Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine

Sub-Internship and Elective Grading Policy – DRAFT

Key Words:
Electives, Sub-Internship, Grading, Evaluation

Summary of Purpose:
This policy was created to set standards for the grading of students during their sub-internships and years 3 and 4 electives.

Guideline:

Scope and Applicability:
Faculty, Staff and Students

Definitions:
Sub-Internship: A clinical experience that is intended to give students a more advanced level of direct patient care responsibility, greater than that required during a third-year or fourth-year clerkship or elective, and comparable to the level of clinical responsibility assumed by an intern (although often with less pressure and volume). The key concept is that the student assumes direct responsibility for management of patient care, reporting directly to a resident or attending physician, assuming the place or responsibilities of an intern. These must be at least 4 weeks in length.

Policy Statement:
Elective course directors will choose whether their course will be graded on a PASS/FAIL basis or an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail basis. Sub-Internships will only be graded on an Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail basis. All Sub-internships and those Electives using the Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail scheme will include a narrative section in addition to the letter grade.

Procedure:
Elective directors will be contacted jointly by the Office of Clinical Education and the Registrar’s Office and asked to choose between the two grading options. The default scheme will be PASS/FAIL. The grading scheme will be highlighted on the elective database so that students will be aware of the scheme used. The elective directors who choose the H/HP/P/F scheme will be asked to justify their use of that scheme by explaining the evaluation process they use.

Grades submitted using the H/HP/P/F scheme will be returned to the sub-internship or elective director for revision if narrative comments are not included.

Background:
The basis for this policy includes the recognition that the evaluative processes used by elective varies depending on the duration, structure and type of elective offered. Hence, many directors, faculty and students are less confident of the validity of the H/HP/P/F grading process. On the other hand, required clerkships and sub-internships generally have more oversight and academic support, more defined curricula, more methods of assessment and mid-course feedback, and have a higher volume of students thus enabling them to more confidently assign grades on the H/HP/P/F scheme.

Summary

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Authorized By: Medical Education Committee

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