

# MICHIGAN MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

## M2 CLERKSHIP GRADE GRIEVANCE FAQ

### Grade Grievance FAQ

- 1. How was my final grade computed?** Please review the [M2 OBGYN Clerkship Grading Policy](#).
- 2. I worked so hard and put in long hours. Why didn't I earn Honors or a High Pass?**  
All students feel they work hard. There are many components that go into determining the grade you earned, including clinical evaluations, performance on the clinical reasoning essay examination, shelf examination, and professionalism. Grades are also influenced by how you performed on the exams compared to your cohort.
- 3. I earned the minimum scores on the exams for an Honors grade, how did I not get Honors?** The minimum scores for Honors eligibility do not guarantee Honors, as your clinical evaluations are a significant part of your final grade.
- 4. Will soliciting more evaluations improve my grade?** We request names of individuals you worked with to target our soliciting for evaluations. Most of the time, we are not able to collect evaluations from all the names you listed because those evaluators might be away during the time we are collecting the evaluations, or do not recall having a meaningful enough interaction with you. Once we have at least 4 evaluations on a student, we feel comfortable assigning a final grade. Soliciting additional evaluations does not typically add any new information and will not change your final grade. In addition, it is not fair to the other students as we will need to obtain all the missing evaluations on all students and recalculate grades for everyone.
- 5. I think some of my evaluators were too harsh on me and assigned me lower clinical scores than what I deserve. Did this make my grade lower than it should be?** Almost everyone who evaluates you has been doing it for years. There are several years of data about their average z-scores and experience. Their individual z-score is considered when calculating your clinical score and this information is taken into consideration when your final grade is assigned. This method ensures that students are not penalized if they have a relatively "tough" grader, nor are they advantaged if they have a relatively "easy" grader.
- 6. I do not agree with the comments about my performance. What can I do about that?** First, we urge you to reflect on why an individual evaluator might provide specific comments about you. If you still do not agree with those comments, you may set up a meeting with the Clerkship Director to discuss. **Please do not contact your evaluators directly under any circumstances. If further clarification is needed, the Clerkship Director will contact them on your behalf.**
- 7. My friend earned a High Pass and I only earned a Pass even though we have the exact same exam scores and similar clinical evaluation scores. How can that be?**  
As outlined in the [M2 OBGYN Clerkship Grading Policy](#), z-scores are used to convert the absolute numbers on the evaluation form to account for "tough" and "easy" graders. So, while the absolute numbers might look similar, you have different evaluators.

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In addition, comparisons to students from other cohorts are not accurate because each cohort is considered independently, and we will not discuss your grade as it relates to any other student.

8. **How often do you change a grade?** A lot of thought, time, and energy go into assigning the grade you earned, so typically there is a lot of data to support it. Grade disputes focusing on individual evaluations have never resulted in a change in the overall grade for the clerkship. Circumstances in which a dispute would be appropriate and might be an indication to change the final grade may include an apparent mathematical error in computing your final grade or a technical problem with the evaluation process.