

# Transition to Residency Policies and Procedures for Attendance, Requesting Absences, and Grading

## Attendance and Absence Request Policy and Procedures

The **Transition to Residency** attendance policy is similar to the policy for **Clinical Intersections**. M4 students attend designated synchronous sessions that are scheduled during Phase 3 of the Illinois Medicine Curriculum. Dates for this course are provided to students in advance.

**Note that students should not schedule outside activities while they are assigned to attend Transition to Residency, since they may start as early as 7:00 am and may end as late as 6:00 pm. The Transition to Residency dates may vary across campuses.**

### All segments of Transition to Residency 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 build their community of practice, master their clinical skills, foster their own wellness in the clinical setting, and excel in residency.

**Requesting Excusal in Transition to Residency 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. To request an absence from the Transition to Residency course, you should reach out to the campus course coordinator in advance of the session. Students will be required to make up the days missed during their M4 year.

**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 campus course administrator should be contacted either in advance or immediately following the session to explain the reason for the late arrival. **The course administrator will begin tracking late arrival 10 minutes past the posted start time for the session.**

**Leaving Early:** Leaving a session prior to its completion without proper notification is considered an **unexcused** absence. If a student must leave a session due to an emergent issue, or if the situation meets the criteria for excused absence, the student should contact the campus course coordinator as soon as feasible. The course administration will work with course faculty to deem the absence to be **excused** or **unexcused**.

**Unexcused absences, unexcused late arrivals, and missed assignments:** *Unexcused absences, arriving late, and missing assignments are never acceptable in Phase 2/3, nor are they acceptable in Transition to Residency or either of the other portions of Clinical Connections and Competencies (TTC and Clinical Intersections). An unexcused absence, late arrival, and/or missing assignments*

may elicit a “Professional Development Concerns” form in addition to the student not receiving a passing grade in the course. 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, as attendance at all sessions is mandatory. In the case of interactive sessions, this may mean completing missed course segments later in the year, if they are offered again. For Lab Medicine TBL’s, students who are absent (excused or unexcused) will be required to make up the TBL and complete a make-up assignment, as below. In other cases, course work will be remediated with assignments (e.g. written assignment) to be determined at the discretion of the Campus Course Director.

- **TBL Make-Up:** PLEASE SEE COURSE COORDINATOR TO SCHEDULE. If the absence is *excused*, the student will take the Individual Readiness Assurance Test (IRAT) for his/her IRAT score, and receive the TRAT score of his/her team. The student(s) and Course Director or Instructor will then review and discuss the application exercises. If the absence is *unexcused*, the student will have the option to take the IRAT, but will receive a score of 0 (zero) for the IRAT and TRAT. The student(s) and course director or instructor will then review and discuss the application exercises.
- **Make-up Assignment:** The student will write two multiple-choice questions based on the learning objectives and preparatory material from the session. Below is a list of the required elements for the questions:
  - Clinical vignette. Begin with the presenting problem of a patient, followed by the history (including duration of signs and symptoms), physical findings, results of diagnostic studies, initial treatment, subsequent findings, etc.
  - Four (4) answer options. All distractors (incorrect options) should be homogeneous. They should fall into the same category as the correct answer (e.g., all diagnoses, tests, treatments, prognoses, etc.). Avoid using “double options” (e.g. do W and X; do Y because of Z) unless the correct answer and all distractors are double options. All distractors should be plausible, grammatically consistent, logically compatible, and of the same (relative) length as the correct answer.
  - Brief explanation for correct and incorrect answers
  - Focuses on important concepts rather than trivial facts
  - Can be answered from studying the preparatory materials and without looking at the options
  - Includes all relevant facts; no additional data should be provided in the options
  - Is not negatively phrased (i.e., avoid using except or not in the lead-in)

**Absence due to LOA:** Students who are on a Leave of Absence will not be scheduled for Transition to Residency and are not required to attend. These students should communicate with their OSA advisor (COM Lead) and the Transition to Residency campus course coordinator to confirm when their attendance will be required.

### **Chicago Student Absences:**

In Chicago, the entirety of TTR is scheduled as a 2 week course that repeats 3xs (with approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the class participating at a time). Due to COVID-19, these 3 rounds of the course now occur during interview season. While every attempt should be made to avoid scheduling conflicts during TTR course components, it is understood that students may need to request excused absences due to

residency interviews (which are conducted remotely this year). To account for this, students will be allowed a maximum of 3 days excused absence during the 2 week TTR course with no more than 2 days of absence in one week. As always, any absences should be communicated to course coordinators with as much advanced notice as possible and will require make-up, usually during another round of the course (or as a written assignment when this is not possible), before a passing grade will be submitted to the registrar. Please contact Libra Peray ([perayli@uic.edu](mailto:perayli@uic.edu)) for absences during week 1 and Jodi Whitlock ([jodiw@uic.edu](mailto:jodiw@uic.edu)) during week 2.

## **Grading**

Student assessment in Transition to Residency is based upon the direct observation of student 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 Transition to Residency, 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 for each session by the end of each Transition to Residency day. Students must complete **ALL** assigned evaluations.

Failure to meet the above expectations may result in a failing grade for the course. Students will be expected to work with the campus course coordinator and/or course director to make up/remediate any course time, assignments, or professional attributes that were missed or not achieved.

Students with any incomplete course sessions (excused or unexcused) or assignments 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.