



**LSU Health Sciences Center
Department of Medicine
Third Year Clerkship
Overall Goals**



The clerkship goals are as follows:

1. The student must become skilled in techniques of gathering clinical information from patients by the performance of the **History and Physical Examination**. Only by repetitive performance of this exercise under supervision can this skill be mastered.
2. Based upon the body of information gathered from the patient the student must learn to define as clearly as possible the problems identified for that patient. This is in the form of a **Problem List**, including both active and inactive problems.
3. From the listing of problems, the student must be able to develop a complete and insightful **Differential Diagnosis** appropriate to the active problems.
4. The student must learn to formulate appropriate and realistic **Plans for Management** which should be divided into the following areas:
 - Diagnostic measures.
 - Therapeutic measures, both immediate and long term.
 - Patient Education to insure compliance with medical management.
5. Students are expected to become proficient in **Documentation**, an increasingly important responsibility of the physician in the development of an accurate patient record. As a legal document, the patient's chart must always be completed with meticulous attention to detail. The patient record should be complete, professional, and well organized. The student will be responsible for the following entries:
 - **History & Physical Examination** – The student's history and physical examination should be placed on the chart after review by supervising physician(s).
 - **Progress Notes** – Each patient should have a complete progress note entered by the student at least once daily in SOAP note format (see example).
 - **Problem List** – Each patient's chart should have a complete problem list formulated by the student and updated on regular basis.
 - **Documentation of Procedures** – Any invasive procedure undertaken by the student (with appropriate supervision) should be thoroughly documented in the chart.
 - **On-Service Notes** – When the student assumes responsibility for a patient at the start of their block, a note summarizing the patient's initial history and physical examination, course in the hospital, and current pertinent physical findings should be written.
 - **Off-Service Notes** – Upon leaving a service, the student will write a note on each of his patients summarizing the patient's initial evaluation, course in the hospital, and plans for future management.
 - **Flow Sheets** – On each of his patients, the student is expected to maintain a chronological listing of pertinent laboratory data on appropriate forms. Certain diseases such as diabetic ketoacidosis will require detailed flow sheets to assess effectiveness of therapy.

- **Orders** – Students are expected to become proficient in writing orders on their patient(s). These orders must be reviewed and co-signed by the house officer before they will be honored by the nursing personnel.
6. The student is expected to begin a process of **Self-Education** during this block. The importance of this process cannot be overemphasized since the student will be largely responsible for his own education in the future.
- **Recommended Texts** – The current editions of Cecil's Textbook of Medicine or Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine are recommended as the definitive sources of information in Internal Medicine. For practical purposes, the Department recommends Cecil Essentials of Medicine. It is possible to read this entire book over the course of the block and this will provide the student with an excellent basic fund of knowledge. In addition, assigned reading for the core lectures will come from this text. Handouts provided by faculty members who are responsible for core lectures will be distributed.
 - **Medical Literature** – The student will be encouraged to make maximum use of the current medical literature in the daily management of patients. Students are urged to subscribe to a critically edited medical periodical such as the New England Journal of Medicine and Annals of Internal Medicine that will help them maintain an awareness of the latest applications of science to the practice of medicine and developments in those areas of medicine that are important in their career choices. Up To Date[®], a comprehensive electronic medical text, is available for use via the internet and is useful for “real-time” diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making.
 - **Hospital Medical Library/Teaching Aids** – The student is strongly encouraged to avail themselves of these facilities and is expected to become proficient in the use of the medical library as an essential part of patient care.
 - **Adjunctive Text/Study Aid** – The student is strongly encouraged to acquire MKSAP for Students and Internal Medicine Essentials for Clerkship Students and utilize these study aids over the course of block as preparation for the examination. These represent a collaborative curriculum effort between the Clerkship Directors of Internal Medicine and the American College of Physicians.