University of Colorado School of Medicine Phase III Grading Overview

Grading in the third year of medical school is different than in the first and second year. While the first two years used 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 they will work with different supervisors and see different patients.

Grading in the third year is normative which means that only the top 20% of students are eligible for honors in each block/clerkship. The second 20% are eligible for high pass. Students are compared to the other students on their block/clerkship based on their evaluations and performance to make grading decisions. However, at the end of the year, all grades are reviewed and may be adjusted based on the performance of the entire year of students. Honors and high pass grades should not exceed 50% of all assigned grades over the entire year.

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 New Innovations to gather evaluations from the faculty and residents that you work with. These evaluations include both ratings of performance on the competencies and ample space for comments. There are two different sections for comments – one section that includes comments that could be used in your Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE, i.e. “Dean’s Letter”) and one section that is designed to encourage formative feedback for your growth and will not be included in the MSPE.
2. Evaluations will be required from any faculty or resident that you work with for at least three sessions. Some blocks/clerkships will assign evaluations in New Innovations differently, but this is the minimum.
3. 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:
   a. Attendance at block orientation and any required intrasessions
   b. Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions)
   c. Mid-point feedback form
   d. Direct observation forms (exact number or requirements may differ from block to block)
   e. Complete New Innovations evaluations in which the student evaluates their supervisors and the block/clerkship
4. All blocks/clerkships utilize a grading committee to determine grades. The committee includes at least 4 different people (generally this includes the course 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.
5. All blocks/clerkships that utilize the NBME shelf exam utilize national benchmarks for determining passing, high pass, and honors grades.
6. Some blocks/clerkships provide clinical grades based on the clinical evaluations as well as overall grades that include the clinical grade but also your score on the exam or other required assignments. The clinical grade will be displayed on your Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE, i.e. “Dean’s Letter”) if it is higher than the overall grade.
7. All grades must be submitted by the course director to the student and the Office of Student Life within 4 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/medicalschool/education/studentaffairs/studentresources/Documents/StudentHandbook.pdf
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</thead>
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| **Musculoskeletal Care (MC)** **Pass/Fail only** | • Clinical Evaluations  
• Mid-block case presentation  
Written Exam  | N/A                 | N/A                                                                     | • 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** | • Clinical Evaluations  
• Final Written Exam  | N/A                 | N/A                                                                     | • 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)** | • 75% – Clinical Evaluations  
• 20% – NBME Shelf Exam  
• 5% – Participation (i.e. all required forms and activities)  | • Be in the top 20% of your block.  
• Meet all requirements for a high pass grade without remediation.  
• Demonstrate outstanding performance on your Clinical Evaluations.  
• Score ≥ 77 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam.  | • Be in the top 40% of your block.  
• Demonstrate excellent 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.  | • 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)** | • Clinical Evaluations  
• Final NBME Shelf Exam  | • Be in the top 20% of your block.  
• Score ≥ 80 (national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam.  
• Demonstrate outstanding performance on your Clinical Evaluations.  | • Be in the top 40% of your block.  
• Score ≥ 80 (national mean) on NBME Shelf Exam.  
• Demonstrate excellent performance on your Clinical Evaluations.  | • 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 |
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| **Rural & Community Care (RCC)**                    | • 55% – Clinical Evaluations  
• 10% – Community Service Learning Project  
• 10% – Online PCMH Modules & derm/oral identification quiz.  
• 20% – NBME Shelf Exam  
• 5% – Power Point Presentation | • 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 *outstanding* performance on your Clinical Evaluations. | • 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 *excellent* performance on your Clinical Evaluations. | • Attend orientation and intersession  
• Logger (duty hours and core clinical conditions)  
• Mid-point feedback form  
• 2 direct observation forms  
• Complete New Innovations evaluations  
• Learning goals and reflection at intersession  
Score ≥ 60 (2 standard deviations below the national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. |
| **Adult Ambulatory Care (AAC)**                     | • 55% – Clinical Evaluations (15% from Specialty preceptor)  
• 20% – NBME Shelf Exam  
• 5% – Specialty preceptor  
• 5% – Professionalism  
• 10% – Preventive Medicine Project  
• 5% – Power Point Presentation | • 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 *outstanding* performance on your Clinical Evaluations. | • 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 *excellent* performance on your Clinical Evaluations. | • 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)**                               | • 65% – Clinical Evaluations  
• 20% – NBME Shelf Exam  
• 5% – Journal Club  
• 5% – Professionalism  
• 5% – Ethics Small Group and Assignment | • Be in the top 20% of your block.  
• Fully complete all assignments on time.  
• Score ≥ 77 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam.  
• Demonstrate *outstanding* performance on all Clinical Evaluations. | • 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 *excellent* performance on all Clinical Evaluations. | • 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. |
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| Infant, Child and Adolescent Care (ICAC) | • Clinical Evaluations  
• NBME Shelf Exam | • 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. | • 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. | • 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) | • 50% – Clinical evaluations  
• 20% – NBME shelf exam  
• 10% – Informed Consent Thread  
• 7.5% – Long Case Report  
• 7.5% – Student presentation  
• 5% – Professionalism | • 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. | • 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. | • 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)          | • 65% – Clinical Evaluations  
• 15% – NBME Shelf Exam  
• 15% – TBL Sessions  
• 5% – Professionalism | • Be in the top 20% of your block.  
• Demonstrate advanced level of performance/competency in course requirements.  
• Score ≥ 74 (national mean) on the NBME Shelf Exam. | • Be in the top 40% of your block.  
• Demonstrate above expected level of performance/competency in course requirements.  
Score ≥59 on NBME Shelf Exam | • 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 ≥s9 on NBME Shelf Exam |
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<td><strong>Denver Health Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC)</strong></td>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• As described for each traditional block rotation.</td>
<td>• As described for each traditional block rotation.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Integrated Longitudinal Medicine Clerkship (ILMC)</strong></td>
<td>• 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 &amp; E-Learning Modules • 15% – NBME Shelf Exam</td>
<td>• 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 outstanding performance on your Clinical Evaluations.</td>
<td>• 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 excellent performance on your Clinical Evaluations.</td>
<td>• 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&amp;Ps for faculty review • Attend Clinical Transformations session • Transitions in care &amp; Palliative Care discussions • Attend 8 Hospital CME/Medical Staff Meetings • Score ≥59 on NBME Shelf Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Colorado Springs Mentored Integrated Curriculum (COSMIC)</strong></td>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• As described for each traditional block rotation.</td>
<td>• As described for each traditional block rotation.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>VA Sequential Training Program (VAST)</strong></td>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• As described for each traditional block rotation.</td>
<td>• As described for each traditional block rotation.</td>
<td>In addition to the specific requirements for each block, VAST students must: • 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</td>
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