

Policy on Absence from Required and Elective Senior Rotations

(Approved by the Curriculum Steering Committee, Curriculum Renewal Committee, Clerkship Directors Committee, and by the Dean in 2016)

Situations may arise when a student will need to request a brief absence from daily responsibilities on a required or elective clerkship in the senior year. Guidelines for emergent and non-emergent absence during the junior clerkships also apply to the senior clerkships. In addition, seniors may be excused from daily responsibilities for the purpose of their residency interviews. These requests are considered non-emergent and must be presented to the clerkship director for approval in advance. Note that these are institutional guidelines and some of the clerkships may have more specific policies.

Residency Interviews: Senior clerkships are shorter than those in the junior year, so absences for non-emergencies should be minimized. Students should make every attempt to schedule residency interviews during block 7 or at other times when they are not on a clerkship rotation. We recognize that this is not always possible. However, we consider your adherence to these policy guidelines a matter of professionalism. Clerkship directors should receive requests for absence due to a residency interview prior to the start of the rotation or as soon as the interview is scheduled. Your team (residents, interns, and attending) should be notified at the start of the rotation or as early in the rotation as possible. Time off for interviews should be counted as your allotted days off during the rotation. Absence for interviews that exceeds the allotted days off during the rotation may require remediation. Remediation may involve additional call nights, additional weekend responsibilities or clinical work on days normally set aside for vacation. Sufficient remediation will be established at the discretion of the clerkship director. Additionally, excessive absences from clinical duties may be reflected in the evaluation of your work habits or professionalism.