Introduction

Anesthesiology Clerkship is a senior year selective in our institution which fulfills the requirements for a critical care rotation. Our anesthesiology clerkship has been such a popular rotation that enrollment can be quite competitive. Thanks to the dedication of our faculty and residents, those students consistently report positive experiences about this rotation.

Many of the medical students are not aware of the anesthesiologist’s multifaceted role as a perioperative physician until their clerkship rotation in anesthesiology. Choosing a specialty for the future is a difficult decision and stressful process. Anesthesiology continues to be a highly desirable specialty among U.S. medical students. Young students’ increased exposure to anesthesia care and the specialty during their clerkship experience help them make a decision about their career choice.

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Evaluations and Grades

The process of converting evaluations into grades is similar to the process of transitioning reflection into image. Each rotation clerkship will develop specific feedback parameters, methods by which evaluations may be converted into grades. Our students’ final grade is based on three components: academic performance, anesthesiology topic presentation, and written test. Students’ initial assessment in these areas is in the form of a numerical grade submitted to the web-based On45 evaluation system, which corresponds to a letter grade’s numerical range (A: 90-100%, B: 80-89.9%, C: 70-79.9% and D: <70%)

Weaknesses of Clerkship:

- Need to develop programs to train residents to become effective teachers
- Intermittent interruptions occasionally during orientation process or during student’s clerkship
- Lack of faculty from the department running an anesthesiology clerkship rotation is a challenging task.
- College students paired with residents for the month for support, guidance and feedback
- POST: Faculty and residents’ enthusiasm and willingness to teach students
- Students paired with attending post the month for support and guidance
- Student’s daily assignment with stays in different specialty areas
- Developing a satisfactory grading system for the clerkship
- Institution wide use of web-based on45 system to evaluate & grade students
- Usefulness of student’s anonymous constructive feedback via one45 system

Strengths of Clerkship:

- Faculty and resident’s enthusiasm and willingness to teach students
- Students paired with attending post the month for support and guidance
- Student’s daily assignment with stays in different specialty areas
- Developing a satisfactory grading system for the clerkship
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Web-based On45 System

MCG, Georgia’s Health Sciences University adapted the web-based On45 software system in 2004. Department of Anesthesiology, Department of Perioperative Medicine, the oldest academic department in south, was the first to adapt its use. This software provides medical education for administration for most of the medical schools in Canada and many in U.S. The system automates the schedules, evaluations, and data tracking and reporting. Through this system, students are able to provide feedback anonymously on their clerkship experience. Administrators and instructors regularly receive posted data which they can use to improve the course. This system has brought efficiency and improvement in our evaluation system and students find it very user-friendly.

Clerkship Orientation

A meaningful and well organized orientation day is the most important part of the clerkship and therefore, requires careful planning and execution. Orientation day at our clerkship starts with greeting the students, and then students have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the facilities and faculty. At the end of the orientation day, students will become familiar with the basics of:

- General anesthesia
- Regional anesthesia
- Monitored anesthesia care
- Indications of invasive line placement and management.

At the end of the rotation, students will become familiar with:

- Standards for post anesthesia care and related tracking and reporting.
- Different methods and pharmacological agents used for general anesthesia, regional and monitored anesthesia care.
- Indications of invasive line placement and management.

Student Comments (via web-based On45) 2005-2010

"This was a fantastic rotation. The organization and orientation were top-notch, by far the best orientation of any rotation I’ve taken thus far. The lectures were appropriate, and everyone was very nice. The students were paired with residents for the month for support, guidance and feedback. The course had enough outline opportunity on their clerkship experience. Through this system, students are able to provide feedback anonymously on their clerkship experience. Administrators and instructors regularly receive posted data which they can use to improve the course. This system has brought efficiency and improvement in our evaluation system and students find it very user-friendly.

"I had multiple opportunities to practice mastering intubations, and IV access."

"I felt that the rotation was an excellent introduction to the practice of anesthesia. There were a wide variety of exposure from OB anesthesia to pediatric anesthesia to chronic pain management. I was also able to take part in wide array of general OR cases. The clerkship director's clinical experience really were very helpful in their preparation and confidence. Very supportive and taught helpful things during the rotation."

References


2. Fincher RE. Alliance for Clinical Education-Guidebook for Clerkship Directors (3rd edition)


Department Website (www.mcg.edu/anes)

All essential clerkship information is available on web, including goals and objectives, anesthesiology lecture schedule, scheduled reading assignment and evaluation grading.