



MD Program
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Workplace Based Assessments (WBAs) in Clerkship: Coming Soon →

February 2023

Welcome to the third edition of WBAs in Clerkship: Coming Soon, the newsletter which keeps you up to date on the introduction of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) to Temerty Faculty of Medicine undergraduate medical education.

What is a WBA?

WBA is, quite simply, an assessment of a common and observable clinical skill or task performed by a learner in the work environment. The Association of Faculties of Medicine in Canada (AFMC) has defined 12 such tasks for undergraduate students during their clerkship, referred to as EPAs. These EPAs are common to all specialties (completing a history and physical exam, developing a differential diagnosis, for example) and a consistent WBA tool used within and across courses to capture feedback on the EPAs provides the opportunity for a developmental assessment of skills acquisition during clerkship.

The MD Program is proceeding with the WBA pilot for 2T4 clerkship students from March to August 2023 with a plan for full implementation planned for the 2T5 clerkship students from September 2023.

Is there any difference between WBAs for residents and medical students?

If you are a faculty member, you may have completed EPA forms on Elentra for your residents. Elentra will still be the platform utilised for WBA completion in the MD Program. There are 2 major differences: 1. The tool used for the MD Program looks different, the assessment scale has been adapted to a 4-point rating scale and there are no milestone ratings for students. 2. The goal is to use WBA as a framework for a brief coaching conversation and to document that conversation. The most important component of the tool is the required narrative portion that follows the rating scale. The MD program is not using the WBA tool and outcomes on EPAs for progress decisions (there are no stages of training in the undergraduate program); it is an assessment for learning, not of learning.



Please also refer to the [Faculty Development WBA webpage](#) for further information and resources or scan the QR code. This page includes past editions of this newsletter.

The goal of the pilot and data being collected from March to August 2023

In the December 2022 newsletter, we provided you with a sample of the tool for EPA 1 - Obtain a history and perform a physical examination adapted to the patient's clinical situation.

With the March pilot approaching we would like to use this newsletter to help prepare and inform assessors. The goal of the WBA pilot phase is for students and assessors to get some experience with the EPA tool, for us to understand the data being collected, and to solicit feedback in order to inform any changes that need to be made for full implementation from September 2023. We will also start to learn how EPAs are integrated into courses and may be used to support learners' skills development across clerkship.

Who can complete these assessments on students?

50% of EPA assessments should be completed by **faculty**. **Residents, fellows** and **clinical associates** can also complete assessments on students. Faculty can log into Elentra and complete an assessment but we are encouraging students to start the assessment on their personal device, complete the contextual variable questions and hand the device to the assessor to complete the overall rating and narrative comments. If time does not permit, the EPA assessment form can be emailed to the assessor to complete at a later time. Currently, students must start the assessment for residents, fellows and clinical associates.

How do I ensure I am ready to complete and view completed EPA assessments?

EPA assessments will be completed in Elentra, just like they are for residents. If a student starts the assessment, faculty can complete it on the student's device immediately or later via an email link sent to the faculty. Faculty do not need to log into Elentra if a student starts the assessment. Faculty will receive an email from Elentra documenting completion of an EPA whether it is faculty-initiated or student-initiated.

Ahead of the March pilot, faculty assessors are asked to check that they can login to Elentra (<https://meded.utoronto.ca/>).

If assessors do not know / have forgotten their:

- **UTORid:** they should contact their Clinical Departments Business Officer to request this information.
- **Password:** contact UTSG Information Common Helpdesk: help.desk@utoronto.ca, 416-978-4357 or UTM helpdesk: helpdesk.utm@utoronto.ca, 905-569-4300. They will require an alternative non-UofT email or a phone number that is able to receive texts (SMS) in order for your password to be reset

If assessors have a UTORid but are not registered on Elentra please send a message to the MD Elentra Help Desk at: md.elentra@utoronto.ca

UTORMFA (multi-factor authentication is being rolled out across UofT). If you are not already enrolled for UTORMFA we suggest that you enroll yourself in preparation, please

use the following instructions for self-enrollment:
<https://isea.utoronto.ca/services/utormfa/self-enrollment/>

How many EPA assessments are students expected to achieve during the pilot?

For courses **longer than 2 weeks in duration**, a **minimum of 3 EPAs** should be completed

For courses which are **2 weeks in duration**, a **minimum of 2 EPAs** should be completed

For courses which are **1 week in duration**, a **minimum of 1 EPA** should be completed

Evaluation of the WBA Pilot

During the pilot the Office of Assessment of Evaluation will undertake a robust evaluation on the feasibility, usability and utility of the EPA implementation. Students and residents will be surveyed, and faculty will be asked for their feedback via course directors and course committees. A small number of focus groups and interviews will also take place. Qualitative data from the completed assessments will be analysed, working with student leaders to help determine usability for students.

The results of the evaluation will inform any changes that need to be made for full implementation from September 2023.

What's coming up in the next newsletter?

Final details on the pilot phase of the WBAs set to commence on March 13, 2023!

Resources available and a fully completed EPA form.

If you have any questions, please get in touch at md.oae@utoronto.ca