

How to be an OSCE Examiner

Onboarding

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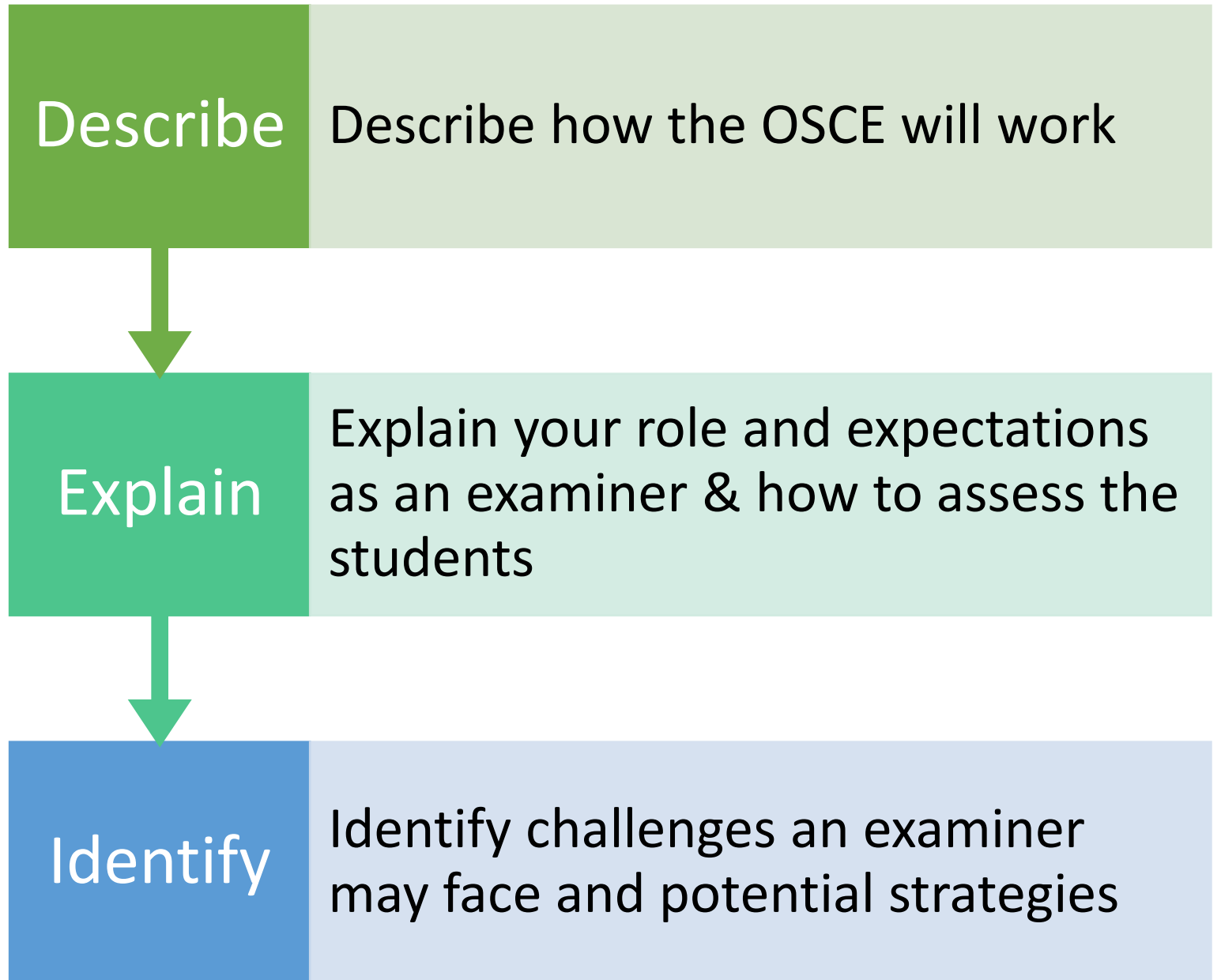
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Office of Faculty
Development

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 may include history taking, physical exam, and/or counselling
 - Most stations have clinical decision-making questions (post-encounter questions)
- Scoring completed via an electronic platform on an iPad
- Borderline Regression 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.

Foundations OSCEs

- Foundations OSCEs occurs at the end of Clinical Skills 1 and Clinical Skills 2 courses
- Tests content from entire year.
- Students who do not meet standard:
 - Create a Focused Learning Plan
 - Are referred to the SCORE Program

Clerkship OSCE

- All students complete the Clerkship OSCE mid-3rd year; students who meet standard on the mid-year OSCE are excused from the supplemental OSCE at the end of the 3rd year.
 - Supplemental OSCE: Mix of students completing this OSCE for the 1st time due to being off cycle and others completing the OSCE a 2nd time

Implications for Students

Must meet standard on this assessment to graduate

Referred to SCORE if have not met standard

If second attempt does not meet standard then are presented to BOE and may get a third attempt

Grade itself is not on the CaRMS transcript

Station Progression and Internal Timing

OSCE	CS1	CS2	Clerkship
No. of Stations	5	8	10

- Natural progression over 3 years
 - Number of stations
 - Clinical difficulty
 - Required tasks
 - e.g. history > physical > counselling > investigation > management

Timing – Foundation OSCE

CS1 OSCE Day 1		
Iterations	Timing	Stations
AM Session	Arrive at 7:30am	2 tracks, each with: 5 stations 5 examiners
1	8:00am – 9:00am	
2	9:10am – 10:10am	
3	10:20am – 11:20am	
Break	11:20am – 12:20pm	
PM Session	Arrive at 12:00pm	
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	Arrive at 7:30am 8:00am – 10:00am	1 track with 10 stations 8 examiners (2 rest stations)
Break	10:00am – 11:00am	
2	Arrive at 10:30am 11:00am – 1:00pm	
Break	1:00pm – 2:00pm	
3	Arrive at 1:30pm 2:00pm – 4:00pm	

Timing – Clerkship OSCE

Clerkship OSCE Day 1 and 2*		
Iterations	Timing	Stations
AM Examiners Orient + Case Review	7:45-9:00	5 Tracks (Blue, Yellow, Green, Pink, Purple) Each track has: 12 stations 10 examiners (2 rest stations)
Exam - Cycle 1	9:00-11:15	
Break	11:15-11:30	
Exam - Cycle 2	11:35-1:50	
Lunch	1:50-2:35	
PM Examiners Orient + Case Review	1:45-3:00	
Exam Cycle 3	3:05-5:20	

*note Summer OSCE may be run over one day only depending on number of students

Station - Internal Timing

- 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

Reading Time	Clinical Encounter	PEP	Total Time
2 min	8 min	2 min	12



Station Timing

LISTEN FOR THE FOLLOWING 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- To start the station (**0 min**)
- One minute left with SP
- Proceed to ask examiner questions (PEPs) – if applicable
- Exit room (**10 min**)

- Once the station has ended, students should leave the room

- 2 minutes between stations is the reading time

OSCE - Day of Tasks

- Review the case, examiner and scoring instructions in detail
 - Materials on the iPad; paper station materials also be 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 – on iPad
 - Post-encounter probe questions – on iPad
 - Supplementary information (ex. lab results) – on iPad 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)
 - Exam notebook given to students to take notes
- 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
- **Foundation** Administrative or reimbursement questions:
md.clinicalskills@utoronto.ca
- **Exam process questions, assessment questions or exam feedback:** zia.bismilla@sickkids.ca

Thank-you!