

03 27 20 Year 3 Town Hall Chat Questions

Topic Areas	Questions	Answers
Aron Hall	What happens if a student in Aron hall tests positive for COVID? Will we be notified?	We recognize this is a cause for stress. Our Medical Education Infectious Disease team keeps an eye this and looks at appropriate protocols for Covid-19 cases. Please refer to the MedInfo app: www.medinfo.mssm.edu for more details.
Assessment	Can our clerkship grades still get "bumped up" like previous years even if not everyone will take each clerkship by application time?	Grading adjustments are determined under the assumption of an equal educational experience across the four modules of the academic year. Given the significant differences in Module 3, we are currently modeling how to apply grading adjustments. This will be finalized before June 26.
Assessment	What about clerkship grades for people going into surgery who will not have surgery grades until the fall?	The goal in scheduling Year 3 clerkships in Year 4 is to complete them as early as possible. The sooner a student completes the clerkship, the sooner the grades will be available.
Assessment	Will we be graded on the same scale as the new third years?	No, 4th year students completing a 3rd year clerkship will be graded separately from the 3rd year students in the same block.
Assessment	So because we will share module 4 with the class "below" (aka rising MS3s), will there be any change to the distribution of honors/HP/P?	No, 4th year students completing a 3rd year clerkship will be graded separately from the 3rd year students in the same block.
Assessment	Will grading be changed for clerkship we did not finish/cut off? Other schools have changed to only Pass/Fail instead of their regular grading system.	The shelf exam for Module 3 clerkships will be scored as pass/fail. The grading for module 3 clerkships will be based on all other grading components as stated in the CIS form. Cutoffs will be based off of models applying the same criteria to modules 1 & 2.
Assessment	I was wondering whether or not the timing of grade adjustments (I understand it's over the summer) for standardization and bumping up of some grades will still take place before we apply to residency. Past classes have had these prior to applying to residency and I know our class would want the same, but could be difficult given modules 3 and 4's interruption this year. Personally, I think it would be a huge disadvantage to not have that happen for us this year.	Grading adjustments are determined under the assumption of an equal educational experience across the four modules of the academic year. Given the significant differences in Module 3, we are currently modeling how to apply grading adjustments. This will be finalized before June 26.
Clerkships	When will new year 3 medical students start?	Assuming that the academic year will begin on our usual schedule, the end of June - rising Year 3 students will start clerkships after InFocus 5.
Clerkships	Is there a timeline when will the 4th year lottery take place?	Our first priority is to determine the curriculum organization and once that it is set our next step is determining the best approach to the lottery. The Curricular Affairs team is works closely with the Registrar and Student Affairs to plan and rollout the lottery. We will update you as we know more.
Clerkships	Will the 4th year lottery still be happening next week during InFocus? This is a lot of new information that is going to take time to digest and properly plan for 4th year.	At this time we will not be running the Year 4 Lottery during InFocus 7.
Clerkships	Can we get an updated document with calendar, options for each clerkship, timeline options, and etc?	This is currently being worked on. We will provide these to you once we have them available.
Clerkships	What is happening with the Year 3 and 4 Lotteries	For now both lotteries are on hold while we work out all the details of the curriculum. We hope to be able to communicate more details once our curriculum plan has been approved.
Clerkships	Can we get an updated Year 3/Year 4 calendar with options of how this looks based on which modules you had remaining? With dates of NBMEs (even tentative), deadlines for STEP 2 CK/CS, and the three options that Dr. Soriano provided for us regarding the timeline of taking shelf exams and completing modules 3 and 4. Even if this is a tentative google doc that gets updated (or can use this google doc).	This is not available at this time. We have future plans to share with you after figuring out the logistical requirements of such a plan.
Clerkships	Other schools have shorter medicine/family requirements (4 weeks), and do not have a required EM or neurology rotation. Given this is there any room for adjustments to the length of our clerkships and number of requirements next year?	Our Medical Education Program Objectives (MEPOs) which were determined by the EOC and approved by our accrediting and governing bodies dictate the entire selection of courses and clerkship in the medical school. The course/clerkship length is dictated by the amount of time to deliver the content material and assessment of meeting the course/clerkship objectives. However we are planning to have the clerkships be taken without the constraints of the traditional pairing within the Module duration. Therefore, one may take the medicine clerkship apart from taking the ACG clerkship.
Electives	If the remaining 2 weeks of module 3 were elective time, can that be completed during the COVID time period?	This question would be applicable for those of you who finished OB/GYN and Pediatrics or Surgery in Module AB. If that's the case, those two weeks are considered elective time.
Electives	Does the concurrent electives include student workforce	Yes, student workforce can be applied to the total of three concurrent electives.
Electives	Do you get credit for the online board course only if you do it with the official June/July course? Or is there a way to get credit by watching the online course	It is possible that the Step 2 CK live online course will be offered in June rather than July - more information will follow. Starting this week, the Step 2 CK course from last year will be posted on Blackboard. 2 weeks of elective credit will be given for any student who both watches the materials and who submits a score report for a practice test to Lauren Linkowski. While students may participate in both last year's course and this year's course, elective credit will only be given one time.
Electives	Where on blackboard can we find the list of electives?	The list of electives can be found on Blackboard in the Electives organization: https://learn.mssm.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/listContentEditable.jsp?content_id=_562553_1&course_id=_4997_1&mode=reset
Electives	Can Sinai provide funding for paid online courses (like coursera)? The free options are very limited	Paid online subscription courses are being explored. Many offer the learner the option to audit or take the classes without fees.
Electives	It would be nice if we could take the Step 2 prep course on the honor system. Are you willing to consider this?	It is possible that the Step 2 CK live online course will be offered in June rather than July - more information will follow. Starting this week, the Step 2 CK course from last year will be posted on Blackboard. 2 weeks of elective credit will be given for any student who both watches the materials and who submits a score report for a practice test to Lauren Linkowski. While students may participate in both last year's course and this year's course, elective credit will only be given one time.
Electives	I understand that it's hard to say something concrete because a lot is changing every day, but it would be super helpful to at least be able to plan out the next couple of months. That is, should we concretely plan to fill all of the remaining weeks leading up to Y4 with electives / online courses?	We recommend that you take electives now so that you have more flexibility next year. And we thank you for any opportunities you are taking to volunteer. In addition, there is a growing list of electives on the blackboard site. In addition, with a mentor's support you can participate in research electives. There is some discussion of lowering the cap of electives but at this time we are no where near making a final decision for that. Students should definitely keep track of all the electives they are participating in.
Electives	Given away rotations won't be possible for Sinai students, would Icahn SOM consider doing early/internal acceptance residency applications (as was done for MS2s) as a way of helping some of the students?	While we have not considered expanding the early assurance program at the present, we are working with ISMMS GME and PDs to place our students as a priority in the application process. We hope to have more to share after an early-April meeting with the GME team.
Electives	We are currently able to receive elective credit for step 2 ck in July with the course, but many people are now trying to take it and study before July. Can the course be offered earlier? (I think this was addressed by Forsyth and they're working on it but worth mentioning again or asking if it can be counted from rewatching last year on a honor code basis)	It is possible that the Step 2 CK live online course will be offered in June rather than July - more information will follow. Starting this week, the Step 2 CK course from last year will be posted on Blackboard. 2 weeks of elective credit will be given for any student who both watches the materials and who submits a score report for a practice test to Lauren Linkowski. While students may participate in both last year's course and this year's course, elective credit will only be given one time.
Electives	Can volunteer credit be awarded the same way tailor made electives are awarded? Having to track the hour by hour puts people in a position where they have to volunteer at least 40 hours a week to receive any significant credit. Those that are volunteering are working really hard, juggling many responsibilities, and in reality, many electives that we would otherwise be taking during a normal year are not actually closely monitored on an hourly basis every day to reach 40 hours a week.	Currently, all longitudinal volunteer elective works by counting the hours of work. At this time, we are not changing the process.

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Electives Residency Planning	If we anticipate that national leadership will allow away rotations without completing all core clerkships, why are we not allowed to apply anyways and plan for 4th year schedule?	The concerns nationally are both core clerkships and timing. At the present time, many schools have discontinued processing away requests due to staffing issues. We are asking that a national moratorium to process be called so that everyone has a fair shot at aways. Additionally, we are leaning into our GME colleagues to determine what modifications will be made to the expectations of having audition rotations as part of the residency application.
Electives Residency Planning	If the ground rules for away rotation qualifications will change, why are we not allowed to apply for away rotations and allowed to have away institutions deny us because many away rotations are not cancelled on a national basis? We're disproportionately disadvantaged if this is the case - the elective office is not even allowed to approve VSAS/VLSO applications that just need home institution approval to send to the host institution (the student has already filled out all the forms on their end, the elective office should be allowed to just hit the approved button)	For students waiting to hear about VSLO and away electives: Our school and many others have made a decision not to process applications for away electives at this time. This decision is based on a number of factors: Students who have not completed all core clerkships at their home institution are not eligible for away electives. Specialties have begun to announce decisions about not requiring "audition electives" for next year's residency application cycle. There is a national discussion underway to consider a moratorium on all away electives. Student Health does not have the capacity to complete the necessary medical clearance paperwork. Its clinical staff are increasingly being pulled to fill critical functions needed to support inpatient and outpatient care for the pandemic. Please be patient with us while we continue to participate in the national dialogue on VSLO and away electives. We want to do what is best for all medical students, recognizing that, while we in New York are being impacted first, in the coming weeks the pandemic will spread across the country and force us all to rethink how the coming academic year will be structured.
Finance	Thank you for your explanation, however, many students are frustrated that the justification for tuition is that the school is continuing to offer material. Many 1/2/4th years are still getting the same content they would otherwise receive — this is not true for 3rd years. However, many of these courses are online courses offered to the public and research electives. Can you speak more about how this is justified?	Please refer to Dr. Muller's explanation in the Year 3 Town Hall recording: https://mssm.zoom.us/rec/share/2cp1puh7XIOa7kuH_8WUIUBEd-6X6a80CgX8qIEn0sDFONnCCs7XpS2ppRMgZbH?startTime=1585253362000
InFocus 7	Why are we doing INFOCUS next week? Doing CPI projects (improving process maps) etc. requires working with administration in the hospital. As you know, many key people to talk to will be preoccupied.	One of our guiding principles is to ensure that you remain on track for graduation. Completion of all courses and clerkships' learning objectives as dictated by our Medical Education Program Objectives are required to accomplish this. We felt it best to keep the timing of the course to this week while there may still be faculty to teach. The InFocus 7 team will adjust as faculty drop out to ensure that you acquire the knowledge and skills to meet the objectives of the course.
InFocus 7	Is there any way to shift CPI projects to be Covid-19 oriented so that it can be more applicable for us and for the hospital at this time?	Unfortunately it is not possible. IF 7 projects are continued from IF 6.
LCME	What has the LCME said, given the pandemic, regarding the program accreditation expectations/requirements?	The LCME posts all announcements on their website at lcme.org .
Mod 3	If we are expected to complete 2w of module 3 in MS4, does that mean no grades will be given out until then? What about other clerkship-related assignments?	All clerkship assignments which were required to be completed BEFORE the cancellation of the rest of the clerkship needs to be completed. Assignments expected to be completed AFTER THE FULL DURATION of the clerkship do not need to be completed and will be done once the clerkships resume in end of June.
Mod 3	Dr Soriano, please clarify- so module 3 clerkship assignments are no longer due this coming Monday?	All clerkship assignments which were required to be completed BEFORE the cancellation of the rest of the clerkship needs to be completed. Assignments expected to be completed AFTER THE FULL DURATION of the clerkship do not need to be completed and will be done once the clerkships resume in end of June.
Mod 3	Dr. S, could someone put this information onto a calendar? With dates? and bullet points of what the options are? we know it's been a ton of work to figure this out, but especially with the poor internet connection some of us have, it's confusing	Key points were included in the daily digest on Friday, March 27 and other helpful information will be sent soon.
Mod 3	Just to make sure, so we can do our module 3 starting June 22 and then the new third years start July 6?	Yes the option of starting on June 22 is only for completing the 2 weeks left over from the Module 3 clerkships.
Mod 3 Mod 4 SY	If we have any outstanding shelf exams that were postponed due to illness, personal family issues, or exam remediation, when do you believe will be the earliest we can take these remaining shelf exams (Pediatrics, Family Medicine, and Surgery in my case)? 2) Just to clarify, before starting scholarly year, are we required to complete all MS3 requirements (i.e. any incomplete Module 3 requirements and Module 4 in its entirety)? Would this mean that we're delaying scholarly year until after these requirements are completed?	1) The process of delaying taking the shelf exam for illness or any other reasons will be similar as in the past. Any student who anticipates missing the Shelf Exam should contact Student Affairs. 2) Encourage you to attend the Scholarly Year Town Hall on Thursday, April 2 at 5pm.
Mod 3 SY	So scholarly year students who did not take the shelf for module 3 will have to wait a year and a half before they're able to take shelf?	As a tentative plan for approval by LCME and EOC, one option for Module 3 completion is scheduling it from 6/23 - 7/3 pending resumption of clinical rotations.
Mod 3 SY	Given the circumstances, can those on SY/other year off next year be permitted to complete the remaining 2 weeks of module 3 (+ the shelf) during SY?	Encourage you to attend the Scholarly Year Town Hall on Thursday, April 2 at 5pm.
Mod 3 SY	Just to clarify, before starting scholarly year, are we required to complete all MS3 requirements (i.e. any incomplete Module 3 requirements and Module 4 in its entirety)? Would this mean that we're delaying scholarly year until after these requirements are completed? Is it possible to complete module 3 and any remaining shelf exams before beginning scholarly year, while completing module 4 during MS4 academic year?	The proposed plan is for Scholarly Year students complete the remaining 2 weeks of their Module 3 clerkships before starting their SY. In order to do this, they should take advantage of the option you take it before the Year 4 academic calendar starts on July 6. The remaining Module 4 clerkships can then be scheduled after their SY together with the rest of the Year 4 requirements.
Mod 4	If the ck course is in July, does that mean there will be no module 4 stuff in July?	The CK Review course in July is an elective. One receives credit if they are participating synchronously. However video recordings of sessions are available for asynchronous viewing and review. Therefore a student can schedule clinical rotations/electives in July while reviewing CK Review session recordings asynchronously.
Mod 4	Do we have to do Module 4 in July? Can we do it after residency applications go in?	The plan is to provide as much flexibility as possible in the Year 4 calendar to schedule the remaining Year 3 clerkships and the Year 4 requirements. Therefore one can schedule Year 3 and Year 4 requirements in the calendar and only with a few pre-requisites: 1) All Year 3 clerkship must be completed before being able to do a Senior Clerkship in that field e.g. finish Medicine before doing a Medicine Sub-I, etc.
Mod 4	Will we be able to do sub-i before we do Module 4? Do we have to complete module 4 in order to apply to residency?	The plan is to provide as much flexibility as possible in the Year 4 calendar to schedule the remaining Year 3 clerkships and the Year 4 requirements. Therefore one can schedule Year 3 and Year 4 requirements in the calendar and only with a few pre-requisites: 1) All Year 3 clerkship must be completed before being able to do a Senior Clerkship in that field e.g. finish Medicine before doing a Medicine Sub-I, etc.
Mod 4	Can people who are going into a specialty that was during module 4 be guaranteed a July slot during the next year to complete that rotation?	We will try our very best to accommodate the NEW Year 4 students to complete their Year 3 requirements as much as possible.
Mod 4	Will the medicine/ACG rotation be shortened where possible?	Our Medical Education Program Objectives (MEPOs) which were determined by the EOC and approved by our accrediting and governing bodies dictate the entire selection of courses and clerkship in the medical school. The course/clerkship length is dictated by the amount of time to deliver the content material and assessment of meeting the course/clerkship objectives. However we are planning to have the clerkships be taken without the constraints of the traditional pairing within the Module duration. Therefore, one may take the medicine clerkship apart from taking the ACG clerkship.

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Mod 4	Will block 4 be shortened in any way?	Our Medical Education Program Objectives (MEPOs) which were determined by the EOC and approved by our accrediting and governing bodies dictate the entire selection of courses and clerkship in the medical school. The course/clerkship length is dictated by the amount of time to deliver the content material and assessment of meeting the course/clerkship objectives. However we are planning to have the clerkships be taken without the constraints of the traditional pairing within the Module duration. Therefore, one may take the medicine clerkship apart from taking the ACG clerkship.
Mod 4	Are we still guaranteed to get our original site for our module 4 clerkship?	No. Unfortunately given the current situation, we cannot guarantee that at this time.
Mod 4	How would we even do that if we want to do the step 2 course AND module 4 before ck	We have extended ISMMS' deadline to take CK and CS to December 31. Students are allowed to take CK before they finish Module 3 and 4 requirements. The CK course from last year has been posted on Blackboard for all M3 students. We advise that students to not change their test dates at this time because we a) do not know the reopening schedule of Prometric, b) students are going to need to complete block 3/4 and c) students should not overestimate how much work they can do, given the stressors they are under and the volunteering going on. If a student thinks a change of test date is in order, they should contact Lauren Linkowski, PhD. Students should be encouraged to still give themselves "dedicated" for Step 2.; although, this might be complicated by the fact that students could be studying material for a clerkship they never had a on the way, or are trying to maintain knowledge from Module 3 that will not be tested until June.
Mod 4	The medicine/ACG clerkship is the only one that is 12 weeks. This will offset the schedule for these students -setting them back an additional two weeks. Can it be a consideration to equalize the length of module 4 for all students?	The Medicine clerkship (6 weeks) and the ACG clerkship (6 weeks) have overlapping clerkship learning objectives but are separate distinct ones. To allow for flexibility in the clerkship scheduling for next year, the constraints of having to complete these two clerkships consecutively has been removed. One can now take one of these clerkships, complete all the clerkship requirements and assessments and obtain a clerkship grade for it without having to do the other clerkship right after.
Mod 4	Is it possible to reconsider shortening? For students who are undecided about specialty and haven't taken medicine/ACG, there is now very little time to explore other specialties. Thanks	Our Medical Education Program Objectives (MEPOs) which were determined by the EOC and approved by our accrediting and governing bodies dictate the entire selection of courses and clerkship in the medical school. The course/clerkship length is dictated by the amount of time to deliver the content material and assessment of meeting the course/clerkship objectives. However we are planning to have the clerkships be taken without the constraints of the traditional pairing within the Module duration. Therefore, one may take the medicine clerkship apart from taking the ACG clerkship.
Mod 4 SY	For students taking a SY, is there any opportunity to do some of our module 4 rotations during SY if it fits? especially if it is a rotation that will be important to have before away etc the following year.	Encourage you to attend the SY Town Hall on Thursday, April 2 at 5pm.
Overall	Can we get Formal Meeting Minutes? This is a LOT of info to take in and we want to make sure that we have all of the info we just heard.	Please look at Town Hall summary in the March 27 Bulletin where you can also access the Town Hall video recording
Residency Planning	Can we have a lecture recording of guidelines and tips for writing personal statements?	For tips and personal statement examples, please view http://medinfo.mssm.edu/CPSdocuments . The library is continuing their remote services and students can request a 1:1 Writing Support meeting here: https://libguides.mssm.edu/writingsupport . We will review resources and see what else can be added to the career planning services programming.
Residency Planning	So is ERAS still on a July 15 timeframe?	We are assuming the ERAS application timeline remains as-is; however, we are in constant dialogue with AAMC to provide feedback and concerns surrounding the ERAS 2021 timelines. Student Affairs will keep the class updated as information comes in and will plan accordingly with you and the Faculty Advising team.
Residency Planning	Do we know if early residency matches are still planned? Do we know when interviews/match is expected?	Early Assurance programs are still being honored. Ideally students who are accepted are in regular contact with either the PD or a faculty mentor in that department, and their time is filled with activities like research, teaching, community service, global health, etc. Students are expected to prepare their MSPE in collaboration with Student Affairs, apply to their accepted program in ERAS and register for the NRMP to go through the Match process; however, accepted students are not expected to attend interview day. Students who wish to decline their EA position, should notify the department no later than September 30. More information about the Residency Application Process will be communicated by the Student Affairs team in the coming weeks.
Shelf	Given all this new info, when are shelves happening?	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	Can the shelves be offered in April and also in June after those first 2 weeks for those who want to get them done?	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	Related to Ben Liu's question about Shelf scheduling. Will there be an option to take Shelf exams online with the new NBME option in April/May as was mentioned in an email earlier this week?	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	Especially for the medicine people who have already studied for 11 weeks and want to get this over with.	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	What do you mean online? Are you letting us take them in April?	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	I thought we can't take any shelves early anymore?	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	Can you please clarify if we will be given the option to take the shelf online in April. What was Rob Fallar referring to?	Starting April 7, the NBME is allowing all medical schools to deliver the Shelf Exams remotely. Once Year 4 resumes, students will be able to complete their remaining 2 weeks of their Module 3 clerkships. At the end of this 2 weeks, students may take the Shelf Exam remotely. Students will have 3 options to take 1) On the last day of the rotation 2) 2 weeks after the end of the rotation or 3) 4 weeks after the end of the rotation.
Shelf	So wait, we are taking module 3 shelves before June 26?	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	Given that the plan is to modify grading of the shelf exam to a pass/fail basis as it will be given at home and online, can students still be provided the option to complete the shelf exams for module 3 in April? Especially for medicine and family medicine, for which 10 of the 12 weeks were already completed.	Taking the shelf examination requires completion of all clerkship requirements including all patient experiences and activities. Since these have been cancelled, the Shelf Exams are not being offered at this time and will resume when clerkships resume in end of June.
Shelf	Assuming everything will be back to normal enough to resume clerkships at the end of June, would it be an option to take the Shelf exams normally with in person proctoring to ensure that our scores wouldn't be scrutinized? I am concerned about how our scores would be perceived. Even if we study hard and do well on the exam, our scores would be deemed not comparable to other test takers, or even less valid, because we took it remotely.	For Module 3 clerkships, the Shelf Exam will be administered remotely to provide the Year 4 students some flexibility in scheduling. For Module 4 clerkships, the Shelf Exams will be administered on-site as scheduled and in-sync with the Year 3 students.

