

Family Medicine Longitudinal Clerkship Syllabus

Academic Year 2026-2027

OPSEF Block

Contact Information

Attention: Please copy the Clerkship Coordinator on all e-mail communication related to the clerkship.

Family Medicine Clerkship Coordinator:

Vonntia Flores, B.S.

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Family Medicine Clerkship Director:

Luz M. Luna, MD, MPH

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Office Phone Number: 915-215-6737

Office Address: Room 127, 9849 Kenworthy St. El Paso, Texas 79924.

Family Medicine Assistant Clerkship Director:

Justin Wright, M.D., FAAFP, FAMSSM

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Office Phone Number: 915-215-5563

Office Address: Room 146, 9849 Kenworthy St. El Paso, Texas 79924.

Student Resources

Office of Accessibility Services

TTUHSC EP is committed to providing access to learning opportunities for all students with documented learning disabilities. To ensure access to this course and your program, please contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) by calling 915-215-4398 to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting accommodations in the classroom and clinical setting. Accommodations are not provided retroactively, so students are encouraged to register with OAS as soon as possible. More information can be found on the OAS website: <https://elpaso.ttuhsc.edu/studentservices/accessibility/default.aspx>

Counseling Assistance

TTUHSC EP is committed to the well-being of our students. Students may experience a range of academic, social, and personal stressors, which can be overwhelming. If you or someone you know needs comprehensive or crisis mental health support assistance, on-campus mental health services are available Monday- Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., without an appointment. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 915-215-TALK (8255) or emailing support.elp@ttuhsc.edu. The offices are located in MSBII, Suite 2C201. Related information can be found at <https://el Paso.ttuhsc.edu/student-services/student-support-center/get-connected/> Additionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached by calling or texting 988.

Reporting Student Conduct Issues

Campus community members who observe or become aware of potential student misconduct can use the Student Incident Report Form to file a report with the Office of Student Services and Student Engagement. Student behaviors that may violate the student code of conduct, student handbook, or other TTUHSC policies, regulations, or rules are considered to be student misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, harassment, drug use, or theft.

TTUHSC El Paso Campus CARE Team

The university CARE Team is here to support students who may be feeling overwhelmed, experiencing significant stress, or facing challenges that could impact their well-being or safety. If your professor notices any signs that you or someone else might need help, they may check in with you personally and will often connect you with the CARE Team. This is not about being “in trouble”—it’s about ensuring you have access to trained professionals who can offer support and connect you to helpful resources. Additionally, if you have any concerns about your own well-being or that of a fellow student, please don’t hesitate to reach out to let your professor know. You can also make a referral to the CARE Team using CARE Report Form. Your health, safety, and success are our top priorities, and we’re here to help.

Clerkship Description

Students can expect to encounter a variety of clinic patients ranging from newborns to geriatric patients. In this syllabus, you can also review the assignments that are required before the end of the clerkship. Professionalism and attendance expectations are outlined on the Common Clerkship Policies and will be enforced in this clerkship.

Calendar of Events

This part of the Syllabus will be updated based on the dates for Academic Year 2026-2027. Please see an Addendum with the Calendar of Events.

Clerkship Locations

All clerkship students can expect to rotate at the Texas Tech Family Medicine Kenworthy clinic during different times of the rotation and the address is 9849 Kenworthy, El Paso Texas 79924. The code to the door is 482830. However, you can expect different shifts to be located in different parts of the city. Please check on Elantra to see the updated location for every one of your shifts and let the Clerkship Coordinator know if you have any questions.

Clerkship Objectives

This longitudinal clerkship provides ample exposure to the undifferentiated patient. The Goals and Objectives outlined below are met through your clinical experiences. All of the clerkship learning objectives are linked to the Texas Tech Medical Education Program Goals and Objectives or PGOs in parenthesis for your reference.

Knowledge for Practice

Goal: The student will gain and develop an effective understanding of the assessments and management of common clinical conditions seen by the family physician in outpatient settings. The learner will demonstrate the ability to acquire, critically interpret, and apply this knowledge.

Objectives: By the end of the Family Medicine Clerkship students will be able to:

- Describe the prevalence and natural history of common acute illnesses and chronic diseases over the course of the individual and family life cycle including identification and treatment of acute and chronic pain (2.1, 2.3).
- Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic approach to clinical situations integrating basic and clinical science concepts in the diagnosis and management of illness and disease (2.2, 2.3, and 2.4).

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- OpLogs
- Mid-clerkship feedback

Patient Care

Goal: The students must be able to provide patient-centered care that is age-appropriate, compassionate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Objectives: By the end of the Family Medicine Clerkship students will be able to:

- Gather information, formulate differential diagnoses, and propose plans for the initial evaluation and management of patients with common presentations seen in Family Medicine (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 2.1).

- Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions using patient information and preferences, scientific evidence, and clinical judgment (1.2, 1.6, 2.4, and 2.5).
- Apply screening protocols based on evidence-based guidelines to identify risks of disease or injury and opportunities to promote wellness over the course of the lifespan (1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 6.3).
- Apply culturally appropriate behavioral change strategies to support patient wellness (1.8, 4.1, 4.3, and 5.1).

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- OpLogs
- Mid-clerkship feedback

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Goal: The Student will develop knowledge of specific techniques and methods that facilitate effective and empathic communication with patients and their families, faculty, residents, staff, and fellow students.

Objectives: By the end of the Family Medicine Clerkship students will be able to:

- Create and sustain a therapeutically sound relationship with patients and their families based on a patient-centered approach (4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6).
- Effectively educate patients and their families about health, illness, and prevention as appropriate to the clinical situation (1.8, 2.5, 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, and 6.3).
- Demonstrate effective, respectful communication with clinical faculty, other health care professionals, and staff (4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, and 5.6).
- Clearly and accurately document information in the medical record (4.4, 1.7, and 5.7).
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with patients and their families through interpreters for those with limited English language proficiency (4.1, 4.3, and 7.2).

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- Mid-clerkship feedback

Professionalism/Ethics

Goal: Students must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Objectives: Throughout the Family Medicine Clerkship, the student will demonstrate:

- Respect for patients, their families, and all members of the health care team (5.1, 4.3, 5.6).
- Adherence to ethical principles governing the doctor-patient relationship including respect for patient confidentiality and privacy (5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.6).

- Respect for patients whose lifestyles and values may be different from those of the student (5, 1, 2.5, 4.1).
- Awareness of the limits of one's own knowledge, experience, and capabilities (5.3, 3.1, 8.1).

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- OpLogs
- Mid-clerkship feedback

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Goal: The student will understand the application of scientific evidence and accept feedback for continuous self-assessment in the improvement of patient care practices.

Objectives: Throughout the Family Medicine Clerkship the student will demonstrate the ability to:

- Locate, evaluate, and apply evidence from scientific studies related to the patient's health problems (3.4, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6).
- Apply knowledge of study design and statistical methods to the appraisal of information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness (3.4, 3.5, 2.4).
- Use information technology and electronic resources to access, manage, and evaluate information in support of personal education (3.3, 3.4, 8.1, 8.4, 8.5).
- Solicit and respond to feedback to improve one's clinical practices (3.3, 3.1, 3.2, 5.7, 8.1, 8.4).

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- OpLogs
- Mid-clerkship feedback

Systems-Based Practice

Goal: Students must demonstrate an awareness of medical systems and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care and the ability to effectively utilize system resources to provide optimal care. The student will develop an appreciation of supportive health care resources, and understand their utilization as part of patient advocacy.

Objectives: By the end of the Family Medicine Clerkship, the student will be able to:

- Describe the role of the family physician as a coordinator of care and team member (6.1, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1).
- Discuss the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for providing longitudinal, comprehensive, and integrated care for patients with common chronic medical problems (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.2, 3.4, 7.2, 8.1).
- Collaborate with other health professionals to provide patient-centered and preventive services across the lifespan (6.1, 6.2, 6.4, , 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4).
- Assist patients in dealing with system complexities to reduce access barriers (1.8, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3,

6.4).

- Identify appropriate medical and non-medical consultative resources (6.2, 6.4, 7.2).
- Describe strategies for controlling health care costs and allocating resources without compromising quality of care (6.3)

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- Mid-clerkship feedback

Inter-professional Collaboration

Goal: Demonstrate the ability to engage in an Interprofessional team in a manner that optimizes safe, effective patient and population-centered care.

Objectives: By the end of the Family Medicine Clerkship, the student will be able to:

- Describe the roles of health care professionals. (7.1)
- Use knowledge of one's own role and the roles of other health care professionals to work together in providing safe and effective care. (7.2)
- Function effectively both as a team leader and team member. (7.3)
- Recognize and respond appropriately to circumstances involving conflict with other health care professionals and team members. (7.4)

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- Mid-clerkship feedback

Personal and Professional Development

Goal: Demonstrate the qualities required to sustain lifelong personal and professional growth.

Objectives: By the end of the Family Medicine Clerkship, the student will be able to:

- Recognize when to take responsibility and when to seek assistance. (8.1)
- Demonstrate healthy coping mechanisms in response to stress and professional responsibilities. (8.2)
- Demonstrate flexibility in adjusting to change and difficult situations. (8.3)

Assessment Sources:

- Preceptor evaluations
- Mid-clerkship feedback

During your clinical experiences, you can expect to practice the following objectives:

Acute Complaint Visit:

- Differentiate among common etiologies based on the presenting symptom(s). (1.3, 1.2)
- Recognize "don't miss" conditions that may present with a particular symptom(s). (1.5, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
- Elicit a focused history and perform a focused physical examination. (1.1)
- Discuss the importance of a cost-effective and evidence-based approach to the diagnostic work-up. (2.3, 6.3)
- Describe the initial management of a common and potentially life-threatening diagnosis that present with particular symptoms. (1.2, 1.5, 1.6)
- Communicate the above information in an organized and concise fashion to preceptor (faculty or residents). (4.2)

Chronic Follow-up Visit:

- Find and apply diagnostic criteria. (2.2, 2.3)
- Find and apply surveillance strategies. (2.4, 2.3)
- Elicit a focused history that includes information about adherence, self-management, and barriers to care. (2.5, 1.1, 1.8, 4.1)
- Perform a focused physical examination that includes identification of complications. (1.1, 2.1)
- Assess improvement or progression of the chronic disease. (2.2, 1.3)
- Describe major treatment modalities. (1.2, 1.6, 2.3)
- Propose evidence-based management that includes pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments and appropriate surveillance and tertiary prevention. (2.3, 1.2, 1.6)
- Communicate appropriately with other health professionals (e.g. physical therapist, nutritionists, and counselors). (4.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3)
- Educate a patient about an aspect of his/her disease respectfully, using language that the patient understands. (1.8, 4.1, 5.1)

Integration Threads

The following is a list of topics that will be integrated into the Block and will also be visited by other Clerkships in the third year. Under each category is noted the examples of activities you can expect for each thread.

Geriatrics: Ambulatory clinic experiences	Patient Safety: Campus CME events, ambulatory clinic experiences	Communication Skills: Ambulatory clinic experiences
Basic Sciences: Ambulatory clinic experiences, Sports Medicine clinic	Pain Management: Ambulatory clinic experiences	Diagnostic Imaging: Ambulatory clinic experiences
Ethics: Orientation, Campus CME opportunities and ambulatory clinic experiences	Chronic Illness Care: Ambulatory clinic experiences	Clinical Pathology: Ambulatory clinic experiences
Professionalism: Ambulatory clinic experiences and mid-clerkship feedback	Palliative Care: Ambulatory clinic experiences	Clinical/Translational Research: Ambulatory clinic experiences
Evidence Based Medicine: Ambulatory clinic experiences	Quality Improvement: Campus CME events, ambulatory clinic experiences	Interprofessional Collaboration: Ambulatory clinic experiences

Required Assignments

Please submit all assignments on Elantra and contact the Clerkship coordinator if you have any questions.

Assignment	Requirement
Preceptor Evaluations	A minimum of one evaluation by the end of the Clerkship. Please ask for an evaluation at the end of each shift. Please see Elantra for more details about this assignment.
OpLogs	A minimum of 6 entries. No required conditions for this part of the clerkship.

Preceptor Evaluations

Please check Elantra to see a sample of the grading rubric for each competency of the evaluations that are completed by preceptors.

Feedback

Students will receive verbal and written feedback from the preceptor during and after each clinic session at the Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso Family Medicine Clinic and community clinics. Students are required to make sure they receive their completed clinical evaluations from preceptors. Students can also expect to receive feedback throughout the rotation from the Clerkship coordinator, assistant director, and director.

You can expect a mid-clerkship feedback form to be completed by the Clerkship Director or Assistant Clerkship Director through Elantra, please review it and notify the Clerkship team if you have any questions or wish to discuss.

Behavioral Expectations

Attendance Policy, OpLog Policy, and the Duty Hour Policies among other important policies can be found on the Common Clerkship Policies. Please review the Common Clerkship Policies document in its entirety prior to the start of the Clerkship.

Educational and clinical professionalism expectations are also outlined on the Common Clerkship Policies. Additional clinical behavioral expectations are outlined below:

- All procedures, vaccinations, and sensitive examinations (not limited but including genital, breast, low abdomen, buttocks) may only be done under direct supervision of a supervisory preceptor.
- Students are expected to document a minimum of two patients per clinical session in the Texas Tech EMR system when rotating within Texas Tech
- Students will review charts of patients to be seen the following day, the day before. (See guidelines for Family Medicine Clinic Chart Review on Elantra)

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

TTUHSC EP may utilize institution-approved artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted tools to support teaching, learning, and grading processes. AI tools are used to enhance efficiency and consistency; however, they do not replace faculty expertise, professional judgment, or final decision-making authority. Examples of permitted AI-supported functions may include, but are not limited to: assignment completion support where explicitly allowed, verification of

submission completeness, preliminary rubric-aligned feedback, similarity checks, scoring assistance, and workflow efficiency improvements. Faculty are responsible for reviewing and verifying AI-generated outputs prior to assigning grades or providing final feedback. Student use of AI tools (including generative AI platforms) is governed by course-specific guidelines. In some assignments, AI use may be permitted; in others, it may be limited or prohibited. Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to these expectations. Any AI-generated or AI-assisted content must be appropriately disclosed and cited in accordance with course instructions to maintain academic integrity. Failure to follow course AI guidelines may constitute academic misconduct. Students should be aware that AI-generated content may contain inaccuracies, incomplete information, or embedded bias. Students remain responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of all submitted work. Faculty retain full responsibility for final evaluation of student performance. Students may request clarification regarding grading processes or feedback and may appeal decisions through established institutional procedures.

Final Assessment

Student final assessments are based on the clerkship director's judgment as to whether the student passes or fails on each of 8 competencies described by the PLFSOM discipline performance rubric. The final clerkship performance assessment is conducted at the end of the rotation based on the student's level of performance across the block. It is expected that over the course of the block, student performance will have improved in many or all categories, based on constructive feedback and growing familiarity with the clinical discipline and patient care. In other words, the final assessment is not an average of the student's performance.

Competency grades are based on clinical assessments by faculty and residents, clerkship assignments and activities and professionalism as outlined in the clerkship syllabi. Clinical assessments are carefully reviewed by the clerkship directors and considered in relation to all students in the cohort and their use in the final grade is at the discretion of the clerkship director.

Possible Final Grades are Pass, Fail, In Progress (PR) and Deferred (DE) unless otherwise specified. The overall grade is based on the 8 competencies. A student who fails Professionalism may receive a Pass or a Fail overall at the discretion of the course/clerkship director, regardless of the scores on all other items. For more information, please refer to the Clinical Grading Policy included on the Common Clerkship Policies document.

Questions

Please don't hesitate to contact the Family Medicine Clerkship team as soon as possible at the contact information on the first page.