

University of Colorado School of Medicine Phase III Grading Policy and Overview

Grading in the third year of medical school is different than in the first and second year. While the first two years use written exams as the primary means to determine honors, third year grades are primarily based on evaluations completed by your supervisors (residents and attending physicians) about your performance in the clinical setting. You will be evaluated by a number of different supervisors for each block/clerkship. Based on the nature of the clinical setting, each student will have a slightly different experience as he/she will work with different supervisors and see different patients.

Grading in the third year is normative which means that at the end of the year only the top 30% of students are eligible for honors in each clerkship. The second 30% are eligible for high pass, however a total of only 70% of students may receive honors/high pass grades in a given clerkship so there is some flexibility in the final percentages of honors and high pass. Students are compared to the other students on their clerkship over the course of the entire year based on their evaluations and performance to make grading decisions. At the end of the year, all grades are eligible for review and may be adjusted.

Each block/clerkship is different but there are certain grading characteristics that are the same across all of the blocks/clerkships in third year:

1. All use Oasis to gather evaluations from the faculty and residents that you work with. These evaluations include ample space for comments separated into two different sections – one section that includes comments that could be used in your Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) and one section that is designed to encourage formative feedback for your growth and will not be included in the MSPE but will be considered by grading committees when determining final grades.
 - a. Evaluations are required from any faculty or resident that you work with for at least three sessions or with whom you have other meaningful clinical contact with. Clerkship staff will enter evaluators into the Oasis system however they may ask students to identify those supervisors they worked with for three or more sessions or have had meaningful clinical contact with. Failure to provide a complete list may be considered an Honor Code violation.
 - b. Some clerkships may also collect numeric/Likert scale ratings of your performance from evaluators as well as narrative. Likert scale questions may differ between blocks. If a clerkship includes numeric scores in grading, the Likert scale questions will be provided to students at orientation and a summary of numeric scores will be provided to students along with their final grade and narrative comments at the completion of the course.
 - c. Narrative comments will be identified by the author's name and title on the grade sheet.
2. There are several common required elements that do not contribute to the final grade for each block/clerkship, but must be completed in order to pass each block/clerkship. These elements include:
 - a. Attendance at block orientation and any required intra-sessions
 - b. Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions)
 - c. Mid-point feedback form
 - d. Direct observation forms (exact number or requirements differ from block to block)
 - e. Complete Oasis evaluations in which the student evaluates their supervisors and the block/clerkship. Many clerkships track this as a Canvas assignment.
3. All blocks/clerkships utilize a grading committee to determine grades. The committee includes at least four different people (generally this includes the block director(s), at least one additional faculty from the department, and the course coordinator). The names of all individuals participating in the grading committee discussion for your grade will be listed on your grading sheet.

4. All blocks/clerkships that utilize an NBME shelf exam weigh the exam score as 20% of the final grade. There are no separate NBME shelf exam score cut-offs for high pass and honors.
 - a. The passing score for all NBME shelf exams is set at 2 standard deviations below the national mean.
 - b. Students who fail an exam will have the opportunity to retake the exam, but those students will only be eligible for a final grade of Pass regardless of the final shelf exam score.
5. Clerkships will provide clinical grades based on the clinical evaluations as well as overall grades that include the clinical grade and the scores on the exam and other required assignments. The clinical grade will be displayed on your Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) if it differs from the overall grade.
 - a. Students must achieve a clinical grade of Honors to qualify for a final grade of Honors.
6. All grades must be submitted by the course director to the student and the Office of Student Life within four weeks of the end of the block/clerkship.

For more information on grading and the grading process, please reference the current University of Colorado School of Medicine handbook, available at: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/education/studentaffairs/studentresources/Documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Block/Clerkship	Components used to determine grade	Criteria for Honors	Criteria for High Pass	Required assignments that don't contribute to the grade but must be completed to pass
Musculoskeletal Care (MC) **Pass/Fail only**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Evaluations Mid-block case presentation Written Exam 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend orientation and small group session Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) 2 direct observation form Complete New Innovations evaluations ≥ 60% on written exam
Emergency Care (EC) **Pass/Fail only**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Evaluations Final Written Exam 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend orientation Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) 4 direct observation forms Complete New Innovations evaluations Attend all educational sessions Participate in simulation experience Participate in triage/intake and pre-hospital experience ≥ 70 on final written exam
Neurologic Care (NC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% – Clinical Evaluations 20% – NBME Shelf Exam 5% – Participation (i.e. all required forms and activities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be in the top 20% of your block. Meet all requirements for a high pass grade without remediation. Demonstrate <i>outstanding</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. Score ≥ 77 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be in the top 40% of your block. Demonstrate <i>excellent</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. Fully complete all assignments on time. Have satisfactory attendance and exhibit professional behavior throughout the clerkship. Score ≥ 77 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend orientation(s) Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) Mid-point feedback form 3 direct observation forms Complete New Innovations evaluations Score ≥ 60 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam Attend the CAPE session Attend all PBL sessions on time and in a professional manner
Psychiatric Care (PC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Evaluations Final NBME Shelf Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be in the top 20% of your block. Score ≥ 80 (national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam. Demonstrate <i>outstanding</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be in the top 40% of your block. Score ≥ 80 (national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam. Demonstrate <i>excellent</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend orientation Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) Mid-point feedback form 4 direct observation forms Complete New Innovations evaluations Participation in weekly Reflective Writing Groups Participation in weekly Chief Rounds Score an average of 70% across 3 weekly quizzes Score ≥ 65 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam

Block/Clerkship	Components used to determine grade	Criteria for Honors	Criteria for High Pass	Required assignments that don't contribute to the grade but must be completed to pass
Rural & Community Care (RCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% – Clinical Evaluations • 10% – Community Service Learning Project • 10% – Online PCMH Modules & derm/oral identification quiz. • 20% – NBME Shelf Exam • 5% – Power Point Presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 20% of your block. • Meet all requirements for a high pass grade without remediation. • Fully complete all assignments on time. • Score ≥ 75 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate <i>outstanding</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 40% of your block. • Satisfactorily complete all course requirements by the end of the block and complete course and faculty evaluations. • Have satisfactory attendance and exhibit professional behavior throughout the clerkship. • Score ≥ 60 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate <i>excellent</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend orientation and intrasession • Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) • Mid-point feedback form • 2 direct observation forms • Complete New Innovations evaluations • Learning goals and reflection at intrasession • Score ≥ 60 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam.
Adult Ambulatory Care (AAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% – Clinical Evaluations (15% from Specialty preceptor) • 20% – NBME Shelf Exam • 5% – Specialty preceptor • 5% – Professionalism • 10% – Preventive Medicine Project • 5% – Power Point Presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 20% of your block. • Meet all requirements for a high pass grade without remediation. • Fully complete all assignments on time. • Score ≥ 75 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam • Demonstrate <i>outstanding</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 40% of your block. • Satisfactorily complete all course requirements by the end of the block. • Have satisfactory attendance and exhibit professional behavior throughout the clerkship. • Score ≥ 60 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate <i>excellent</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend orientation • Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) • Mid-point feedback form • 2 direct observation forms • Complete New Innovations evaluations • Didactic attendance and participation • Palliative Care day attendance and participation (orientation/clinical experience/debriefing) • Score ≥ 60 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam
Women's Care (WC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% – Clinical Evaluations • 20% – NBME Shelf Exam • 5% – Journal Club • 5% – Professionalism • 5% – Ethics Small Group and Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 20% of your block. • Fully complete all assignments on time. • Score ≥ 77 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate <i>outstanding</i> performance on all Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 40% of your block. • Satisfactorily complete all course requirements by the end of the block. • Score ≥ 77 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate <i>excellent</i> performance on all Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend orientation and intersession • Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) • Mid-point feedback form • 5 direct observation forms • Complete New Innovations evaluations • Participate in CAPE small group session and BAR Lab • Receive passing score on 2 H&Ps • Score ≥ 60 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam.

Block/Clerkship	Components used to determine grade	Criteria for Honors	Criteria for High Pass	Required assignments that don't contribute to the grade but must be completed to pass
Infant, Child and Adolescent Care (ICAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Evaluations • NBME Shelf Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 20% of your block. • Meet all requirements for a high pass grade without remediation. • Complete all assignments on time. • Score ≥ 77 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate behaviors consistent with interpreter/manager roles based on comments on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 40% of your block. • Have satisfactory attendance and exhibit professional behavior throughout the clerkship. • Score ≥ 59 (2 standard deviations below national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate behaviors consistent with novice interpreter role based on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend orientation and 2 day intrasession • Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) • Mid-point feedback form • 5 direct observation forms (including 1 for an ear, throat and chest exam, 1 development of a differential diagnosis, 1 development of a management/treatment plan, 1 culturally effective medicine encounter and 1 "student choice" that may be related to a self-identified learning goal) • Complete New Innovations evaluations • Individualized learning goals • Note feedback forms • Newborn exam observation • Reflective writing and discussion • Prescription writing exercises • Score ≥ 59 (2 standard deviations below national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam
Operative and Perioperative Care (OPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% – Clinical evaluations • 20% – NBME shelf exam • 10% – Informed Consent Thread • 7.5% – Long Case Report • 7.5% – Student presentation • 5% – Professionalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 20% of your block. • Honors level clinical evaluations. • Exceptional patient care. • Initiative. • Self-guided review of literature/research. • Score ≥ 74 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 40% of your block. • Solid patient care. • Initiative. • Self-guided review of literature/research. • Score ≥ 74 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend orientation • Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) • Mid-point feedback form • 7 direct observation forms • Complete New Innovations evaluations • Completion of 1 yellow card (attending observation) • Ophthalmology small group participation • Radiology small group participation/quiz • Anesthesia simulation/quiz • > 50% on Anesthesia Quiz • Score ≥ 57 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam
Hospitalized Adult Care (HAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% – Clinical Evaluations • 15% – NBME Shelf Exam • 15% – TBL Sessions • 5% – Professionalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 20% of your block. • Demonstrate <i>advanced level</i> of performance/competency in course requirements. • Score ≥ 74 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in the top 40% of your block. • Demonstrate <i>above expected level</i> of performance/competency in course requirements. • Score ≥ 59 on NBME Shelf Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend orientation and intrasession • Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) • Mid-point feedback form • 7 direct observation forms • Complete New Innovations evaluations • EBM Project • 2 H&Ps for faculty review • Attend Clinical Transformations session • Score ≥ 59 on NBME Shelf Exam

Block/Clerkship	Components used to determine grade	Criteria for Honors	Criteria for High Pass	Required assignments that don't contribute to the grade but must be completed to pass
Denver Health Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will enroll in LIC courses corresponding to traditional blocks and grading criteria will be identical to block rotations. Students should refer to LIC grading policy for specific questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As described for each traditional block rotation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As described for each traditional block rotation. 	Students will have assignments that correspond to individual block requirements described above. In addition, there are a number of unique LIC requirements listed in the course handbook. Students should refer to the LIC handbook for a detailed list of requirements and due dates as well as requirements related to patient continuity and small group participation.
Integrated Longitudinal Medicine Clerkship (ILMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15% – HAC clinical evaluations • 4% – HAC TBL sessions • 45% – ILMC clinical Evaluations • 5% – Preventive Medicine Project • 5% – Community service learning • 5% – PowerPoint presentation • 6% – IM Essentials Self-Assessments & E-Learning Modules • 15% – NBME Shelf Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet all requirements for a high pass grade without remediation. • Fully complete all assignments on time and demonstrate punctuality for course activities. • Score ≥ 74 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. • Demonstrate <i>outstanding</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet all requirements for a passing grade without remediation by the end of the block. • Fully complete all assignments on time and demonstrate punctuality for course activities. • Score ≥ 59 on NBME Shelf Exam • Demonstrate <i>excellent</i> performance on your Clinical Evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend HAC orientation and intrasession • Attend ILMC Orientation and Intrasession • ILMC Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions) • 2 Mid-point feedback form • 8 HAC direct observation forms • Complete New Innovations evaluations • EBM Project • 2 H&Ps for faculty review • Attend Clinical Transformations session • Transitions in care & Palliative Care discussions • Attend 8 Hospital CME/Medical Staff Meetings • Score ≥ 59 on NBME Shelf Exam
Colorado Springs Mentored Integrated Curriculum (COSMIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will enroll in LIC courses corresponding to traditional blocks and grading criteria will be identical to block rotations. Students should refer to LIC grading policy for specific questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As described for each traditional block rotation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As described for each traditional block rotation. 	Students will have assignments that correspond to individual block requirements described above. In addition, there area number of unique LIC requirements listed in the course handbook. Students should refer to the LIC handbook for a detailed list of requirements and due dates as well as requirements related to patient continuity and small group participation.
VA Sequential Training Program (VAST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades for the four clerkships included in the VAST Program (HAC, OPC, PC, NC) are determined using the same metrics outlined above. • There are no additional grades assigned as part of the VAST Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As described for each traditional block rotation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As described for each traditional block rotation. 	<p>In addition to the specific requirements for each block, VAST students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 5 Longitudinal Care Visits and associated encounter forms • Attend Tuesday afternoon small group sessions • Complete a “Do No Harm Project” • Complete 5 Care of the Veteran Encounter Forms