

# Clinical Intersections

## Policies and Procedures for Attendance, Requesting Absences and Grading

### Attendance and Absence Request Policy and Procedures

The **Clinical Connections and Competencies** is a longitudinal course that spans Phases 2 and 3 and includes **Transition to Clerkships (TTC)**, **Clinical Intersections**, and **Transition to Residency (TTR)**. **TTC** helps to prepare and orient students to Phase 2. In **Clinical Intersections**, students meet on 3 to 5 days spread across Phase 2 to learn various clinical and procedural skills. **TTR** occurs in Phase 3 and is an opportunity for students to solidify their clinical and procedural skills so they are adequately prepared for intern year.

The **Clinical Intersections** attendance policy is similar to the policy for **Transition to Clerkships (TTC)**. M3 students attend designated in-person sessions that are scheduled throughout Phase 2 of the Illinois Medicine Curriculum. Dates for this course are provided to students in advance. **Note that students should not schedule outside activities on the days they are assigned to attend Clinical Intersections, since they may start as early as 7:00 am and may end as late as 6:00 pm. The Clinical Intersections dates may vary across campuses.**

**All segments of Clinical Intersections must be completed to satisfy graduation requirements.** This includes all scheduled activities such as assignments, workshops, TBLs, and group sessions. This is to ensure that all students are provided with the tools that will help them to stay safe, build their community of practice, foster their own wellness in the clinical setting, and to excel in the clinical environment.

**Requesting Excusal in Clinical Intersections and Phases 2/3:** Remember that planning ahead for any time off is very important, especially in your clinical training. In Phase 2/3 students follow the [M3/M4 Clinical Absences Policy](#) to request absences in writing from clerkships, electives, and other courses. Permission for absences is granted by course, clerkship, or elective directors and is consistent with the College-wide policy. Note that you must ask permission in your written requests; you should never assume that a request will automatically be granted.

**Absence:** Absences for this course and any other experience in Phases 2 and 3 should be reported via email in advance to the designee identified by the course or clerkship. **Documentation may be required** with the exception of absences due to the observance of religious holidays.

**Late Arrival:** Students should always plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to the session start time. If a student knows they are going to be late, the Course Coordinator should be contacted in advance, or immediately following the session in the case of emergency, to explain the reason for the late arrival. The administrative team will determine if the late arrival is **excused** or **unexcused based on the protocol established in the [Phase 1 Attendance and Late Arrival Policy](#)**. **Late arrival is tracked starting at 10 minutes past the posted start time for the session.**

**Leaving Early:** Leaving a session prior to its completion without prior approval is considered a professionalism issue, and will be considered an **unexcused** absence. If a student must leave a session due to an emergent issue, the student should contact the Course Coordinator as soon

as feasible. The Course Coordinator will deem the absence to be **excused** or **unexcused** in consultation with the campus-designated curricular administration team

**Unexcused absences and unexcused late arrivals:** Unexcused absences and late arrivals are never acceptable in Phase 2/3, nor are they acceptable in Clinical Intersections or either of the other portions of Clinical Connections and Competencies (TTC and TTR). An unexcused absence and/or late arrival may elicit a “Professional Development Concerns” form. If a pattern of late behavior or unexcused absences is detected, or if a serious professionalism breach is reported, the student will meet with the Curricular Dean, the Course Director and/or Course Coordinator and the Student Affairs Dean and/or the student’s advisor.

**Making up missed time:** Any missed time, whether excused or unexcused, must be “made-up” before a passing course grade will be submitted. In the case of interactive sessions, this may mean completing missed course segments with the next class the following year. Other experiences or assessments cannot be used to fulfill required Clinical Intersections activities; e.g. missed skills sessions need to be made up even if a student has had a later summative assessment of skills.

**Absence due to LOA:** Students who are on a Leave of Absence will not be scheduled for Clinical Intersections and are not required to attend. Students who matriculated prior to the Class of 2022 and are on a Leave of Absence will be scheduled for Clinical Intersections after they sit for Step 1 and start clerkships. These students should communicate with their OSA advisor and the Clinical Intersections Course Coordinator to confirm when their attendance will be required.

## Grading Policy

Student assessment in Clinical Intersections is based upon direct observation of skills, attitudes, and problem-solving abilities, thus students must be present at all sessions. Grades for the course are either **Pass** or **Fail**. To receive a **Passing** grade in Clinical Intersections, students must adhere to the following:

- a. Attend all sessions and sign-in as announced prior to each session.
- b. Be on time for all sessions.
- c. Complete all assignments on time.
- d. Be professional at all times.
- e. Participate fully in all session.
- f. Complete any assigned evaluations.

**Course evaluations** will be made available by the end of each Clinical Intersections day. Students must complete all assigned evaluations.

Failure to meet the above expectations can result in a failing grade for the course. Students are expected to work with the Course Coordinator and Course Director to make up course time and assignments, and to address professional responsibilities that were not achieved.

Students with incomplete course sessions or assignments (excused or unexcused) after the designated time frame will receive an “**NR**” (Not Reported) or a grade of “**Incomplete**”, which will remain until all course requirements are satisfactorily completed. Students have one year (unless otherwise noted by the Course Director) to complete any remaining course

requirements otherwise a grade of **“Fail”** will be assigned and remain on the student’s transcript until the course is completed in its entirety. Only when all requirements have been completely satisfied will a grade of **“Pass”** be submitted to the registrar.

*Effective as of 6/25/20*