



## **LSUHSC Surgery Clerkship Information and Resources AY 25-26**

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## Curriculum

The surgical clerkship is a nine-week long course during which students will spend six weeks in General Surgery and three weeks in a surgical subspecialty.

*Students in New Orleans for the General Surgery sub-rotation will spend three weeks on Trauma Service and three weeks on one of the following services: Surgical Oncology, Bariatric, Colorectal, or Cohn's Service.*

The surgical curriculum will be taught by a combination of didactic and clinical teaching. However, the greatest opportunities for learning surgery will take place in the operating room, the clinic, and at the bedside. We strongly encourage you to consider these clinical activities a priority. Important learning opportunities include morning rounds, Mortality and Morbidity Conference, Surgery Grand Rounds, and Cohn's Conference. There are also many rotation-specific conferences for which you should obtain a schedule from the chief at the beginning of each rotation. (see Didactics Participation section)

## Assessment & Grading

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

### Final Grade Percentage Breakdown

Shelf Exam	30%
General Surgery Evaluation	25%
Subspecialty Evaluation	15%
Suture Skills Lab	10%
Didactics Participation	10%
Professionalism	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Your General Surgery Evaluation, Subspecialty Evaluation and Shelf Exam are broken down into 3 categories: Honors = 3pts, High Pass = 2pts, and Pass = 1pt. Each category is given a point value, which equates to the percentage for its corresponding area of evaluation. For example: If an Honors is given for an evaluation in General Surgery = the student receives  $3/3 = 100\%$  of 25%; if a High Pass is given for an evaluation in General Surgery = the student receives  $2/3 = 66\%$  of 25%; if a Pass is given for an evaluation in General Surgery = the student receives  $1/3 = 33\%$  of 25%. This criterion is the same for the

Subspecialty Evaluation and the Shelf Exam score.

### ***Shelf Scores 30%***

Grade	Exam Score Criteria	Points Earned
Honors	78 and above	3
High Pass	71 -77	2
Pass	59 - 70	1
Fail	58 and below	0

**Note: If one scores 59-70 on the shelf, one cannot earn an Honors for the course.**

As the minimum score is updated by the national recommendation, the grading scale will change to reflect the national standard for all grading categories: Honors, High Pass, Pass, and Fail.

Students will be evaluated by faculty and residents with whom they have had sufficient contact to allow a valid assessment. **Student performance in the clerkship is directly related to the level of participation and enthusiasm shown for clinical responsibilities.** Do not be afraid to ask questions or request guidance in identifying useful resources. In addition, please ask the chief resident to provide you with feedback at least once during each rotation.

### ***Evaluations 25% & 15%***

Each student will request at least one evaluation from a faculty member for the general surgery portion of the clerkship, and for the subspecialty portion of the clerkship. The student can request evaluations from residents and fellows, but they are not required.

The evaluations must be requested before the student sits for the shelf but should be requested as soon as possible during the rotation.

**Note: Residents and fellows are not faculty**

### ***Helpful Insights***

*All evaluations submitted will be used to determine your final score. Therefore, you should request extra evaluations thoughtfully and cautiously. It is not uncommon for residents to grade tougher than attendings.*

## **Suture Skills 10%**

Each student will attend suture skills labs or clinics as directed by their branch coordinator. The student will be responsible for the care and maintenance of any equipment assigned for the labs. The skills labs are mandatory and the coordinator, attending, or resident will assign the schedule.

- Students will be given a numbered Suture Skills kit that includes:
  - A knot tying board
  - A suturing kit
- Students **MUST** return the Suture Skills kit (knot tying board and suturing kit) to your branch coordinator. **If the kit is not returned, a grade of an *Incomplete* will be given in the course until the kit is returned.**
  - If the kit is returned with any trash and/or used needles, there will be a loss of points for the suture skills grade
- Throughout the 12-week Clerkship, students are required to view demonstration videos on the Moodle page and practice to proficiency.
- If you are doing your suture skills in Baton Rouge or Lafayette, please give your certificate/test to the Branch Coordinator so that you will receive credit for taking the suture test.

The types of knots included in the Suture Skills Lab are:

1. 2 handed knot – surgeon
2. 2 handed knot –slip
3. 1 handed knot – slip
4. Simple suture w/ instrument tie
5. Vertical mattress w/ instrument tie
6. Horizontal mattress w/ instrument tie

The Suture Skills Lab grade will be calculated according to completion of the Suture test and the return of the suture kit in the condition it was assigned to you.

## ***Didactic Participation 10%***

- A. Students will attend conferences and didactics as required per their branch and/or subspecialty. Attendance is mandatory, and failure to attend will result in loss of points toward the grade. Allowances will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Your branch residents, attending, or coordinator will give you information on the conference schedules.

- B. Each student will prepare a PowerPoint presentation of a surgical patient (examples can be found on Moodle). The possible topics can be found in the handout titled “Study Topics by Week.” The presentation can be on a real patient or created from a case found online. The presentation must be turned in to the Clerkship Coordinator and turned in on Moodle.
- C. Each student will get “Mid-Rotation Feedback” from a resident or faculty member. The forms can be found on Moodle. The completed (signed, printed name, and dated) forms must be turned in on Moodle. The original, or a PDF copy, can be turned in on the day of the Shelf.
- D. Each student will attend a Scrub/OR Skills lab as directed. This lab is mandatory before being allowed to “scrub in” on surgical cases. Students rotating on multiple campuses may have to attend multiple labs.

## ***Professionalism 10%***

LSUHSC School of Medicine in New Orleans expects its students to act in accordance with the school’s professional guidelines and to present themselves as professional healthcare students when representing the institution. Students are expected to demonstrate cultural awareness and humility and treat all patients, peers, faculty, and staff with respect.

In addition to the SOM Program Objectives listed below, surgery clerkship students are expected to:

- A. Read and answer e-mails in a timely manner
- B. Attend all scheduled classes, labs, conferences etc.

- C. Never not show up. Ensure that your coordinator and team know that you will be absent as soon as possible, and pre-arrange absences when known in advance
- D. Understand that this clerkship is not static and schedules may change on short notice, be able to adapt

### **Educational Program Objectives related to Professional Behavior:**

Professional Behavior (PB) – Our graduates demonstrate integrity, ethical reasoning, accountability, and a commitment to their professional responsibilities with patients and caregivers, faculty and staff, colleagues, communities, and the medical profession as a whole.

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- EPO PB 1 – Display honesty, integrity, and accountability in all assessments and written assignments.
  - EPO PB 2 – Adhere to attendance and other professional requirements and complete assignments and tasks in a timely manner, in both classroom and clinical settings.
  - EPO PB 3 – Demonstrate sensitivity and respect for patients, families, peers, teachers, administrative staff, and healthcare team members across diverse populations in all situations.
  - EPO PB 4 – Maintain patient privacy and confidentiality.
  - EPO PB 5 – Consistently advocate in the best interest of one's patients, including fair access to care.
  - EPO PB 6 – Recognize and address personal well-being needs that may impact professional performance.

Pillars of our professional guidelines include appropriate **communication** with others, **engagement** in coursework, **honesty and integrity** at all times, consistent effort in **personal and professional development**, and **adherence to all school policies**.

## Goals, Objectives & Expectations

### Clerkship Goals

The educational goals of the surgery student and to provide the third-year medical student with an exposure to common surgical problems, develop basic clinical decision-making skills in this patient population applicable to future practice, provide technical skills appropriate for a third- year student, and provide students with an experience that allows them to evaluate surgery as a future career choice.

The overall clerkship EPOs can be located on the Surgery Clerkship Moodle Page.

Please note that all specialty sections have their own objectives and expectations.

Some of these objectives and expectations can be found on the Surgery Clerkship Moodle page. For others, students will be given information before their scheduled rotations.

The following are services that the students may have the opportunity to rotate with:

Cohn's Service	Vascular Surgery	Plastic Surgery	Urology
General Surgery	Bariatrics	Pediatric Surgery	Neurosurgery
Trauma	Plastic Surgery	ENT	
Surgical Oncology	Colorectal Surgery	Orthopedic Surgery	

Note: Not all specialties are available at all branch locations.

The following conditions must be signed off on, by a resident or faculty member, in the Purple Book (Core Clinical Conditions):

- Biliary Tract Disease (Gall Bladder & Bile Duct Disease)
- Breast Mass (not mandatory)
- Colon-Benign-Diverticulitis, IBD
- Colon- Malignant – Colon Cancer
- Hernias-Groin & Ventral - use of mesh
- Hemorrhage
- Post-Operative Care
- Surgical Critical Care
- Vascular Disease or Injury – arterial or venous

The following observed skills must be signed off on by a faculty member only:

- Abdominal Examination

- Airway Assessment
- Progress Not Feedback
- Breast exam (encouraged but not mandatory)

## ***Medical Student Duty Hours Policy***

### **Duty Hour Regulations**

The clerkship phase of the curriculum includes patient care activities as well as didactic learning activities. The clerkship directors developed this policy to be similar to ACGME requirements for residency duty hours.

### **Policy Directives**

Students on required clinical rotations should not spend more than 80 hours per week (on average over the duration of the clerkship) in clinical and didactic learning activities. Students who are assigned to overnight call in the hospital should not have patient care responsibilities after 1:00 PM on the following day. Though the medical school policy is that didactics are still mandatory after overnight call, those who do an in-house 24-hour trauma shift, are free from responsibilities after rounding the morning after. In-house call must occur no more frequently than every third night, averaged over the rotation. Students must have a minimum of one day in seven free of clinical work and required education averaged over the duration of the rotation. Weekends, school holidays, and absences are included in this “one day in seven” guideline.

If a student has concerns that their duty hours have been exceeded, they should contact the clerkship director as soon as possible and can do so without concern that their clerkship evaluation will be negatively affected by the report. If students are not comfortable contacting the clerkship director, they should contact the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, the Director of Student Affairs, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, or one of the Assistant Deans for Student Affairs.

**The surgery clerkship adheres to all policies of the LSUHSC School of Medicine. Copies of the policies can be found on Moodle or by following the link below:**

[LSUHSC Undergraduate Medical Student Policies](#)

**Accessibility Statement:** LSUHSC-New Orleans is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible environment according to the ADA, ADAA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation



Act of 1973. Students in need of classroom accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at [ods@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:ods@lsuhsc.edu). Please keep in mind that accommodations take effect when an accommodation letter has been generated; they are not retroactive. New accommodation letters need to be requested every academic term in which you are enrolled. More information can be found on the ODS website.

**Antidiscrimination Statement:** LSUHSC-New Orleans welcomes and respects individuals from all backgrounds and viewpoints. All faculty and students should be treated with dignity and empathy. Discrimination and harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

**Names:** All students should be treated with professional consideration and respect. While our university data system requires the use of legal names and gender markers on official documents, students are welcome to inform instructors of the preferred name that they use. In some instances, preferred names may be modified on ID badges as well. Students who have questions concerning this policy are encouraged to contact the [university registrar](#).

**Title IX Statement:** LSUHSC-NO promotes integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual misconduct, and power-based violence. As your course director and/or instructor, I am mandated to report to the Title IX Coordinator any incident of Title IX or power-based violence told directly to me. Exceptions to this required reporting include disclosures that are shared in the course of academic work such as a class discussion, group work, etc. Confidential resources that do not have the reporting requirement are available through CAP and the Ombuds.

All gender restrooms can be found in several locations on campus.

[All gender restroom locations](#)

LSUHSC-NO does not discriminate against anyone with pregnancy or parenting status. Reasonable accommodations are available to anyone who requests them. [Lactation spaces](#) are available across campus as well.

## VI. REFERENCES

[Office of Disability Services](#)

[Office of the Registrar](#)

Title IX Office