

UC DAVIS CLINICAL PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION (CPX)

Exam Dates:

- Phase 1:** SP Examination: May 1 – 20, 2013 (weekdays)
- Phase 2:** Video Review/action plan: Within 2 weeks of SP examination
- Phase 3:** Faculty Review/action plan revision: Within 4 weeks of SP examination
- Phase 4:** Action Plan follow-up: Over 4th year

Exam times: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Exam location: Clinical Education and Resource Center
Medical Education Building, Sacramento

WHAT IS THE CPX?

The CPX is a four-part exam and exercise given at the end of your third year to assess and improve the clinical performance of medical students throughout their 4th year. Consider it a “*clinical final examination*” for your third year and preparation for the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination.

In the UC Davis CPX, students interact with standardized patients, review their own performance, and later meet with a faculty member to discuss individual results. All students develop an action plan for improving their skills over the fourth year, and follow-up with the skills center during their 4th year. Students who do not meet minimum performance criteria will participate in mandatory skills-building workshops and practice exercises.

WHAT IS EVALUATED?

This exam will evaluate your clinical skills in the following areas:

- Focused, appropriate history
- Focused, appropriate physical examination
- Communication skills
- Information sharing (discussing diagnosis, plan and follow-up)
- Patient satisfaction
- Clinical courtesy/etiquette (introductions, pace, hand-washing, modesty, etc.)

WHAT ARE THE CPX ACTIVITIES (called “Phases”)?

Phase 1: Standardized patient evaluation. The first phase of the CPX is meant to simulate a busy clinic experience. You will spend a half-day in “clinic” and interact with 8 standardized patients (SP). The cases will cover common and important situations that a physician is likely to encounter in a general ambulatory clinic. The cases include chronic, sub-acute and acute presentations of disease. Standardized patients are selected to represent a broad range of age, racial and ethnic backgrounds. You should respond to their issues as you would if you were seeing real patients in a clinic. All SP interactions will be videotaped.

Each Standardized Patient interaction (depending on the case) will last 15 or 20 minutes. Your performance will be assessed by the standardized patient. After each interaction, you will spend 10 minutes completing a computer-based interstation exercise. You will answer a series of questions that may require you to come up with a plausible differential diagnosis, determine appropriate treatment and follow-up, reflect upon alternate clinical scenarios, or reflect on your interaction with the standardized patient.

Phase 2: Individual video review and action plan formation (also called an “individualized learning plan” or ILP). 2 to 10 days after your exam, you will review a digital video of your SP interactions, teaching videos, and develop an ILP for improvement of your clinical skills. You will be given your SP scores, class benchmarks, and SP comments. You will schedule this video review (Phase 2) at the conclusion of the clinical exam day. This activity will take 1 to 1.5 hours.

Phase 3: Faculty review. 4 to 7 days after you review your tape, you will meet with a faculty member for approx. a 1.5 hour session. You will review 1-2 video segments, and discuss your ILP. After the meeting, you will revise your ILP. (This revision will take an additional 10 – 20 minutes.) The faculty will focus on “big picture” issues, and provide feedback. You will schedule this meeting (Phase 3) at the conclusion of the clinical exam day as well. This activity (faculty session and revision of ILP) will take approximately 2 hours.

Phase 4: Skills improvement. All students will be expected to follow-up on their ILP over the course of the year. Students will be expected to update their action plan on a regular basis.

Failing the examination: Every professional has skill areas in which they need to improve. Students who do not meet minimum performance criteria will participate in a series of mandatory workshops and exercises in their fourth year, designed to improve their clinical skills. These students will follow-up with an assigned mentor, and may be required to participate in a re-test of their clinical skills midway through the year.

ORIENTATION

We will hold two **mandatory** one-hour orientation sessions for students in March and April. If possible bring your flight plan to this session so that you may review both schedules for any potential conflicts.

HONOR CODE:

The Honor Code is extremely important – since a similar exam is administered at different times throughout the state. You may not discuss the exam with other UCD students or with other California medical students **UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

SCHEDULING:

This exam and follow-up exercises are **MANDATORY.**
It is **ESSENTIAL** that each of you completes the exam within the designated time.

Terri Hall (terri.hall@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu), will schedule students on a random basis. Please cc Haydee Pineda-Johnson, Clinical Education & Resource Center Manager (haydee.pineda-johnson@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)

Specific requests for particular exam dates will be considered only with a valid reason (away rotation, etc.) You must submit your request by March 29, 2013. No changes to the schedule will be allowed after this date except in case of emergency.

For additional information, please contact the UCD CPX Director, Dr. Malathi Srinivasan (malathi@ucdavis.edu)