

Clerkship title:	Internal Medicine Acting Internship
Sponsoring department or unit:	Internal Medicine
Name of clerkship director:	Neeraj Jain, MD; Fred A. Lopez, MD; Murtuza Ali MD; Dean Lauret, MD; Tina Benoit-Clark, MD

Rotations

4 weeks of inpatient wards at the University Medical Center – New Orleans, Ochsner-Kenner Regional Medical Center, Touro Infirmary, Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge, or University Hospitals and Clinics in Lafayette.

Clerkship Objectives

The internal medicine acting internship is designed to give interested students the opportunity to function as an integral member of the clinical team in caring for hospitalized patients under the direct supervision of residents and faculty. The acting internship aims to reinforce ACGME core competency areas as expected of residents.

- 1) Students should further develop their skills in *patient care* in preparation for internship. In particular, they should advance their skills in patient assessment, diagnosis and the formulation of management plans. They should also refine their presentation skills and writing orders.
- 2) Students should broaden their *knowledge* of general internal medicine by attending conferences and lectures with residents and reading about their patients. Students are expected to take the opportunity to advance their understanding in areas where they need additional learning.
- 3) Students are expected to demonstrate *professionalism* with patients, their colleagues and hospital staff.
- 4) Students should continue to improve their *communication skills* in their interactions with patients, their families, and in presentations to their peers.
- 5) Students are expected to continue their self education and engage in *practice-based learning* through utilization of the medical literature to improve patient care.
- 6) Students are expected to develop skills in *systems-based practice* by learning proper patient management within the context of available resources, including the appropriate integration of their care with consultants, appropriate use of outpatient resources, and appropriate involvement of non-physician members of the patient care team.

Students do not have specified required clinical encounters on the acting internship as they admit general medicine patients on their call nights in rotation with other interns. The focus of the acting internship is on the level of student responsibility for their patients regardless of the disease process. Students are expected to function at a higher level than third year clerkship students, perform more complete work-ups, develop more accurate differential diagnoses and more complete management plans before reviewing these with their supervising residents and attending physician.

Students meet with the clerkship directors to discuss the level of responsibility they are assuming in patient care, the numbers and types of patients they are seeing, and the quality of instruction and supervision from residents and faculty.

Objectives are reviewed at the start of each month at a resident orientation. Faculty members supervise the instruction of students by house officers as part of their clinical duty, concurrently fulfilling an ACGME requirement. Faculty members are oriented to the clerkship objectives and evaluation system at faculty meetings and workshops. In addition, local site directors, who meet with clerkship directors several times during the year, provide orientations for faculty members and residents at their specific sites.

Methods for Evaluating Clerk Performance

Students are evaluated by faculty and residents at the end of the acting internship using an evaluation form that includes core skills of patient communication, history taking, physical examination, critical thinking, differential diagnosis and management plan. A narrative evaluation of student performance is also included. The clerkship coordinator monitors the completion of evaluation forms and contacts faculty and residents if forms are not submitted in a timely fashion. Clerkship directors are ultimately responsible to ensure that each student is evaluated.

Clerkship Outcomes/Evaluation

We have excellent faculty to supervise acting interns. The patient volume makes this a meaningful month for senior medical students. Debriefings are conducted at the end of each month and feedback is solicited from students about their clinical and educational experience.