

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO MEDICAL CENTER**  
**EMED 420: EMERGENCY MEDICINE CLERKSHIP**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Director:**

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The Emergency Medicine rotation is designed to give medical students exposure to the field of Emergency Medicine. Through working clinical shifts, receiving interactive lectures and participating in other specified activities, medical students will hopefully be exposed to the great variety of experiences that Emergency Medicine contains. The rotation should help those students considering a career in Emergency Medicine to decide if the field is appropriate for them. The knowledge and experience obtained during the rotation should be useful for any medical specialty that a medical student ultimately pursues. The emphasis of the rotation is clinical experience in the Emergency Department. This clinical experience may vary substantially given the inherent variability of the volume and types of patients presenting for care. Through reading and interactive sessions students will hopefully obtain a fairly standardized curriculum that will elaborate on or fill in for the variable individual clinical experience.

**Course Objectives:**

By the completion of the four-week emergency medicine clerkship, the senior medical student will be able to:

1. Perform focused, pertinent interviews and physical examinations on multiple ED patients each shift
2. Organize and summarize information, accurately and clearly, in verbal (oral presentations) and written (EMR) form.
3. Succinctly describe rationales for diagnostic impressions and treatment plans (in verbal and written form).
4. Accurately interpret test results, including ECG, labs, and imaging (in verbal and written form),
5. Accomplish tasks efficiently and thoroughly, caring for multiple patients (critical to ED delivery of care).
6. Describe the EM approach to evaluating patients with undifferentiated, acute medical complaints.
7. Identify (or rule-out) potential life-threatening etiologies of the following clinical presentations:
  - a. Chest Pain and Shortness of Breath
  - b. Abdominal and Pelvic Pain
  - c. Headache & Dizziness
  - d. Altered Mental Status & Intoxication
  - e. Pediatric Fever and other unique Pediatric acute presentations

- f. Traumatic and Orthopedic injuries
8. Perform the following procedures (in a simulated and possibly ED setting)
  - a. Airway stabilization (including basic and advanced techniques)
  - b. Needle decompression and chest tube thoracostomy
  - c. IV/IO access (including US guided peripheral and central lines)
  - d. Laceration repair (suture, staple) and abscess incision & drainage
  - e. Lumbar puncture
  - f. Paracentesis/thoracentesis

### **Elements of the four-week rotation:**

1. **Clinical shifts: The emphasis of the rotation is clinical experience in the Emergency Department.** During the 4wk rotation you will be working 14 (fourteen) 8 to 9 hour clinical shifts. You are required to do one overnight shift. You will evaluate multiple patients each shift with a wide spectrum of problems and be responsible for performing independent histories, physical examinations, developing differential diagnoses, following up on and interpreting results, calling consults, and determining the medical management and final disposition of your patients, in addition to writing definitive ED provider notes. The teaching and review of your cases & notes will be done by the EM attending physicians, fellows, and senior residents, who will also supervise your procedures. Given the inherently high acuity, volume and complexity in the emergency department environment, student H&Ps are only directly observed in the simulation environment; however, all clinical student H&Ps are independently obtained and verified by supervising faculty, fellows or senior residents, and any discrepancies are communicated to the student and revised in the official EPIC note.
2. **Emergency Medicine Conferences:** Weekly core and case conference lectures for the entire Department of Emergency Medicine occur every Tuesday for 5 hours.
3. **Small Group Cases:** You will receive a core group of interactive lectures every Thursday mornings for approximately 4 hours
4. **Simulations:** During the rotation there will be a Procedure lab, typically held the first week of the course, and a simulation session, both held in our Simulation Center respectively.
5. **Independent Study:**  
 Required: <https://www.saem.org/about-saem/academies-interest-groups-affiliates2/cdem/for-students/online-education/m3-curriculum> (all links).  
 Optional: <https://www.saem.org/about-saem/academies-interest-groups-affiliates2/cdem/for-students/online-education/m4-curriculum> (any links)
6. **\*Capstone Presentations: Anyone can give a presentation at the end of the course however, to be considered for the grade of honors in the rotation, you must give an a presentation.** The presentation will be given near the end of the rotation, typically the last Thursday after morning lectures. The presentation will be on an interesting case you saw or a topic of your choice that is pertinent to Emergency Medicine. The presentation will be given to the Clerkship Director and the other students. The presentation should be approximately 5 minutes in length. PowerPoint vs. a paper handout presentation is acceptable. To receive a grade of Honors you must: earn this grade on your clinical evaluations and do a presentation.
7. **\*Paramedic ride-along:** If desired, a ride-along shift can be arranged. If you are interested, please email Beckett Kirk ([bhkirk@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:bhkirk@health.ucsd.edu)) for more information.
8. **\*HBO Journal Club:** Hyperbaric journal club, held on the first Tuesday of the month from 10:00-14:00 in the 4th floor conference room in the MPF building at UCSD Hillcrest. Please contact Dr. Anthony Medak at: [amedak@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:amedak@health.ucsd.edu) a week in advance.

9. **\*TOX Journal Club:** Journal Clubs are on Monday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00 in the 4th floor conference room in the MPF building at UCSD Hillcrest. There is an alternation each week between review of recent articles and a specific topic. Please contact Dr. Daniel Lasoff at: [dlasoff@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:dlasoff@health.ucsd.edu) a week in advance. Note: those activities with an asterisk are optional. That means those without an asterisk *are* required. To be eligible for a grade of honors, one must give an oral presentation.

**Grading Policy:**

Clinical evaluations (at least 1 per shift): 85% of final grade

- Need a minimum of 12 evaluations to pass
- Need a minimum of 17 evaluations to be eligible for Honors
- You will receive written, mid-rotation feedback from the clerkship director.

Emergency Medicine written final exam: 15% of final grade.

Required Attendance: all Tues conferences and Thursday small group sessions/labs.

Required independent study: See above link to SAEM/CDEM MS3 curriculum.

Medical students must complete course and faculty evaluations of this and all School of Medicine courses in order to receive a passing grade. The identity of individual students will not be shared with the course instructors.

**Optional experiences:** Honors Presentation, Rady Children's Hospital ED shift, Paramedic Ride-Along, HBO Journal Club, and Tox Journal Club.

Pass: you must fulfill all course requirements and score at least 65%.

Near honors: 80-88% final rotation score in addition to all passing requirements.

Honors: >17 evaluations, >88% rotation score, & capstone presentation, in addition to all passing requirements. Approximately 25-40% of rotating students earn Honors each year.

For unethical or unprofessional discretions that could result in "failure," please see the Policy on the Evaluation of Professionalism in the UCSD SOM Advisor and Student Handbook). The official attendance policy is listed in that handbook as well.