

**YALE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE POLICY**

**CLINICAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT (C-OSCE) REQUIREMENT FOR  
GRADUATION**

**Background**

It is important to have a formal assessment of clinical skills to determine whether students have achieved the required level of competence in history taking, physical examination, communication and clinical reasoning.

For Yale medical students, this formal assessment occurs in the clinical skills facility at the University of Connecticut. Students evaluate simulated patients, who portray patients with common clinical presentations, and rate the performance based on checklists and rating scales. All encounters are videotaped. Passing standards are determined with accepted procedures.

If a student fails the assessment, he/she meets with a member of the Yale Skills Assessment Team to review his/her performance based on established criteria and create an action plan for improvement. The student then returns to the University of Connecticut for re-assessment in six to eight weeks.

**Policy**

1. Students must demonstrate competence in clinical skills, determined by passing the C-OSCE (Clerkship OSCE) assessment, as a requirement for graduation.
2. C-OSCE is offered in the months of November and December. Students will be scheduled to take it in one of those months as close to the completion of their clerkships as possible, recognizing that some students such as those who have postponed a clerkship will have to take the assessment before they have completed all of their clerkships.
3. If a student fails on his/her first attempt, the student and his/her Academic Advisor are notified and a plan is made for remediation. Two additional attempts to pass within the next 12 months are permitted.
4. Failure on three attempts results in dismissal. Based on extraordinary circumstances, the Progress Committee may direct the Clinical Skills Assessment Committee (CSAC) to independently evaluate the student's clinical skills, drawing upon observations in the two recent remediation periods and, if needed, new assessments. If the CSAC confirms insufficient clinical skills, the student will be dismissed. On the contrary, if the CSAC determines that the student demonstrates a minimum competence in clinical skills, she/he will be credited for this graduation requirement.