

# Yale SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MD PROGRAM

Competencies, Educational Program Objectives, and Milestones



# Overview

The Yale School of Medicine (YSM) competencies frame our goals for the knowledge, skills, and attributes that we aim for YSM MD students to attain prior to graduation. The associated educational program objectives (EPOs) describe the components of each competency and guide our curricular learning objectives.

Below we list our nine competencies. Under each one, we describe the associated EPOs, followed by measurable or observable milestones, which students should demonstrate by the end of each phase of their medical education: pre-clerkship, clerkship, and advanced training period (ATP). At the end of each EPO, we have a critical deficiency heading. If a student exhibits these behaviors, they will require additional support and remediation to help them achieve the milestones for that EPO.

We have developed this guide as a tool for students, longitudinal coaches, academic advisors, and other faculty to help students track their progress as they move through the curriculum, and ensure they graduate with all nine competencies.

## **NINE COMPETENCIES**

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- Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- Clinical Reasoning
- Mechanisms and Treatment of Disease
- Patient Care
- Professional Identity Formation
- Communication
- Responsibility to Society
- Creation and Dissemination of Knowledge
- Physician as Scientist

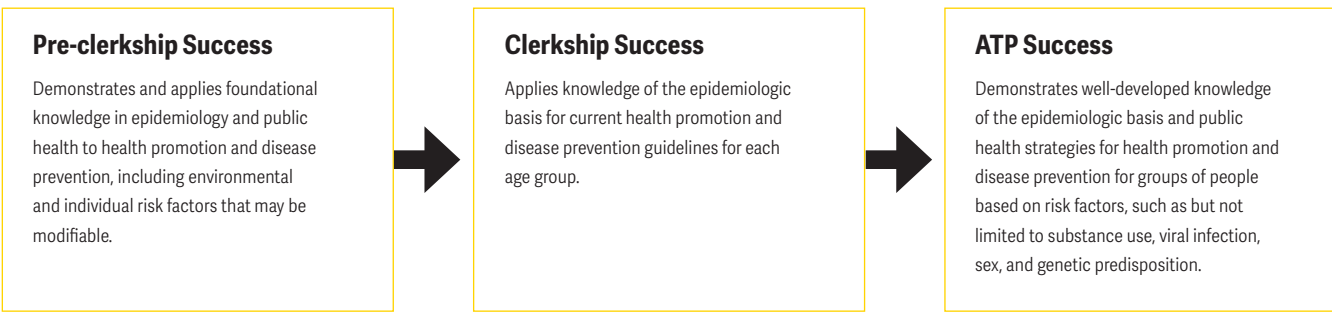
**COMPETENCY**

# Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Students apply scientific knowledge and use clinical skills to promote health and prevent disease in individuals and communities.

## HP1.1 Educational Program Objective

Apply principles of epidemiology and social-behavioral sciences to health promotion and disease prevention for patients and communities.

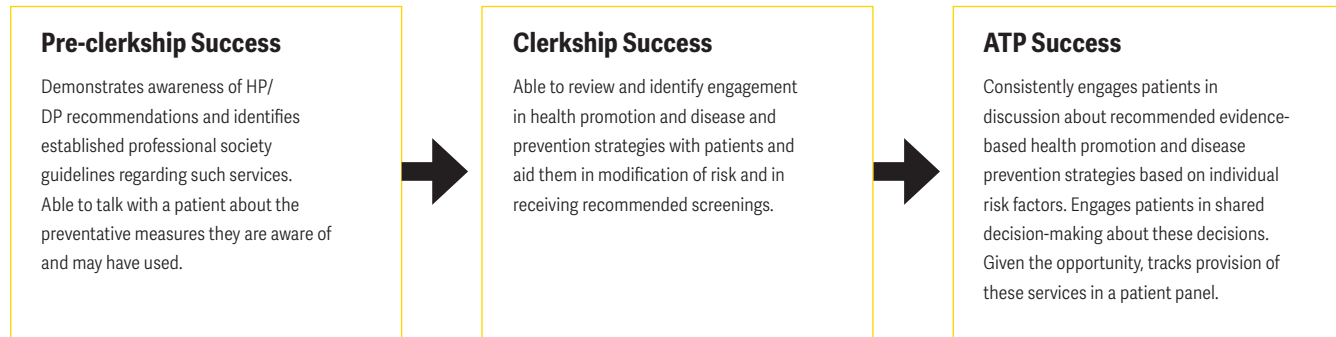


### Critical Deficiencies

Very limited knowledge and unaware of the importance of these population sciences in identifying health promotion and disease prevention (HP/DP). Makes little effort to identify and close gaps.

### HP1.2 Educational Program Objective

Provide health care services to patients, families, and communities aimed at preventing health problems or maintaining health, including screening, counseling, immunizations, and chemoprophylaxis.



#### Critical Deficiencies

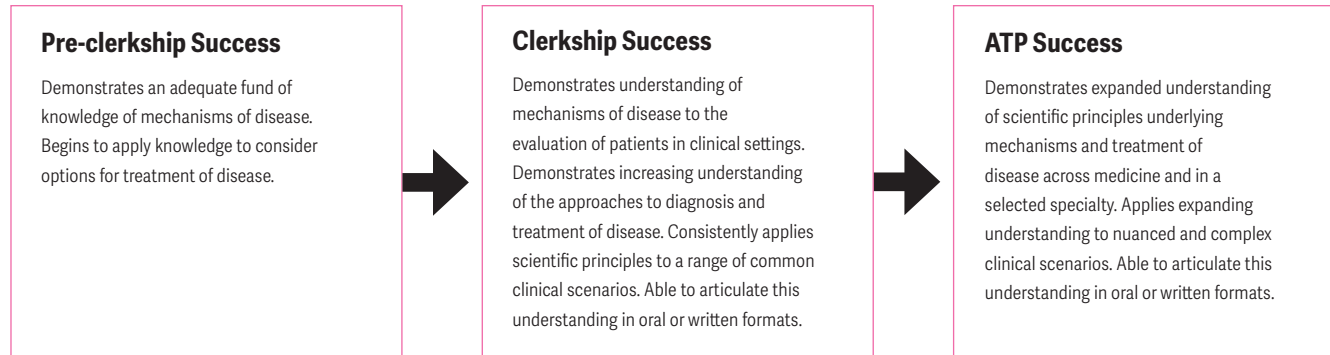
Unaware of the health promotion / disease prevention (HP/DP) maneuvers recommended for their patients. Does not consult guidelines or other information resources.

**COMPETENCY****Mechanisms and Treatment of Disease**

Students acquire knowledge at the molecular, cellular, organ-system, whole body, and psychosocial levels, and integrate this knowledge with clinical science and skills to diagnose and treat disease.

**MTD2.1 Educational Program Objective**

Apply established and emerging bio-physical, clinical, epidemiologic, and psychosocial scientific principles to the provision of health care for patients, including identification of disease, diagnosis, disease frequency, risk factors, prognosis, and treatment strategies.

**Critical Deficiencies**

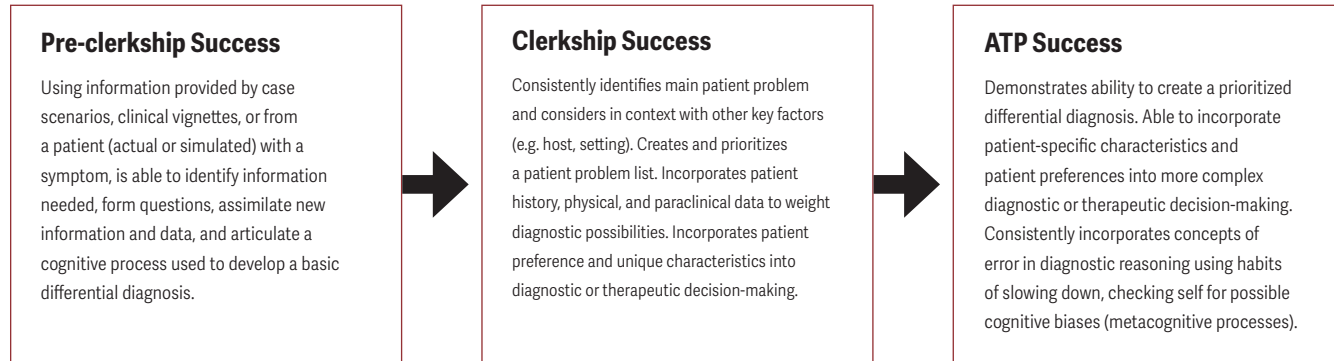
Unable to demonstrate sufficient knowledge in medical sciences. May lack awareness of these gaps. Does not apply knowledge to care for patients.

**COMPETENCY****Clinical Reasoning**

Students apply established and emerging principles of clinical sciences to diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making and clinical problem-solving based on a thorough understanding of the patient's history, physical exam, and diagnostic studies.

**CR3.1 Educational Program Objective**

Apply established and emerging principles of clinical sciences to diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making and clinical problem-solving, based on patient information and preferences and up-to-date scientific evidence while minimizing the impact of cognitive errors. Recognize that uncertainty is part of clinical health care and respond by utilizing appropriate resources.

**Critical Deficiencies**

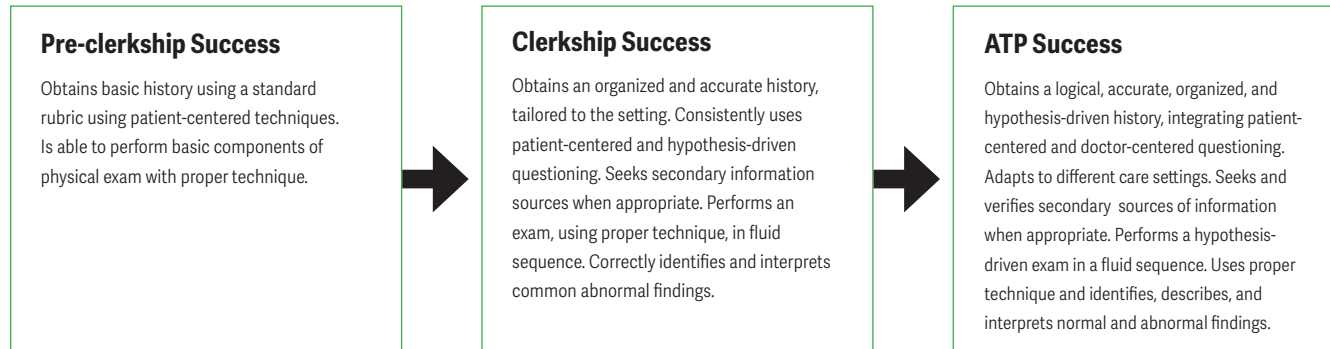
Disregards patient preferences. Cannot gather or synthesize data to inform an acceptable diagnosis. Lacks basic medical knowledge to reason effectively. Develops and acts on a management plan before receiving team's endorsement. Cannot explain or document clinical reasoning.

**COMPETENCY****Patient Care**

Students achieve competency in the care of patients at a level required to excel in residency.

**PC4.1 Educational Program Objective**

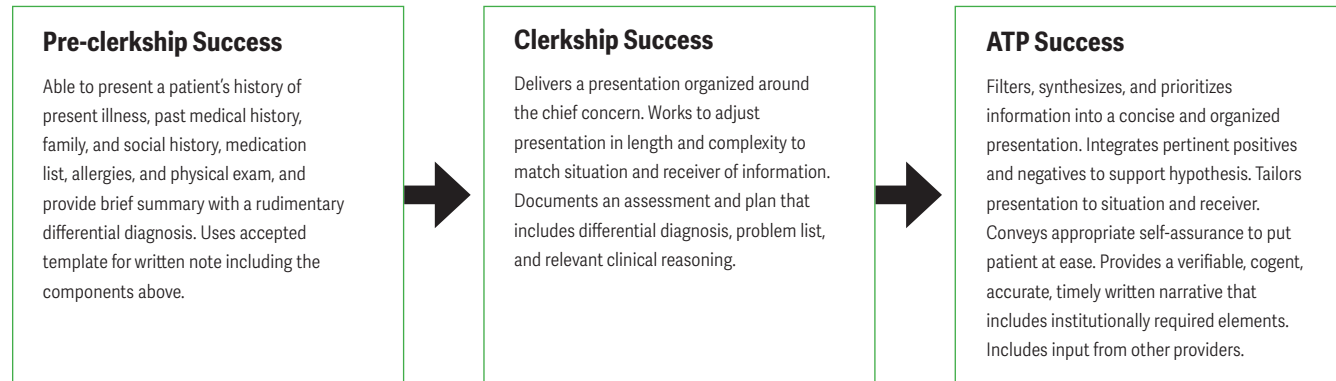
Gather and interpret essential and accurate information about patients and their conditions through history-taking, physical examination, and paraclinical data (lab studies, imaging, and other tests).

**Critical Deficiencies**

Collects inaccurate or incomplete historical data. May rely exclusively on secondary sources or documentation of others. Disregards patient privacy, comfort, and autonomy. Fails to perform or incorrectly performs basic physical exam maneuvers.

## PC4.2 Educational Program Objective

Communicate patient information in an organized and concise manner in both oral and written forms.



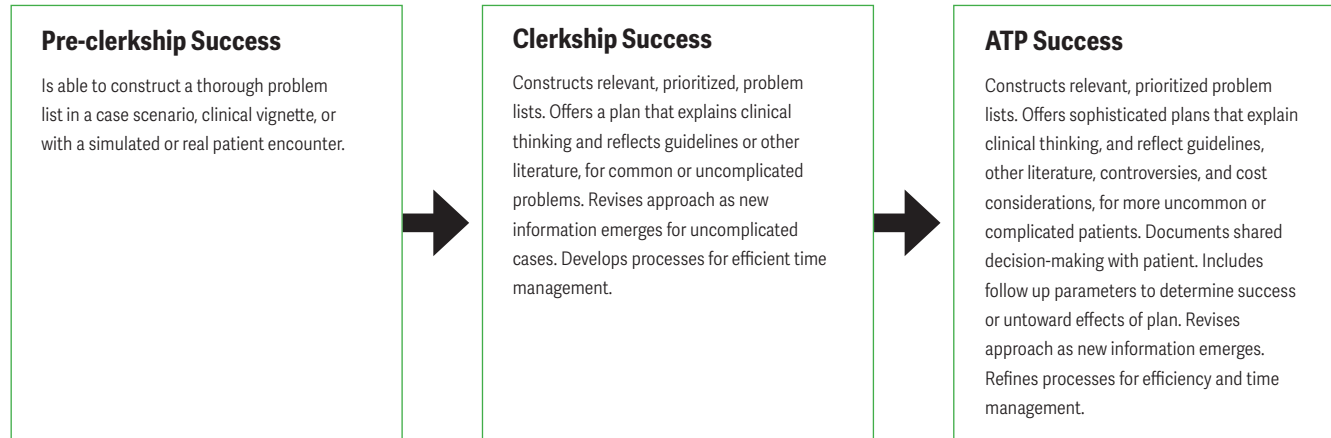
### Critical Deficiencies

Provides inaccurate information in oral presentation. Fabricates information when unable to respond to questions. Presents in a disorganized and incoherent fashion. Presents at bedside in a manner that upsets patient or family. Written notes include major omissions and/or inaccurate information, may include inappropriate language, and may not be timely. Copies information without verification or attribution.



### PC4.3 Educational Program Objective

Develop and carry out patient management plans in an organized and prioritized manner to promote patient care that is safe, effective, and efficient. Follow up on patient progress.



#### Critical Deficiencies

Does not construct a coherent problem list or plan. Disregards team input regarding patient management.

### PC4.4 Educational Program Objective

Coordinate care with physicians, other health professionals, and health agencies to support the health maintenance and treatment of disease in patients. Make timely, appropriate, and informative referrals or handoffs, ensuring continuity of care through transitions between providers or settings.

#### Pre-clerkship Success

Appreciates importance of care coordination within or across the health care system and the roles of other health professionals in the care of patients. Is able to suggest the types of services and expertise that may benefit patients.



#### Clerkship Success

Contributes to coordination of care for patients within or across the health care system or community. Under close supervision, may take a lead role. Understands the elements of effective handoffs and may hand off patients under immediate supervision.



#### ATP Success

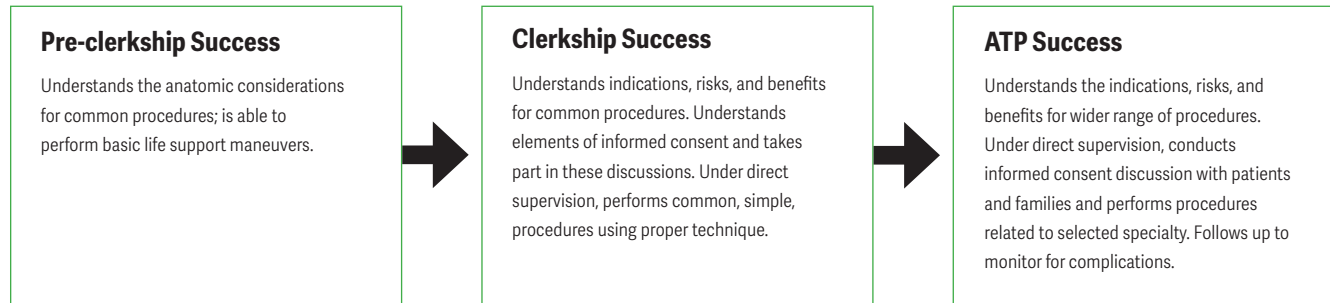
Coordinates care within and across health care systems or community. Makes appropriate referrals, providing consultants with specific questions and pertinent information. Handoffs include accurate assessment of patient status, anticipatory guidance, contingencies, and question solicitation. Follows through to ensure safe transitions.

#### Critical Deficiencies

Disregards need to coordinate care and does not follow through on transition planning.

### PC4.5 Educational Program Objective

Perform all medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered essential to enter residency in the area of chosen practice.



#### Critical Deficiencies

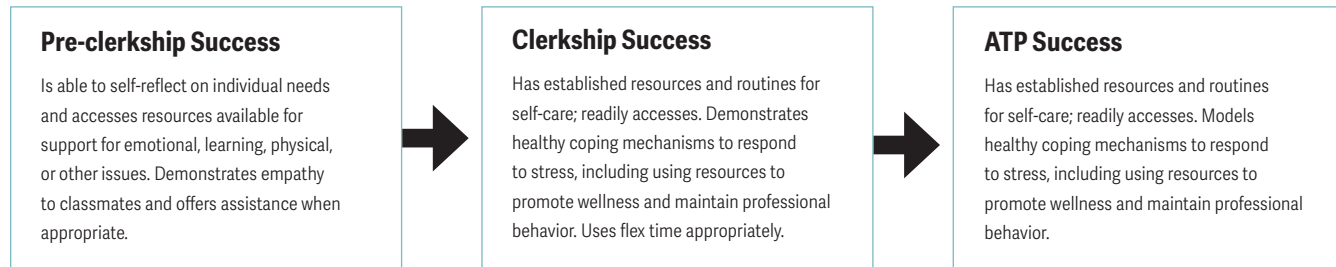
Does not know the indications, risks, benefits, or techniques for procedures. Unable to discuss informed consent with patients or families.

**COMPETENCY****Professional Identity Formation**

Students conduct themselves in accordance with professional standards in interactions with patients, families, peers, and colleagues. They learn to prioritize patients' needs and interests, avoid conflicts of interest, keep current with evolving science and practice standards, defer to ethical principles in difficult decision-making, and engage in self-awareness and self-care.

**PR5.1 Educational Program Objective**

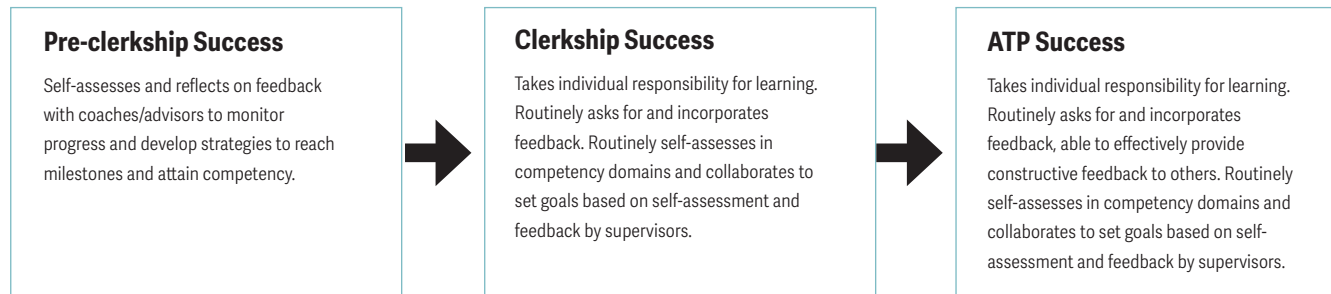
Engage in practices that benefit mental and physical wellness. Cultivate self-awareness to guide appropriate self-care. Recognize stressful situations and explore coping mechanisms best suited for them. Aware of range of support services and reach out for help when needed. Recognize distress in others and offer assistance.

**Critical Deficiencies**

Unable to self-reflect; uses unhealthy coping mechanisms to respond to stress.

## PR5.2 Educational Program Objective

Maintain commitment to lifelong learning. Identify and perform learning activities that address strengths, deficiencies, and limits in knowledge and expertise. Set learning and improvement goals and incorporate feedback into daily practice.

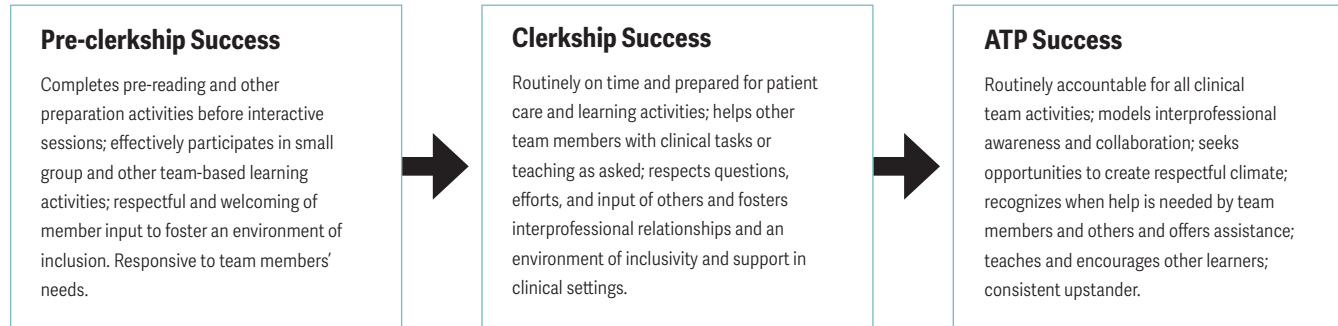


### Critical Deficiencies

Unable to accept constructive feedback; refuses to accept that students have blind spots. Does not meet with mentors or coaches to develop strategies. Does not value the benefit of recognizing personal values and/or implicit or explicit biases.

### PR5.3 Educational Program Objective

Work effectively as an accountable team member to enhance team functioning, the learning environment, and/or the health care setting. Contribute to a culture of psychological safety rooted in mutual respect and trust.

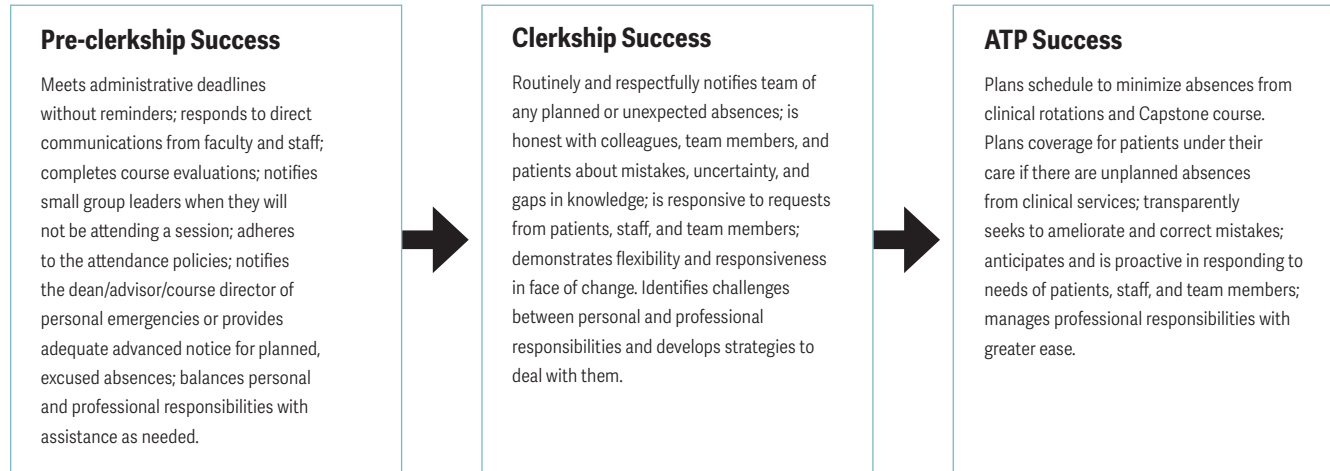


#### Critical Deficiencies

Does not attend and/or participate in activities that depend on team members; is frequently late or unprepared for small group sessions, team rounds, or prep activities in clinical settings; may engage in behaviors that belittle or demean others.

### PR5.4 Educational Program Objective

Demonstrate honesty, responsiveness, integrity, and respect to patients, society, and the profession. Manage conflict between personal and professional responsibilities. Practice flexibility and maturity in adjusting to change with the capacity to alter one's behavior.

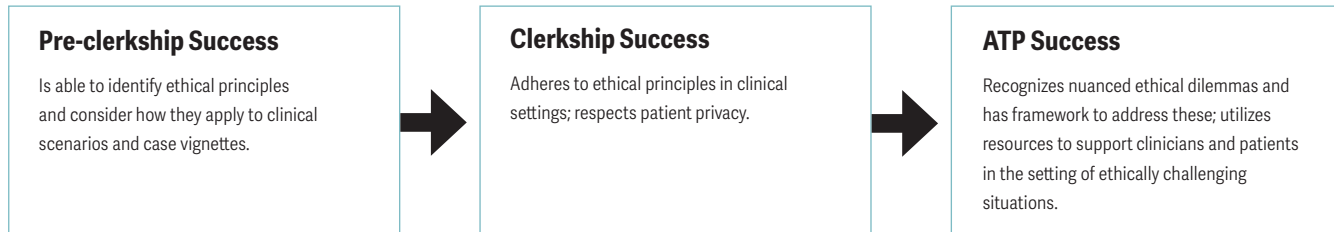


### Critical Deficiencies

Does not attend to professional responsibilities, including administrative and clinical. Makes poor decisions regarding personal and professional conflicts.

**PR5.5 Educational Program Objective**

Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of care, confidentiality, informed consent, and business practices, including committing to uphold relevant laws, policies, and regulations which promote patient privacy and autonomy.

**Critical Deficiencies**

Demonstrates unethical behavior such as breaching confidentiality, cheating on examinations; commits HIPAA violation.

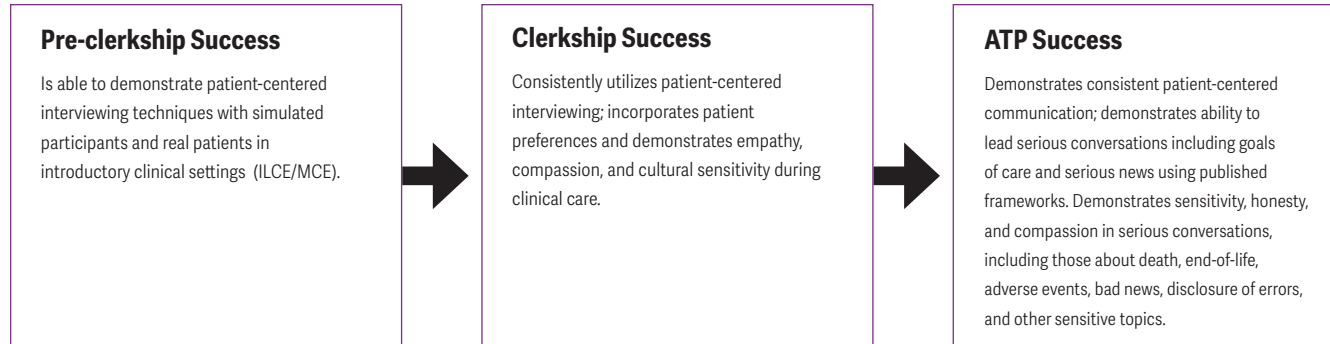


**COMPETENCY****Communication**

Students communicate effectively, respectfully, and compassionately in all of their professional interactions.

**CM6.1 Educational Program Objective**

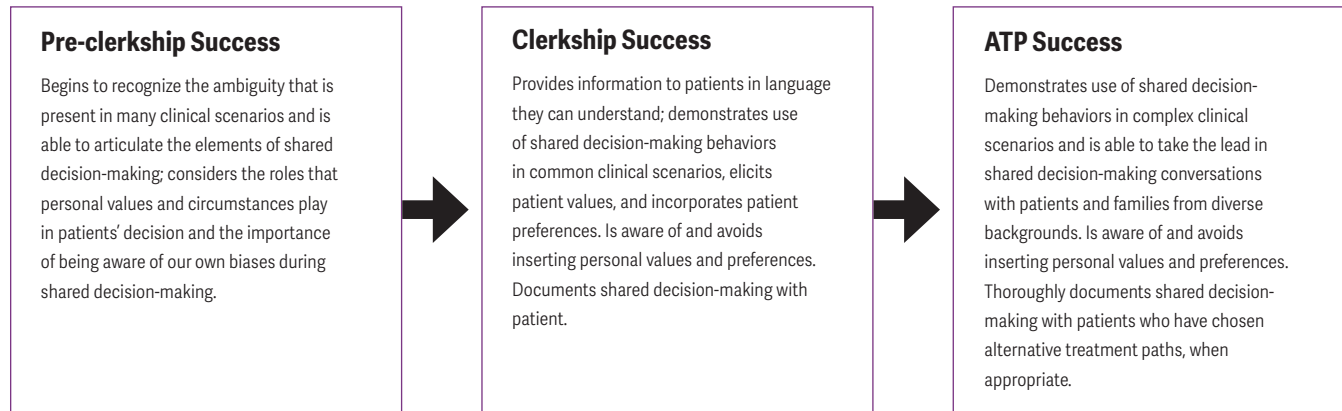
Communicate effectively using patient-centered techniques, with patients, families, and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Demonstrate sensitivity, honesty, and compassion in serious conversations, including those about death, end-of-life, adverse events, bad news, disclosure of errors, and other sensitive topics.

**Critical Deficiencies**

Does not utilize patient-centered language; insensitive to cultural backgrounds; insensitive during crucial conversations; does not solicit patient participation.

## CM6.2 Educational Program Objective

Counsel and educate patients and their families to empower them to participate in their care and enable shared decision-making.

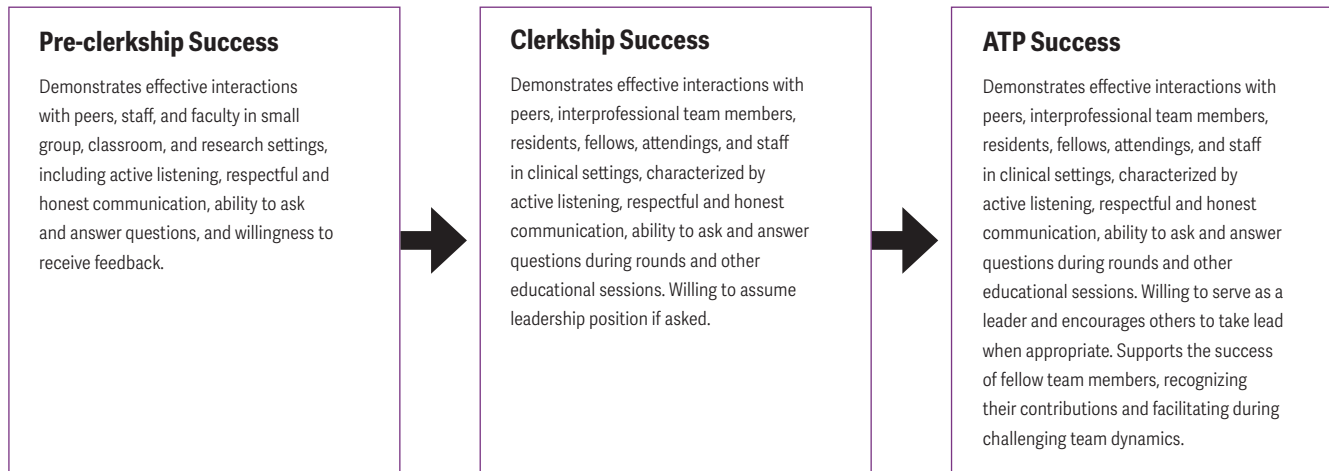


### Critical Deficiencies

Unable to counsel or educate patient; dismisses utility of shared decision-making.

### CM6.3 Educational Program Objective

Communicate effectively and respectfully with peers, staff, interprofessional colleagues, and faculty in classroom, clinical, and administrative domains.



#### Critical Deficiencies

Does not exhibit respectful or effective communication with peers, staff, and faculty (e.g. frequently interrupts others; communications misrepresent or distort information; participates minimally in small group discussion or seems limited in ability to articulate questions or responses in a discussion); communication is perceived by others as condescending, demeaning, or disdainful.

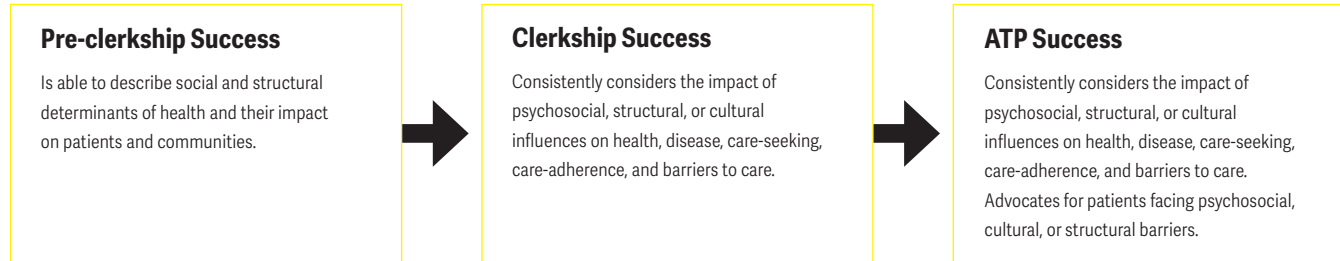
**COMPETENCY**

**Responsibility to Society**

Students recognize barriers to achieving health equity and envision ways to reduce barriers with a commitment to improving the quality of care and health of all people.

**RS7.1 Educational Program Objective**

Identify the social and structural determinants of health that impact patients and communities and utilize these in improving care, including assessment of the impact of psychosocial, structural, or cultural influences on health, disease, care-seeking, care adherence, and barriers to and attitudes toward care.

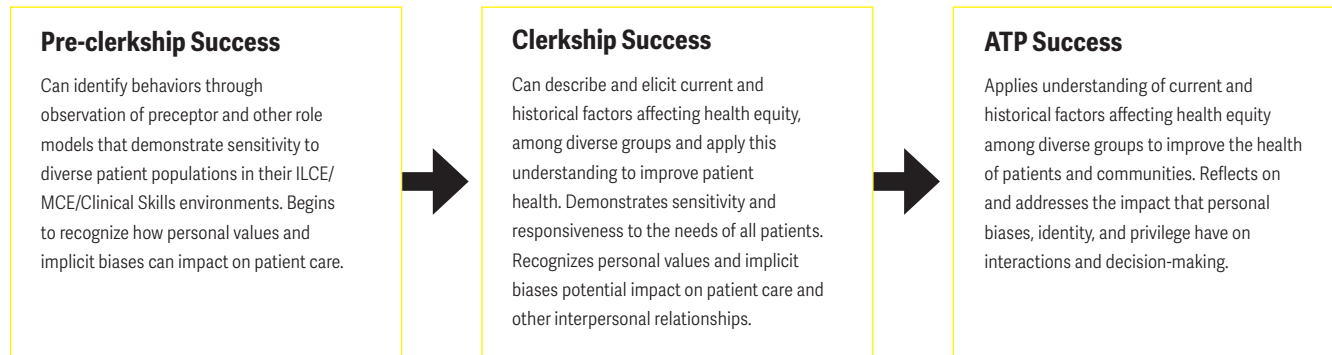


**Critical Deficiencies**

Underdeveloped knowledge base and very limited understanding of the psychosocial, structural, and cultural influences on health. Does not apply social-behavior sciences to health care for patients and populations.

### RS7.2 Educational Program Objective

Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to diverse patient populations, including but not limited to gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation and leverage their role and the roles of other health professionals to appropriately assess and address the health care needs of the patients and populations served.

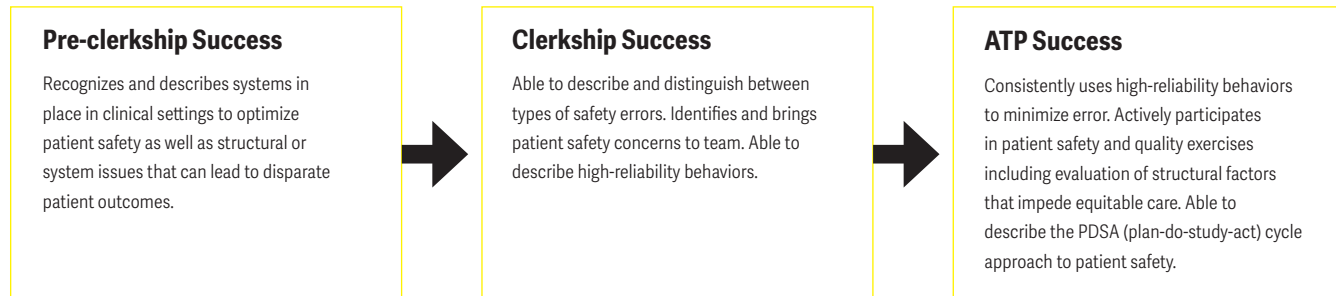


### Critical Deficiencies

Demonstrates insensitivity or intolerant of views or backgrounds that do not match own view.

### RS7.3 Educational Program Objective

Appreciate the factors that contribute to patient safety and the methods used to approach quality improvement. Participate in identifying system errors and implementing potential solutions. Advocate for quality and equity in patient care and optimal patient care systems.

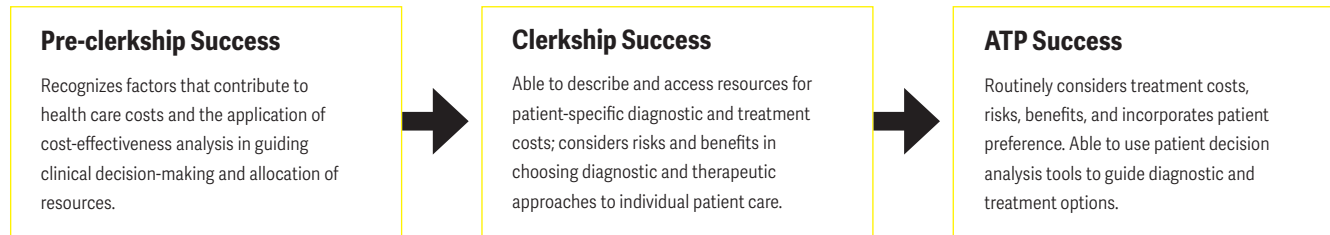


#### Critical Deficiencies

Disregards safety mechanisms in clinical environment. Actively undermines patient safety efforts.

### RS7.4 Educational Program Objective

Incorporate considerations of cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient and/or population-based care.



### Critical Deficiencies

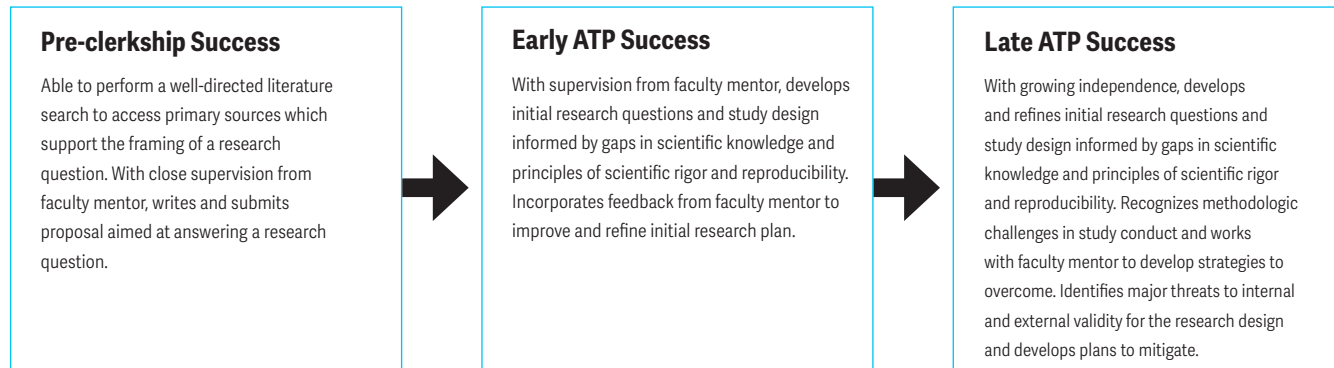
Does not understand concept of risk benefit analysis; disregards importance of cost and risk in the management of patients and/or populations.

**COMPETENCY****Creation and Dissemination of Knowledge**

Students appreciate that unexplained clinical observations can inspire research that advances the practice of medicine. They perform mentored scholarly research culminating in a formal thesis. This project promotes critical thinking, understanding of the scientific method, and contributes to new medical knowledge and practices.

**CDK8.1 Educational Program Objective**

Critically evaluate and use literature, databases, and primary sources to develop a strong scientific premise for a research question. Apply the scientific method to ensure robust, reproducible, and unbiased study design.

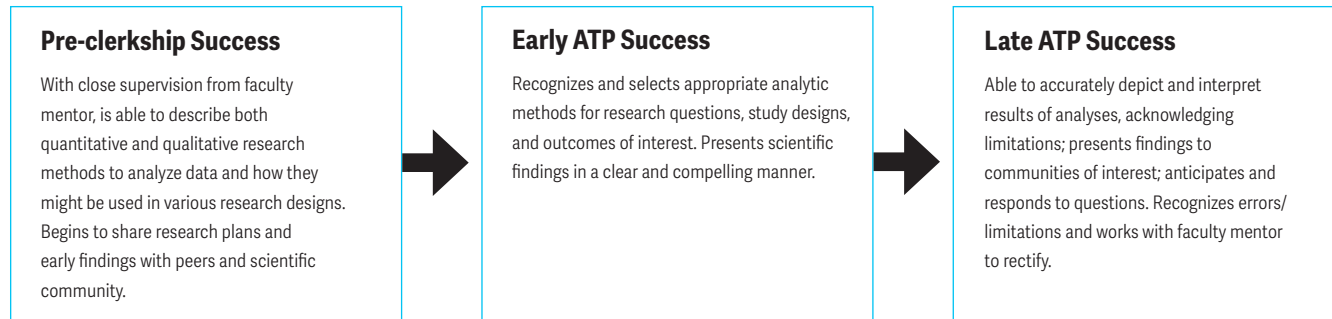
**Critical Deficiencies**

Cannot evaluate the literature to develop a premise for a concise and specific research question. Cannot develop robust, reproducible, and unbiased study designs.



## CDK8.2 Educational Program Objective

Rigorously analyze and interpret data using appropriate scientific and statistical methods. Convey research findings in a clear and organized manner and disseminate to communities of interest.

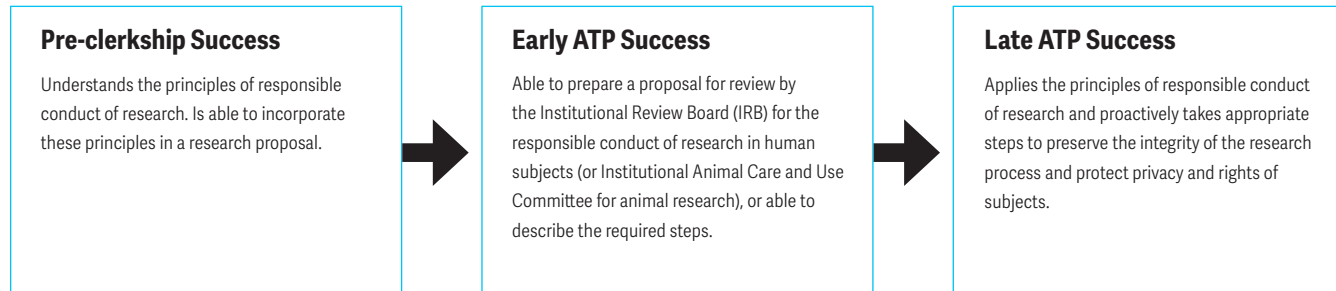


### Critical Deficiencies

Cannot choose appropriate statistical test nor interpret results. Presents scientific findings in confusing manner and is unprepared for questions.

### CDK8.3 Educational Program Objective

Apply principles of responsible conduct of research to preserve the integrity of the research process and to protect the privacy and rights of research subjects.



#### Critical Deficiencies

Does not adhere to principles of responsible conduct of research, preserve the integrity of the research process, and/or protect the privacy and rights of research subjects.

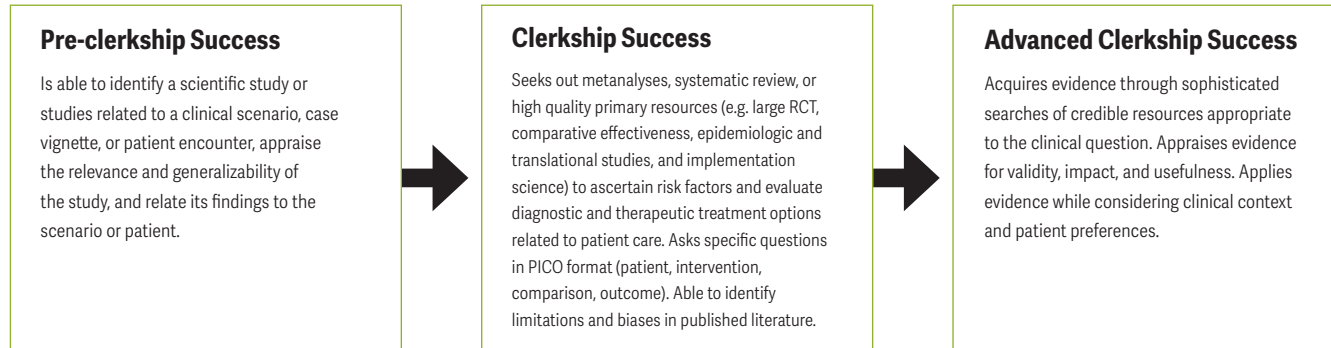
**COMPETENCY**

**Physician as Scientist**

Students apply existing and evolving scientific literature to inform their care of patients and promote the health of individuals and populations.

**PS9.1 Educational Program Objective**

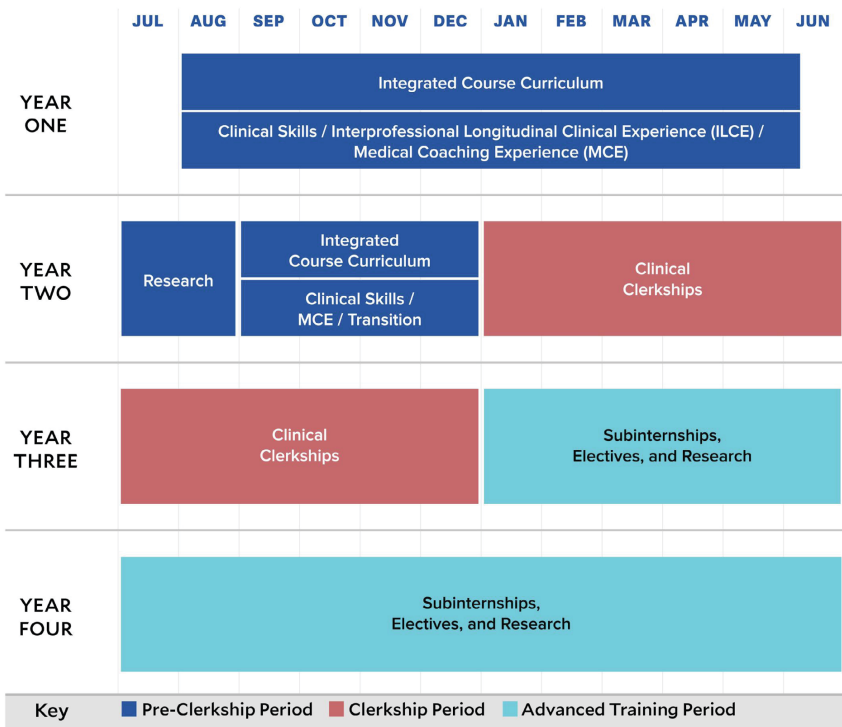
Acquire, appraise, assimilate, and apply evidence from scientific studies related to patients' health problems. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic approach to clinical situations. Evaluate the credibility and usability of the spectrum of medical information resources.



**Critical Deficiencies**

Does not identify, track, or pursue clinical questions arising in patient care or teaching. When prompted, cannot form specific clinical questions, search information resources based on questions, critically appraise evidence, nor apply evidence.

## Curriculum Timeline



## Graduation Requirements

1. Satisfactorily meet all nine YSM Competencies.
2. Students must have taken and passed USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Exam) Step 1 and Step 2 CK.
3. Satisfactory completion of a sub-internship. Students may take a given sub-internship up to two times to fulfill the graduation requirement.
4. Satisfactory completion of the Capstone course and any required assessments.
5. Satisfactory completion of forty weeks of study in the final year, including one required sub-internship and the Capstone course. The remaining weeks may be devoted to electives, additional sub-internships, approved dual degree coursework, and supervised research.
6. Satisfactory completion of the Medical Student Thesis Requirement.
7. Continued satisfactory fulfillment of the YSM Professionalism Standards.
8. Continuing to meet YSM Technical, Non-Academic Standards.
9. No unresolved concerns regarding academic performance.