

Impact of OEM Preclinical Education on Documentation of OEM Elements in Patient History During Medicine Clerkships

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BACKGROUND

Most adults spend more than one-third of their awake time working. Physicians need to address a variety of health issues involving their patients' work, including work injuries; hazardous exposures; evaluation of work causation of illnesses like cancer; accommodations for disabilities; and fitness for work. Although there is a medical specialty dedicated to managing such issues, Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM), the number of specialists is small and shrinking.

ELECTIVE STRUCTURE

The University of Maryland School of Medicine Occupational and Environmental Longitudinal Elective is the first of its kind. Beginning in 2021, with the goal of teaching students to view patients work as a social determinant of health. The course consists of 100 hours of content, which includes structured self-study problem-solving exercises, interactive e-learning modules, movie night discussion/dinners, three field trips and monthly small group seminars including team-based learning and presentations of topics.

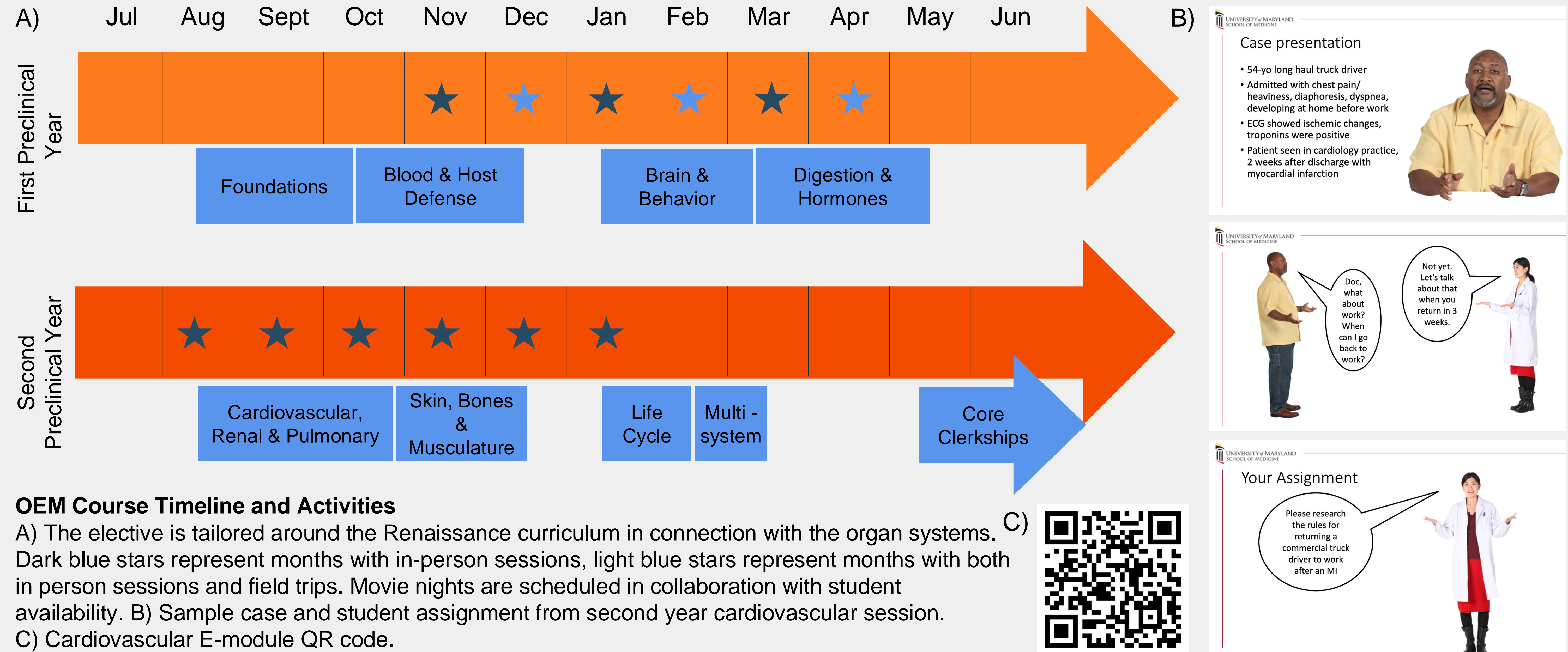
By the end of the elective, students should:

- Recognize the importance of work as a social determinant of health
- Plan an evaluation of work as a cause of illness
- Explain concrete steps a treating provider can take to prevent work-related illnesses
- Make clinical decisions that optimize function (preventing avoidable work disability)
- Apply population health principles to cases of occupational illness by recognizing and reacting to them as sentinel events

RESEARCH AIMS

- Collect survey data on student satisfaction with the overall course and individual components.
- Develop and validate a novel assessment rubric of medical students' history collection of occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) components.
- Assess students baseline OEM history collection prior to the initiation of the OEM elective: a novel case-based course to teach students the impact of work and environmental hazards contributors to illness.
- Utilize the rubric to evaluate medical students' collection and consideration of OEM components before and after completing the OEM elective offered at University of Maryland.

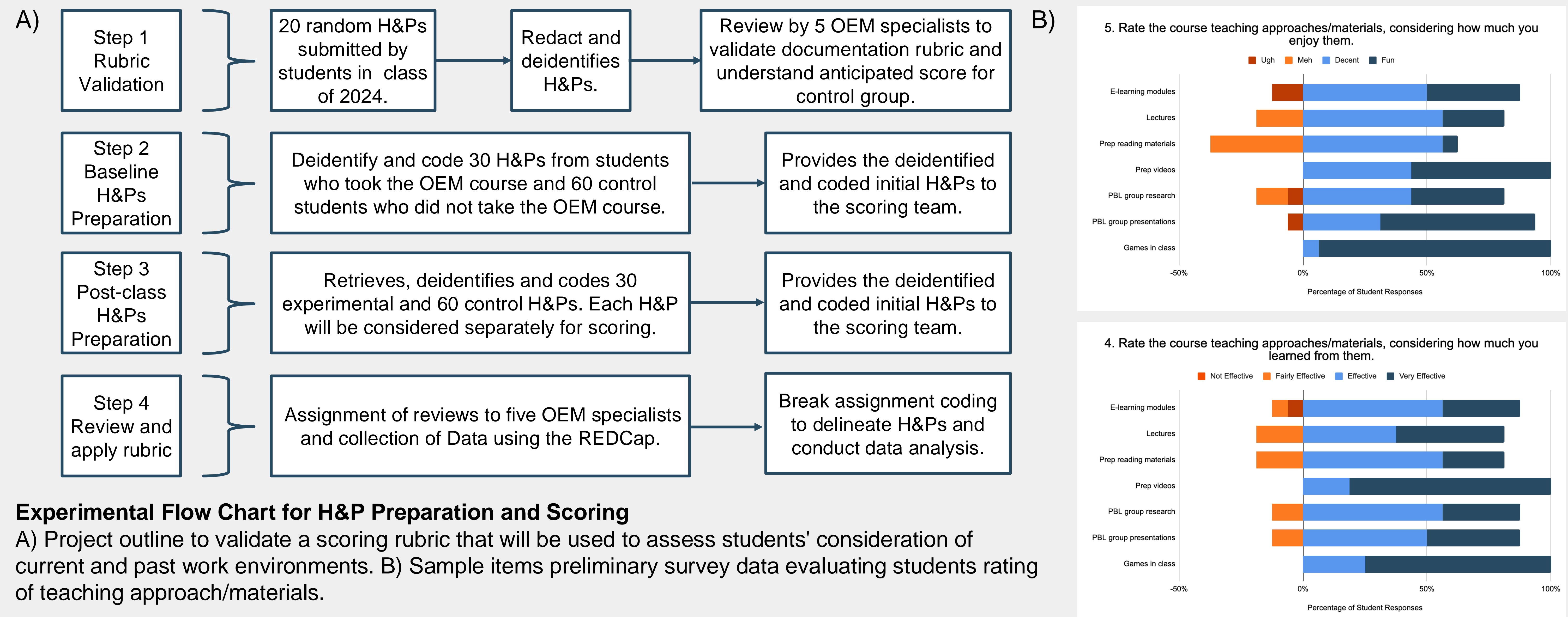
How do the OEM Elective and associated activities align with the UMSOM Preclinical Renaissance Curriculum ?



OEM Course Timeline and Activities

A) The elective is tailored around the Renaissance curriculum in connection with the organ systems. Dark blue stars represent months with in-person sessions, light blue stars represent months with both in person sessions and field trips. Movie nights are scheduled in collaboration with student availability. B) Sample case and student assignment from second year cardiovascular session. C) Cardiovascular E-module QR code.

Are students enjoying the OEM elective and considering patients current and past work environments?



Experimental Flow Chart for H&P Preparation and Scoring

A) Project outline to validate a scoring rubric that will be used to assess students' consideration of current and past work environments. B) Sample items preliminary survey data evaluating students rating of teaching approach/materials.

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