foundational understanding of patient care across various clinical settings. These settings may include outpatient, inpatient, and long-term care, as well as interprofessional patient care and community health system support. This will help students integrate the clinical relevance of their basic science courses and better prepare them for future clinical rotations. Your involvement as a preceptor is vital to the development of students' clinical skills, and your service is greatly appreciated and valued by both the students and the medical school.

The purpose of this clerkship is two-fold:

1. To have students further hone basic clinical skills of history taking, physical examination, assessment, differential and plan development, and oral and written presentation.
2. To reinforce patient-centered care in a clinic, hospital, and other settings, including but not limited to care in nursing homes, assisted living, and home care.

Detailed Objectives

1. Demonstrate effective communication and **medical interviewing** techniques appropriate to the setting of care and patient complaint.
2. Conduct a **physical exam** appropriate to the setting of care and patient complaint.
3. Develop basic **clinical reasoning skills** through hypothesis-driven history and physical exams appropriate to the setting of care and patient complaints.
4. Demonstrate logical and accurate medical record **documentation** appropriate to the setting of care and patient complaint.
5. Demonstrate basic competency in **oral presentation** communication.
6. Exhibit the beginning of a pattern of **continuous learning** through self-directed learning and systematic reflection of experiences.
7. Demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and **system of healthcare** and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide optimal patient care.
8. Participate in Interprofessional Team Care.
9. Become familiar with, understand, and learn the needed rural competencies:
 - a. Comfort with uncertainty, isolation, and geography
 - b. Competent practice in disciplines and professions other than your own by all team members
 - c. Making do with what you have
 - d. Understand the need for early disposition (early notification of the helicopter, need for specialty care, ICU service, etc.)

What is expected of Preceptors?

Preceptors will work with a student one week in March, April, and October. All three weeks encompass the entire week, Monday to Friday. We understand that preceptor schedules may vary. If you are unavailable on a day when a student is on-site, please arrange for the student to be aligned with another physician in your practice.

To help with tracking student skill-building, please work with the students to enter at least one piece of feedback in their Entrustable Professional Activity record (students will enter the data). History-taking, physical exam skills, procedures of a physician (potentially), and oral reporting skills will be applicable in the clinic and hospital setting.

As a preceptor, you will be expected to perform the following functions for your student:

1. Check with your student(s) about goals for the day.
2. Allow your student(s) to have first contact with a patient/s each day, as able.
3. Have the student perform at least one oral presentation per day to you and provide feedback.
4. Spend five minutes per day with the student directly observing them perform some aspect of the history or physical with the patient and provide brief feedback on their performance.
5. Coordinate with the student to enter at least one piece of feedback in their Entrustable Professional Activity record (students will enter the data). This includes history taking, exam skills, and oral presentation skills.

Resources: Preceptor Training

Clinical Skills ECE EPA Preceptor Orientation

1. [EPA Concept, ID, and Rating](#)
2. [Feedback](#)
3. [Logistics of Assessing EPAs](#)

Additional Assets:

Entrustable Professional Activities language

1. [Link to EPA Language](#)

Workload

Since students will spend three weeks in March, April, and October at your community site, we would like them to have access to the electronic medical record (EMR) so they can develop

comfort in accessing an EMR as well as practice writing notes, pulling up labs, etc. Demonstrating to students how the EMR is integrated into practice can be extremely beneficial.

Below is a list of blocks that students will be in and what they are learning in their medical school classes in that timeframe. Students should be helping to develop their own learning goals for each session with you, but this will help give guidance to understand their curricular experience. The highlighted rows labeled Early Clinical Immersion are the weeks that students will be on site.

Week	Curricular Focus	Week	Curricular Focus	Week	Curricular Focus
8/18/2025	Orientation	1/5/26	Nervous System	6/1/26	Renal
8/25/2025	BADR 1	1/12/26		6/8/26	
9/1/2025	Fundamentals	1/19/26		6/15/26	
9/8/25		1/26/26		6/22/26	
9/15/25		2/2/26		Summer Break	
9/22/25		2/9/26		8/24/26	BADR 2
9/29/25		2/16/26		8/31/26	Endo/Repro
10/6/25		2/23/26		9/7/26	
10/13/25	3/2/26	9/14/26			
10/20/25	Skin	3/9/2026	ECE Week 1	9/21/26	
10/27/25		Spring Break			9/28/26
11/3/25		3/23/26	Cardio	10/5/26	ECE Week 3
11/10/2025	Musculoskeletal	3/30/26		10/12/26	Heme
11/17/2025		4/6/26		10/19/26	
11/24/25		4/13/26		10/26/26	
12/1/25		4/20/26		11/2/26	
12/8/25		4/27/26	ECE Week 2	11/9/26	GI
12/15/25	5/4/26	Resp	11/16/26		
Winter Break			5/11/26	11/23/26	
			5/18/26	11/30/26	
			5/25/26	12/7/26	

Thank you!

Your interest and willingness to help train our students are *very* much appreciated by the students and the University of MN Medical School!

The preceptorship you provide is essential as the Duluth Campus focuses on its mission of Training Indigenous and Rural Health Care providers, potentially your future colleagues.