

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
OSCE AND TOSCE PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW

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Next revision: 2024

PURPOSE

The Doctor of Medicine Program (MD Program), the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University includes Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and Teaching (TOSCE) as applied assessments in determining the achievement of the MD Program Graduation Competencies.

The OSCE and the TOSCE are designed to assess a student's competence in clinical tasks such as taking a relevant history, performing a focused physical exam, providing a differential diagnosis, communication, behaviour, attitudes and clinical reasoning and judgement.

RELEVANT ACCREDITATION ELEMENT

9.4 Assessment System A medical school ensures that, throughout its medical education program, there is a centralized system in place that employs a variety of measures (including direct observation) for the assessment of student achievement, including students' acquisition of the knowledge, core clinical skills (e.g., medical history-taking, physical examination), behaviours, and attitudes specified in medical education program objectives, and that ensures that all graduates achieve the same medical education program objectives.

RELEVANT POLICIES OR STATEMENTS

[Assessment and Appeals Statement on Professionalism](#)

STATEMENT

Professionalism

The OSCE and TOSCE are required assessments of the MD Program. The highest degree of professionalism in behaviour, deportment, and appearance is expected.

- Learners are required to wear professional attire including their nametag and badge.

- No food is allowed in the testing area. Water will be permitted upon request while on the exam floor.
- Unprofessional or disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated, and the Clinical Skills Learning Program (CSLP) staff have the authority to remove students in such instances with a Fail on the assessment, and notice made to the Vice Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education.

Confidentiality

Students must not discuss any details of the content of the OSCE or TOSCE with other students at any time before, during, or after the assessment. Paper will be provided inside the exam rooms for taking notes.

- Students are not permitted to remove any materials, including notes, from the exam room.
- All notes will be collected and shredded at the conclusion of the assessment.
- Talking with classmates is not allowed on exam floors or in the rest stations.

Failure to abide by these conditions is considered a violation of the Statement of Professionalism.

Equipment

Students must bring their own stethoscopes. All other required equipment (reflex hammer, tuning fork, oto- and ophthalmoscopes, penlights, etc.) will be made available inside the stations.

- No personal notes, study materials, reference materials or scratch paper will be allowed in the testing area.
- Backpacks, purses, satchels, and briefcases will not be allowed inside the exam rooms or the rest stations.
- Mechanical and digital devices such as cell phones, pagers, calculators, recording or filming devices, and 2-way communication devices are not allowed.
- All personal possessions will be safeguarded by CSLP staff in exam floor waiting rooms.

Format

The format and details of the OSCE and/or TOSCE are included in the Clinical Skills and Clerkship syllabus.

The CSLP staff will communicate specific details by email in advance of the actual assessment.

Performance

All OSCE and TOSCE results are presented to the Competence Committee for consideration of progression, advancement and/or graduation.

The Year 1 and Year 2 TOSCE are formative and the Year 2 OSCE is summative. Suboptimal performance on any formative exam may be taken into consideration during Competence Committee deliberations.

- Students are expected to seek out additional learning and support to address gaps.

- Students whose performance is markedly below expectations will be expected to complete individual learning plans (LP) aimed at addressing their gaps.
- The Clinical Skills course lead will communicate the need for an LP to the student.
- The Clinical Skills course lead will work with the student on developing an appropriate learning plan.

Satisfactory performance on the Summative OSCE during the clinical years is a requirement for graduation from the MD Program and is jointly overseen by Clinical Skills and Clerkship committees.

- Students who are not successful on the Summative OSCEs may be required to undergo remediation upon decision by the Competence Committee as an opportunity for remediation is a privilege.
- A remediation plan will be developed by the Clerkship and rotation/academic directors in consultation with the student and will be reviewed by the UME Advisory Board prior to approval by the Competence Committee.