

# How to be an OSCE Examiner

## Onboarding

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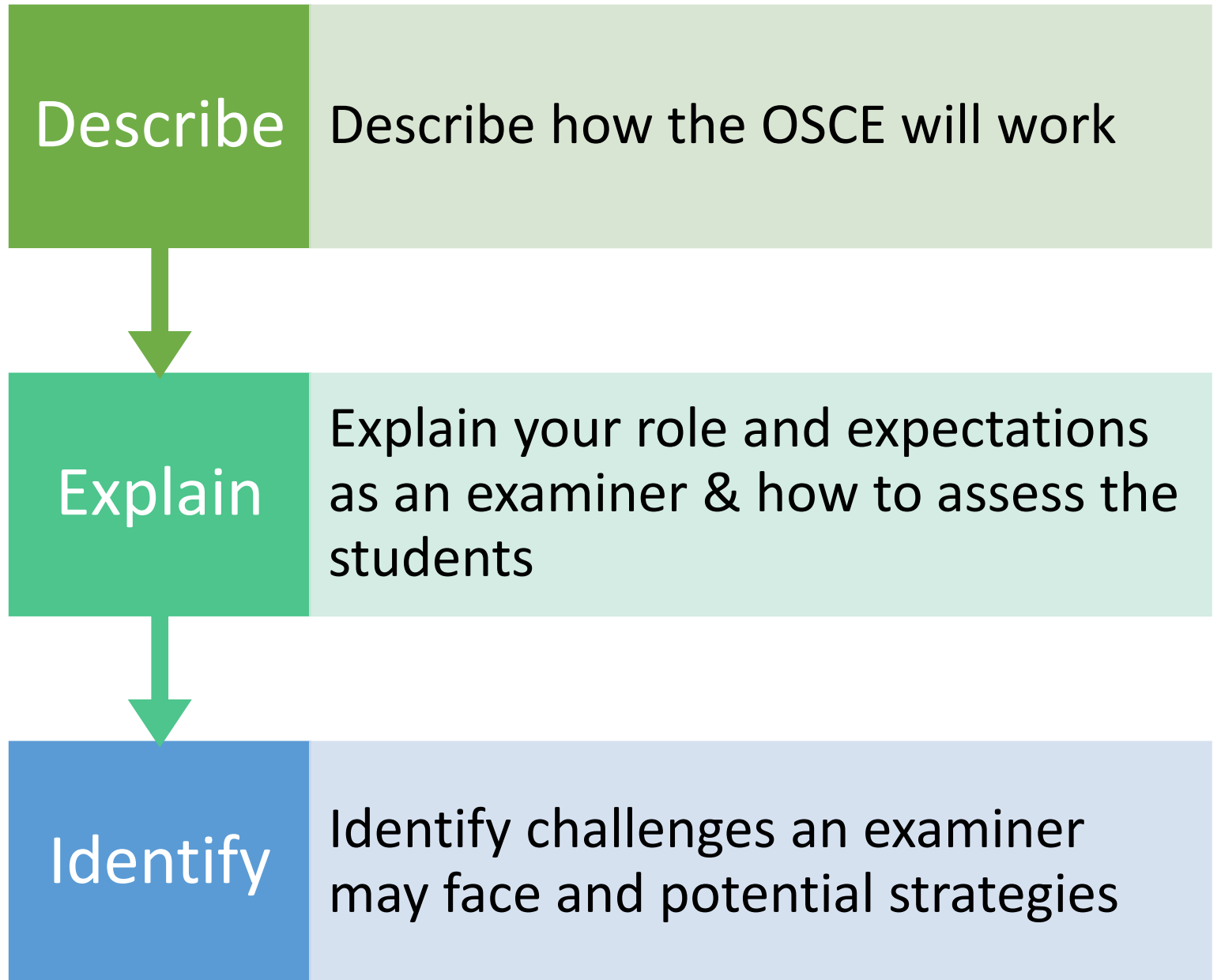
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MD Program  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Office of Faculty  
Development

By the end of  
this session,  
you will be  
able to:



# Teaching Plan

- Format
- Station timing
- Day of Tasks
- Examiner role
- Conflict of Interest

# OSCE Format and Assessment

- Station tasks can include history taking, physical exam, and/or counselling
  - Most stations have clinical decision-making questions (post-encounter questions)
- **NEW:** Scoring completed via an electronic platform called **Practique** (iPad based)
- Borderline Regression will be used to determine the passing grade of each station and the overall OSCE
- A student who does poorly on one aspect of the exam does not automatically fail the exam.

# Foundation OSCE

- Foundation OSCE occurs at the end of Clinical Skills 1 and Clinical Skills 2 courses.
- Tests content from entire year.
- If they do not meet standard, referred to SCORE Program

# Clerkship OSCE

- All students complete the Clerkship OSCE mid-3<sup>rd</sup> year; students who meet standard are excused from the supplemental OSCE at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
  - Supplemental (August) OSCE: Mix of students completing this OSCE for the 1<sup>st</sup> time due to being off cycle and others completing the OSCE a 2<sup>nd</sup> time
- If they do not meet standard, referred to SCORE Program

# Implications for Students

**Must** meet standard on this assessment to graduate

Standard set by Borderline Regression Method

Not on the CaRMS transcript

# Timing – Foundation OSCE

CS1 OSCE Day 1		
Iterations	Timing	Stations
<b>AM Session</b>	<b>Arrive at 7:30am</b>	2 tracks of 5 stations, 5 examiners for each track
1	8:00am – 9:00am	
2	9:10am – 10:10am	
3	10:20am – 11:20am	
Break	11:20am – 12:20pm	
<b>PM Session</b>	<b>Arrive at 12:00pm</b>	
4	12:30pm – 1:30pm	
5	1:40pm – 2:40pm	
6	2:50pm – 3:50pm	

CS2 OSCE Day 1 and 2		
Iterations	Timing	Stations
1	<b>Arrive at 7:30am</b> 8:00am – 10:00am	10 stations, 8 examiners Station 5 and 10 are rest stations
Break	10:00am – 11:00am	
2	<b>Arrive at 10:30am</b> 11:00am – 1:00pm	
Break	1:00pm – 2:00pm	
3	<b>Arrive at 1:30pm</b> 2:00pm – 4:00pm	



# Timing – Clerkship OSCE

Exam Day Timing Overview							
Activity	Timing	Exam Circuits (Tracks)					Total Students Examined
		1 (Blue)	2 (Yellow)	3 (Green)	4 (Pink)	*5 (Purple Accomms)	
AM Examiners Orient + Case Review	7:45-8:30 + 8:30-8:50	All AM Examiners orientation on 8th floor - 7:45-8:30 All Examiners case review on 7th floor w/SPs - 8:30-8:50					
Exam - Cycle 1	9:00-11:15 *9:00-11:45	11	11	11	11	5	49
Break	11:15-11:30	Student switchover + break for examiners & SPs					
Exam - Cycle 2	11:35-1:50	11	10	11	10	n/a	91
Lunch	1:50-2:35	Lunch (45mins) for AM Examiners + SPs					
PM Examiners Orient + Case Review	1:45-2:30 + 2:35-2:55	All PM Examiners orientation on 8th floor - 1:45-2:30 All Examiners case review on 7th floor w/SPs - 2:30-2:50					
Exam Cycle 3	3:05-5:20	11	11	11	11	n/a	135

# Stations

<b>OSCE</b>	<b>CS1</b>	<b>CS2</b>	<b>Clerkship</b>
No. of Stations	5	8	10

- All station prompts will be provided by verbal messages overhead
- Standard OSCE station timing:
  - 2 minute read time – STEM will be posted on the door
  - 10 minutes for the students to interact within the station
    - 8-10 minutes for a patient encounter
    - 1-2 minutes for post-encounter probe questions (where applicable)
  - 2 minutes between stations



# Station Timing

## LISTEN FOR THE FOLLOWING 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- To start the station (**0 min**)
- One minute left with SP
- Proceed to ask examiner questions – if applicable
- Exit room (**10 min**)
- 2 minutes between stations
- Once the station has ended, students should leave the room

# OSCE - Day of Tasks

- Review the case, examiner and scoring instructions in detail
  - Materials in **Practique** (on the iPad); paper station materials also provided to show to students
- Work through the station with SP partner; review any questions with the Lead Examiner at your site
- Ensure you are comfortable with all the tasks required and that you have all your materials:
  - Special Examiner Notes – in Practique
  - Post-encounter probe questions – in Practique
  - Supplementary information (ex. lab results) – in Practique AND paper copies for students
  - iPad (login information on information sheet)

# Examiner Role – Candidate Instructions (STEM)

- Directly observe and assess the student
- May redirect students to the candidate instructions (STEM) if required (e.g. student doing a Physical Exam in a History station) on one occasion only
- Students may look at the instructions as often as they need – without redirection
- To assist you, there will be a copy of the STEM on the iPad AND a copy for the student in the room

## Standardization of Processes

Do not change the case or SP portrayal

If you notice a significant difference in SP portrayal across stations, please contact the hall staff who will contact the trainer

Do not interact with students other than special examiner instructions and post-encounter questions

## Standardization of Processes

Do not start examiner questions early even if student is finished with SP – Wait until 8-minute mark

Student may not return to SP during question period

Student should remain in the station room until the announcement at end of station

## Standardization of Processes

Do not cue or help the students

Do not nod, shake head, smile, “talk” to candidate – be aware of your body language

Do not provide verbal feedback to the students



# Standardization of Processes

- **DO NOT Prompt**

- *Any more differentials?*
- *Any other treatments?*
- *You have time left if you'd like to add anything else.*
- *Is there anything else?*

# Examiner Role – Physical Exam

- Ensure you can see clearly
- Avoid being in candidate's line of sight
- Prevent OR Intervene if INVASIVE physical exam attempted by candidate
  - **No vaginal/rectal exams, no corneal or gag reflexes tested, no plantar reflex**

# Examiner Role

- **DO NOT** use your pager or cell phone during the exam
  - All phones and pagers should be on silent or on Airplane mode
- **DO NOT** discuss candidate performance with SPs
- **DO NOT** talk to SP while the candidate is present
- **DO NOT** remove any exam materials from the station room
- **DO NOT** discuss station content after the exam

# Examiner Conflict of Interest (COI)

- Simply knowing a candidate or having had a previous student/supervisor relationship is not considered COI
- Examples of COI:
  - You are the personal physician to the student or the student's family member
  - You are a family member or a close relative of the student
  - You have a business relationship with this student
  - You have coached the student extensively (SCORE, AACE-IT, etc.)

# Conflict of Interest

- If you identify that you are in a conflict of interest, please ask the SP staff in the hallway for help
- We will get an alternate examiner to enter the station

# What if you suspect a breach of academic integrity?

- Students have been asked:
  - To not have any electronics examples cell phone, smart watch, etc. on their person during the exam
  - To bring a stethoscope and ID badge; business casual attire (lab coat is optional)
- Inform Lead Examiner or Physician if a breach of academic integrity is suspected

# Feedback and Questions

- **Clerkship** Administrative or reimbursement questions:  
[md.clerkship@utoronto.ca](mailto:md.clerkship@utoronto.ca)
- **Foundation** Administrative or reimbursement questions:  
[linna.liu@utoronto.ca](mailto:linna.liu@utoronto.ca)
- **Exam process questions, assessment questions or exam feedback:** [zia.bismilla@sickkids.ca](mailto:zia.bismilla@sickkids.ca)

Thank-you!