Course Syllabus

Introduction

The Psychiatry Clerkship has designed a curriculum to prepare medical students to understand and manage the common mental health problems affecting our society. This clerkship will introduce students to psychiatric conditions through clinical encounters and/or didactics to provide understanding of the basic biology, psychology and social aspects of their patients’ disorders. Students will learn about differential diagnosis, diagnostic testing and medical management, to include both somatic and psychological treatments, and they will have opportunities to observe and conduct the psychiatric interview and mental status examination.

Student Learning Activities

PATIENT CARE (80% time)

Each site will have available a variety of patient care opportunities. All students should participate in the evaluation and management of patients with the following diagnoses:

1. Depressive Disorder (e.g. Major Depression)
2. Neurocognitive Disorder (e.g. Dementia, Delirium)
3. Schizophrenic Disorder and related disorders
4. Bipolar Disorder
5. Anxiety Disorder (e.g. Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Specific Phobia Disorder)
6. Substance Use Disorder
7. Personality Disorder

In addition, it is SUGGESTED that the student also see patients with the following disorders:

1. Child or Adolescent Psychiatric problem (if offered)
2. Trauma Related Disorder (e.g. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder)
3. ADD/ADHD
4. Eating disorder
5. Somatic Symptom Disorder
6. Obsessive Compulsive and Related Disorders
7. Cross-cultural Psychiatric problem

Students will complete some psychiatric patient work ups during the clerkship. These will include a complete history, relevant physical exam, and mental status exam as well as a working diagnosis and treatment plan. These reports will be written or dictated, and will be reviewed and countersigned by supervisory staff. Each student will observe at least one ECT procedure.

Patient Care Rounds

Patient care rounds will vary according to the teaching site. In general, these will be held with various interdisciplinary team members (psychologist, social worker, nurse, occupational therapist) as well as the supervising staff (attending staff, resident).
CASE PRESENTATIONS (5% time)
The student will present cases to attending staff, residents or other clinical staff both during daily rounds and in didactic settings.

LECTURES and ONLINE MODULES (5-10% time)
To help provide uniformity in student learning, students will attend a series of lectures covering essential psychiatry topics. The following topics will be covered:

- Motivational Interviewing and Mental Status Exam
- Anxiety Disorders
- Bipolar Disorders
- Depressive Disorders
- Schizophrenic Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Substance Use Disorders
- Geriatric and Organic Disorders
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Decision Making Capacity and Legal Issues
- Personality Disorders
- Psychotherapy (Online Modules and Lecture Synthesis)

*The student is required to attend all lectures.* Lectures will be held for all students on Wednesday afternoons at the UMMC Fairview Riverside site in the Brennan Center. In addition, other lectures, as determined by the individual site directors, may be offered at the various sites. The student is expected to attend these lectures.

Please note that lectures will not cover all material evaluated on the Shelf Exam. Extra reading and study to augment student knowledge is needed.

TEACHING CONFERENCES (2% time)
Teaching sites may have teaching conferences, such as Grand Rounds, which is attended by the various psychiatric staff at each site. Students are expected to attend, unless otherwise directed by their attending staff.

EVENING CALL (0-1% time)
The student may be expected to take evening/night call depending on the teaching site. If evening/night call is expected, the student will be supervised.

SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING (5% time)
The student will utilize resources to pursue gaps in knowledge and case report preparation.

RESOURCES
Please refer to the Resources and Sites section in BlackBag for additional information.

INSTRUCTION AND SUPERVISION
Attending staff will take primary responsibility in supervising the student either directly or through the resident. Where residents are not available, the attending staff will provide the necessary day-to-day supervision, feedback, and role-modeling. Faculty/residents will hear case presentations, co-sign chart notes and patient orders, read and provide feedback to the student about work-ups, and meet regularly with the student to discuss case management. Students
may also give informal lectures or presentations to clinical staff. The attending staff will be responsible for assigning patients to the student for work-up and case management.

The student will work inter-professionally with other health care team members (including social workers, psychologists, therapists and nurses). Students will be expected to engage in a collaborative and respectful working relationship with these professionals. These personnel will often be present during patient rounds.

Psychiatrists other than the attending staff may provide formal supervision or instruction to the student at the various sites. They may supervise the weekly case presentations or provide pertinent lectures.

**MID-TERM FEEDBACK**

Students will receive day-to-day feedback from supervising staff.

It is the responsibility of each student to seek mid-term feedback. Students will need to attest in the Psychiatry BlackBag Site that they have received mid-term feedback from their primary psychiatry attending staff. If a student has not attested to receiving this feedback, he/she will need to approach their attending and ask for feedback on their mid-term performance.

**EVALUATION BY THE STUDENT**

Each student will be asked to provide feedback about the teaching and general experiences during the clerkship by completing an on-line evaluation through the web based E*Value system. We appreciate substantive, representative feedback from students about this required clerkship and instructors and use this information in making changes to the clerkship.

We strongly encourage students to complete the course evaluation within three weeks of it being assigned to them.

**Grading and Shelf Exam Information**

Although a grade for the clerkship is based primarily on the subjective evaluation by instructors, it is important that some amount of standardization be achieved in order to indicate to students how they performed in relation to their peers, to compare outcomes at the various teaching sites, and to provide general feedback to the Department of Psychiatry on the effectiveness of its teaching and accomplishing the course goals and objectives. The final grade for each student for the clerkship will therefore be derived from a composite score based on the following:

1. **Clinical Performance Rating.** Attending staff will complete an on-line evaluation of the student’s clinical performance through the web-based E*Value system. The attending staff will consult with residents and/or other staff involved with teaching the student during the duration of the clerkship when completing this form. The clinical performance is the most important determinant in the overall clerkship grade. The **evaluation score is worth 60 points and 60% of the student’s grade.**
2. **Case Report and PHHP Assignment.**

   **Case Report:** The student will need to write a case report to complete the course. The report should focus on a clinical case chosen by the student that presents an unusual or unique topic and/or important educational or scientific knowledge in psychiatry. This report must be turned in by the Monday of the last week of the clerkship. A staff member, usually the site director, will read and evaluate the report. Late reports may result in a grade reduction. Five categories are considered when grading the paper: Relevance (4 points); Presentation (8 points); Clarity (5 points); and Sources (3 points). **The paper is worth 20 points and 20% of the student’s grade.**

   There is a $500.00 cash prize given each year (the Harold Lawn Award) for the best case report submitted by a medical student. Students may also wish to pursue publication of their case report and can receive assistance with this process from attending staff at their site or through the UMMC site. Scholarship of the student’s case report is not required nor used in calculating the student’s final grade.

   **PHHP Assignment:** Students are also required to write one paragraph discussing connections between their case report to issues present in Public Health and/or Health Policy (PHHP). This is to be turned in at the same time as the case report. If the PHHP assignment is not turned in, the student’s overall course grade will drop by one letter, (e.g. An Honors grade would drop to an Excellent grade, an Excellent grade would drop to Satisfactory and so on).

3. **Psychiatry Shelf Exam.** Students will take psychiatry Shelf Examination at the end of their rotation. This exam is a requirement and cannot be rescheduled except in the case of an emergency. **The exam is worth 20 points and 20% of the student’s grade.**

   You will need to pass the Shelf Exam in order to pass the course. The passing score is 57. If a student fails the exam, they will take the exam at the end of the next rotation without having to repeat the clerkship. If a student fails the exam twice, they will need to repeat the entire clerkship.

**Grading System**

Please see the Assessment Grid in BlackBag for a more detailed breakdown of point assignments.

A grade of Honors (H), Excellent (E), Satisfactory (S), No Credit (N) or Incomplete (I) will be determined by the following rubric:

- Clinical performance (E*Value evaluation) = 60%
- Case Report Grade = 20%
- Shelf Exam = 20%

Grades are assigned according to the following score table:

- Honors = 92-100
- Excellent = 83-91.94
- Satisfactory = 62-82.94
- No Credit = ≤61.94
Grade information will be posted on the ADPY 7500 BlackBag site. The Shelf Exam scores are posted within three weeks after the exam and will have been adjusted to represent the 20% of the grade. The mean score for the period can be obtained by contacting the Psychiatry Clerkship course coordinator.

The clinical scores and case report scores may be entered into the BlackBag site any time after the end of the rotation up until four weeks after the rotation after all evaluations are completed by the student.

Failure to submit a case report or to take the exams will result in a failing grade regardless of the number of points accumulated from the student’s clinical performance. A failing grade can only be changed by repeating the course and completing all the requirements. Submitting the case report and PHHP assignment late, without permission, may result in a grade reduction. It is NOT an option to reschedule the Shelf Exam except under unusual/emergency circumstances and only with the written permission by the Psychiatry Clerkship course coordinator and/or the Psychiatry Clerkship director.

Links to all Medical Education Policies can be found on the Policies tab in BlackBag.