

RFUMS/CMS 2009-10 Proficiency Examination Policy

Students have an option of taking proficiency examinations. These exams are only offered during Orientation Week. All students who take and successfully complete a proficiency examination will have “Passed by proficiency examination” noted on their transcript in place of a letter grade for the particular course(s). For general questions, please contact sally.venus@rosalindfranklin.edu in the Curriculum Office.

The Proficiency Examination Policy stipulated by the respective departments for the various basic science courses is as follows, and is subject to change:

First Year Courses

ANATOMY

Student must have transcript credit of a medical school* course of equivalent content in Clinical Anatomy with a grade of B or better. Such students are then required to successfully participate as a Teaching Assistant in the Fall course.

BIOCHEMISTRY

Students must pass the comprehensive proficiency exam with a score of 75% or better. Subjects covered will be: chemistry and metabolism of amino acids, carbohydrates and lipids, enzyme chemistry, kinetics and regulation, electron transport and oxidative phosphorylation, mechanisms of hormone action and metabolic regulation.

EMBRYOLOGY

A student who has transcript credit for an equivalent medical school* course in Embryology with a grade of B or better must pass a proficiency exam with a score of 80% or better. Subjects covered should be as follows: fertilization, implantation, early layer development, placentation, organ system development.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Credit for the Epidemiology course is granted for possession of the MPH degree. Otherwise, no proficiency is allowed, nor tested for.

INTRODUCTORY CLINICAL GENETICS

Student must pass the comprehensive proficiency exam with a score of 75% or better. Subjects covered should include chromosomal genetics, Mendelian pedigrees and calculation of risk factors, gene linkage and mapping, genetic heterogeneity, disease associations, polygenic inheritance, methods of prenatal diagnosis, use of restriction fragment length polymorphisms and genetic counseling, sex chromosomes and sex determination, and genetics in cancer.

HISTOLOGY

Student must have transcript credit for a medical school* course of equivalent content in Histology with a grade of B or better. Such students are then required to successfully participate as a Teaching Assistant in the course in the fall.

CLINICAL MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY (CMCB)

Students must pass a written proficiency exam in CMCB with a minimum score of 75%. Officially notify Dr. Walters at least two weeks prior to the day of the exam of commitment to take the exam. Subjects covered should include: cell adhesion, transport, nuclear structure, protein chemistry, DNA, RNA, protein synthesis, regulation of gene expression, plasma membrane, cell organization and organelle, cytoskeleton, mitosis, growth regulation, connective tissue components, epithelial cells, and muscle cells.

MEDICAL NEUROSCIENCE

Student will be excused from taking the Neuroscience course if they present transcript evidence of having passed a medical school* of equivalent content with a grade of B or better. The content of this prior course must be verified by presenting the syllabus, notes, textbook, and other materials to the Course Director.

PHYSIOLOGY

Student will be excused from taking the Physiology course if they have transcript evidence of having passed a medical Physiology course at a medical school* of equivalent content with a grade of B or better, or passed our proficiency exam with a minimum score of 75%.

- Refers to an LCME approved medical school.
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In the case of proficiency based on transcript evidence, each department reserves the right to determine whether the extramural course is equivalent to its course. Students interested in obtaining credit for a course on the basis of transcript evidence should contact the appropriate department chair for approval of course being submitted for credit.

Second Year Courses

CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE

Students will be required to take an essay exam consisting of six questions. Topics which may be covered include: 1) functional zones of cerebral cortex; 2) hemisphere dominance and interhemispheric connection; 3) development of the central nervous system; 4) organization of the cerebral cortex for perception, language, complex thought, complex movement and other functions; 5) abnormalities associated with cerebral cortical dysfunction; 6) assessment of central nervous system structure and functioning (history, physical exam, behavioral neurologic component of the physical exam, mental status component of the physical exam, laboratory testing; 7) neuropathology: etiology, histopathology, gross pathology, signs, symptoms, course, laboratory findings, epidemiology and treatment of diseases of the nervous system; 8) psychopathology: psychiatric diagnostic classification; symptoms, signs, laboratory tests, epidemiology, etiology and treatment of psychiatric illness; 9) personality and its development; and, 10) learning and behavior modification.

FOUNDATIONS OF MEDICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Student will be required to pass a proficiency exam with a score of 80% or better, or present transcript evidence of having passed a medical school* course of equivalent

subject content with a grade of B or better. Students meeting these specifications will be required to participate as instructors in the small group problem solving exercises that constitute a part of the Medical Pharmacology curriculum during the year they would have normally been enrolled in this course.

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Student must present transcript evidence of having passed a medical school* course of equivalent subject content with a grade of B or better, AND passing the comprehensive proficiency exam with a grade of 80% or better.

PATHOLOGY

Student must present transcript evidence of having passed a medical school* course of equivalent subject content with a grade of C or better, or pass the proficiency exam. A student passing the proficiency exam will be required to take a four week, full time clerkship or equivalent training in the practical aspects of Pathology.

PATIENT SAFETY, PREVENTION AND PROFESSIONALISM

A student may petition the Course Director for proficiency if they present medical school level course work in Preventive Medicine covering primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention, evidence-based screening for common diseases, immunization recommendations for adults and children, and basic information on medical errors and patient safety.

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Refers to an LCME approved medical school.

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2009 Proficiency Examination Schedule
(subject to change)

Student **MUST** notify the appropriate Course Director, as listed below, at least one week in advance if they plan to take a proficiency exam, as well as to get information as to the content and site of the exam. **These exams are only offered during Orientation Week.**

First Year Course Directors and Proficiency Exam Date, if offered

Anatomy - Bruce Manion, PhD 847-578-8405

Biochemistry - Ronald Kaplan, PhD 847-578-8840 **Thurs., Aug. 13, 1-4 PM**

Clinical Molecular Cell Biology – Eric Walters, PhD, 847-578-3220 **Wed., Aug. 12, 9AM-12 noon**

Embryology - Joseph DiMario, PhD 847-578-3211 **Wed., Aug. 12, 1-4 PM**

Epidemiology – contact Curriculum Office 847-578-3215

Histology - Christopher Brandon, PhD 847-578-3211

Introductory Clinical Genetics – David Mueller, PhD 847-578-8606 **Thurs., Aug. 13, 9AM-12 noon**

Physiology - Charles McCormack, PhD 847-578-3280 ****Fri., Aug. 14**

****Physiology (part 1) 9AM – 12 noon/**Physiology (part 2) 1-4 PM**

Medical Ethics – contact Curriculum Office 847-578-3215

Medical Neuroscience – Lise Eliot, PhD, 847-578-3416

Second Year Course Directors and Proficiency Exam Date, if offered

Clinical Neuroscience - Frederick Sierles, MD 847-578-8709 **Fri., Aug. 14, 9AM–12 noon**

Microbiology/Immunology - Michael Fennewald, PhD 847-578-3230 **Wed., Aug. 12, 1-4 PM**

Pathology - Arthur Schneider, MD 847-578-3261 **Wed., Aug. 12, 9AM–12 noon**

Pharmacology - Gary Oltmans, PhD 847-578-8676 **Thurs., Aug. 13, 9AM–12 noon**

Patient Safety, Prevention and Professionalism – contact Curriculum Office 847-578-3215

