

# YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE POLICY

## NARRATIVE ASSESSMENT

### **I. Pre-Clerkship Narrative Commentaries**

Commentaries are narrative descriptions that provide students with formative feedback about their performance as well as opportunities for academic and professional growth and development. The selection of workshops providing narrative feedback is based upon the opportunity for faculty and students to meet in consistent groups over a minimum of 10 sessions, with each group consisting of 13 or fewer students.

Commentaries in Professional Responsibility and Populations and Methods are generally a short letter or paragraph based on criteria such as collaboration, preparation, professionalism, oral and written communication, and critical thinking.

Students will receive a copy of their commentary from their workshop leader(s). In addition, a copy will be stored in the Office of Curriculum and the Office of Student Affairs. Academic Advisors may use commentaries to guide support for students in areas needing improvement.

Commentaries will be provided for the following pre-clerkship workshops:

- Professional Responsibility
- Populations and Methods

Students have the option of requesting additional formative commentaries from faculty leading other course or thread workshops or labs.

### **II. Clinical Skills and Medical Coaching Experience Narrative Commentaries**

A narrative assessment is provided as a component of the student's clinical skills and medical coaching experience sessions. Narrative feedback is provided in sessions where a student is observed in direct patient or standardized patient contact within a group consisting of 4 or fewer students, in which the student receiving the assessment has an active care role (i.e., not simply observation) for at least 20 continuous minutes. In sessions where faculty and students meet in consistent groups over a minimum of 3 sessions, the narrative assessment can occur at the end of the group continuity experience, or on an interim basis at the discretion of the faculty.

Commentaries in Clinical Skills and the MCE may include paragraphs, written lists of feedback points, and behavior-based checklists. The criteria for evaluation include the development and demonstration a of communication, physical exam, and presentation skills.

### **III. Clerkship and Elective Narrative Commentaries**

A narrative assessment is provided as a component of the student's final evaluation in each of the required clerkships. The narrative assessment may be included in the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE).