

Keck SOM Virtual Suggestion Box June, 2023

Thank you to all who contributed suggestions to the KSOM Virtual Suggestion Box. We have received many thoughtful and helpful suggestions and each of them has been carefully reviewed and the suggestions and responses are shared below. We have edited the suggestions to make them more concise statements while maintaining their intent. We also want to emphasize that it is important that student suggestions be expressed in ways that maintain the standards of professionalism we all value here at Keck. Using professional communication assists our faculty and administrators in evaluating your concerns, focusing our responses and considering new solutions. As always, we look forward to hearing from you and working on ways to optimize your experience here at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

OSCE Checklist

“For the OSCE, it would be beneficial to receive a checklist beforehand of what we are graded on...”

Response:

In the syllabus for each clerkship, the required clinical encounters that are OSCE eligible are identified.

To promote learning, students are given the opportunity to review videos of their performance on OSCEs and work with a faculty member to develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) upon request. The OSCE is a summative assessment, similar to that of an NBME exam, and its checklists are treated with the same level of security as the items on the NBME exam. Just like the NBME exam consisting of a sampling of items from content covered in a module, each OSCE checklist also consists of a sampling of items from the Comprehensive Health History Checklist and the Core Physical Examination Checklist. Students should, therefore, use the Comprehensive Health History Checklist and the Core Physical Examination Checklist as their study tool, not the OSCE checklist.

Managing Anxiety lecture

“The "Managing Anxiety" required session was offensive in saying that our class is at a 5x higher rate of being at risk for GAD and



suggesting that we purchase a \$60 USC mindfulness course that is affiliated with the school.”

Response:

We encourage students who would like to take advantage of the “Unwinding Anxiety” tool to speak to Dr. Young or Dr. Juliani if the cost of the “Unwinding Anxiety” option is burdensome so we can look into subsidizing it. We would also like to point you to the free resource previously offered: [Online module: From Burnout to Resilience for Physicians](#).

Well-being sessions

“The required ‘well-being sessions’ were not wellness oriented at all. Lectures on sleep which felt like an additional class or a lecture on music therapy was not at all providing therapy for us. Why not have our required wellbeing sessions be yoga on the lawn, or therapy dog cuddles, or checking in at the gym to do a 30-minute workout, or going on a hike with classmates, or painting in quad, or meditation outside? There are just so many better options.”

Response:

We believe it is meaningful to distinguish between well-being educational content, e.g., anxiety management and suicide prevention, as opposed to personal self-care activities such as yoga, being outdoors, socializing, etc. Both are very important, but we believe it is crucial to give students free time and the choice to engage in personal self-care as they see fit, rather than mandating particular activities. Thus, required classroom time can be utilized to focus solely on educational content. Over the past several years, in response to student feedback, we have trimmed the well-being educational content to cover only the most crucial topics in order not to further burden students. We are also mindful not to schedule well-being sessions at 8am or 4pm in order to minimize intrusion into your self-care time. Please know that we only make the well-being content required when we feel it is necessary for your future thriving—and hope that you will personally gain from the material. The results of the well-being utilization survey are currently being analyzed and the results will help guide future programming.

Meal Stipend Increase and Accumulation

“...the fact that students are only given \$4.50 per day while at LAC during our clerkships is wild....”

Response:

Meal stipends for Keck School of Medicine students are more accurately thought of as a recognition for student learners made directly by the hospital or site at which the training



occurs. Meal stipends are by no means required of those facilities and it is not a uniform practice of US teaching hospitals to provide meal stipends to medical students. We are grateful that our affiliated training sites are choosing to provide this benefit for our students but have no direct influence over whether they are offered to students, faculty or residents, or the amount that is provided. The meal stipend at Los Angeles General Medical Center (LAGMC) is no different than any other site in that it is a budgetary decision that is directly determined by their leadership. In our experience, it has been counterproductive for us, and especially for student advocates, to solicit LAGMC leadership directly to increase student benefits. This approach actually prompted the elimination of some student benefits in the recent past when LAGMC leaders reconsidered the expenditures they were making on student meals.

Prioritization System for Clerkship Scheduling

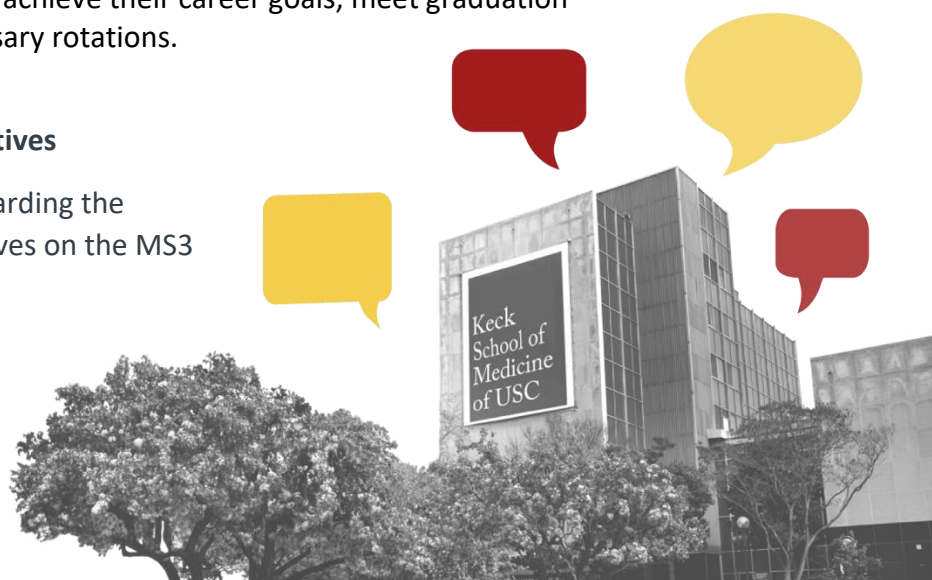
“Please consider creating some system of prioritization for clerkship scheduling that recognizes the relative competitiveness of specialty choice and those rotations reliant on lotteries, and especially for those reliant on lotteries such as IM Sub-I and Neurology.”

Response:

Our intention is to consider the needs of each individual student to guide the counseling process regarding their schedule options. Going forward, we will resume surveying students early in the year to learn their specialty interest and whether they have plans for a leave of absence, dual degree, research year, etc., to better inform the counseling and when to best schedule Neuro and the IM Sub-I. Balancing the logistics of scheduling while recognizing the preferences of all students and the number of student slots available per rotation is challenging. We have found in the past that we are best able to address the following issues for each student together: the competitiveness of specialty choice, the number of away rotations recommended for that specialty, and graduation requirements. We will reinstate that methodology. We also recognize that students may not always get the schedule they want, but we are sure, based on our prior years of success in that regard, that all students will ultimately get the schedule they need to achieve their career goals, meet graduation requirements, and complete their necessary rotations.

Availability of surgical subspecialty electives

“Please improve the communication regarding the availability of surgical subspecialty electives on the MS3 core clerkship "A" tracks.”



Response:

It is true that based on time of year, surgical and other elective capacities are impacted by the fourth year Sub I and visiting student enrollment. We will work with departments to better define the availability of electives at different times during the clerkship phase. If there is not an opportunity for a student to experience the surgical electives in the clerkship phase, the Student Affairs Office can work with students to explore those surgical electives early in the post clerkship phase so that students have experienced what is needed to inform specialty decisions.

Rotation Study Time

“Can at least 1 half-day of study time per week be scheduled for each rotation?”

Response:

The principal and most important educational opportunities on clerkships come from participation in clinical care as members of teams. Those foundational experiences are critical for students to acquire and hone the clinical skills necessary to be physicians. The clerkship directors organize clerkship schedules to maximize the time that students spend performing and learning from clinical activities. While it is essential to gain substantial knowledge in each of the core disciplines, KSOM students do well on subject exams with our current schedules. The subject exam counts for only 25% of the grade to reflect the emphasis we place on the development of clinical skills. Designating time away from clinical activities would over emphasize performance on the subject exam and would detract from the goals of the clerkship.

Pass/Fail Grading for Rotations

“I believe that Keck should be at the forefront of making rotations P/F alongside with other large equivalent caliber institutions. I suggest rotations be pass/fail with just the comments section used for the attendings to elaborate on their thoughts.”

Response:

We are part of a national conversation about pass/fail grading for clerkships. This change needs to be carefully considered to ensure that we do not have unintended consequences that disadvantage students in the residency application process. We also need to determine how students will distinguish themselves in the absence of clerkship grades.



Regulating Use of AI in Student Evaluations

“Hello, I am writing the following as a suggestion aimed to raise awareness and to encourage leadership to consider regulating the use of AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard) in student evaluations, especially during the clerkship phase. My colleagues and I understand how critical clinical performance evaluations will be in our future residency applications, and don't want AI-generated biases to hurt us. Surprisingly, AI can be sexist and racist because it simply learns from what flawed people have already written, thereby perpetuating existing stereotypes and biases. I hope that KSOM will raise awareness about this among faculty and urge evaluators to write meaningful and individualized reviews instead of relying on flawed, biased technologies. The following article is one example of how ChatGPT's performance evals in the workplace can quickly become biased based on sex and race:

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90844066/chatgpt-write-performance-reviews-sexist-and-racist>.

Thank you!”

Response:

The use of AI in all aspects of medical education is a national topic of concern and we are actively participating in that conversation. We have added instructions to evaluations stating, “Evaluators may not use any artificial intelligence to prepare evaluation narratives.”

Summer Gym Membership Coverage

“I was disappointed to find out that KSOM of USC makes us pay an extra fee to use the gym over the summer.”

Response:

All enrolled KSOM students are provided access to the HSC gym during the summer at no additional charge. Please e-mail Ms. Teresa Cook at teresa.cook@med.usc.edu if you are experiencing any issues accessing the HSC Fitness Center.

Using Subject Lines for Time Sensitive E-Mails

“For any email that includes a due date, could we please just have it written in the subject line? "Peds Preference Survey - Due May 12th" as example - pretty sure this is common practice in most organizations. It's hard to keep track of all the emails while on rotation, especially when working at LA General, where Gmail is blocked.”



Response:

Thank you, good idea! We will ask all offices in the Department to incorporate this practice.

Mask-Fit Test Fee

“I recently tried to schedule my updated mask fit test at Eric Cohen Student Health, and they said that the fee is \$25 each year after MS1--and we have to get it renewed each year.”

Response:

If you have a scheduling conflict with your classes' session, please contact the office of Student Affairs before you schedule your mask fit test at the Student Health Center. Please read on for an update about the Class of 2026 Mask-Fit sessions.

Mask-Fit Sessions

All students are required to complete an annual make fit test. Mask fit tests are free of charge to KSOM when scheduled during one of our annual sessions for each class. The Office of Student Affairs has scheduled sessions (at no cost to you) during the last week of June and mid-July. More information will follow in the coming weeks, which will include links to register and test locations. If you cannot make any of the scheduled sessions, please reach out to Peter Miranda at pgmirand@med.usc.edu.

We have received many suggestions relating to parking at HSC, LAGMC and Gap Parking Coverage so we reached out Transportation Services to provide a comprehensive update regarding parking.

Academic Year Permits

USC Transportation bases the academic permit start date according to the University, not the KSOM, academic calendar. Keck, along with other schools and programs that have nontraditional calendars, has advocated over several years to have a process for the parking permits to match our academic calendar and the University has not yet found a way to make that happen. Permits are awarded through a purchase lottery and have already been awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year (lottery occurs May 1st - 15th of every year, students must register through their parking account, if interested). After the lottery, permit purchases are subject to availability, of which the only location



now available is the Valley Lot. Permit start date is August 16, 2023. Anyone wishing to park prior to the permit start date must purchase a short-term permit from the Transportation office.

LA General Medical Center Parking

KSOM and USC are not involved in parking operations at this location. For any inquiries regarding parking, please contact the general information hotline (323) 409-1000. LAGMC does not provide parking for any health science students as the campus parking is close to the hospital.

Rotation Permits: Keck Parking Structure

The Office of Student Affairs has worked with Keck Hospital Transportation to provide parking for students on rotations with on-call or after hour shifts. If the student meets one of the above criteria, Student Affairs will reach out to the student with instructions on how to register for a parking permit. If eligible, students must create a parking account with *PiedParker*, a contactless parking system. *PiedParker* is operated by Keck Parking, not USC Transportation.

Rotation Permits: USC Rotation Parking Permit for LA General and Keck Hospital

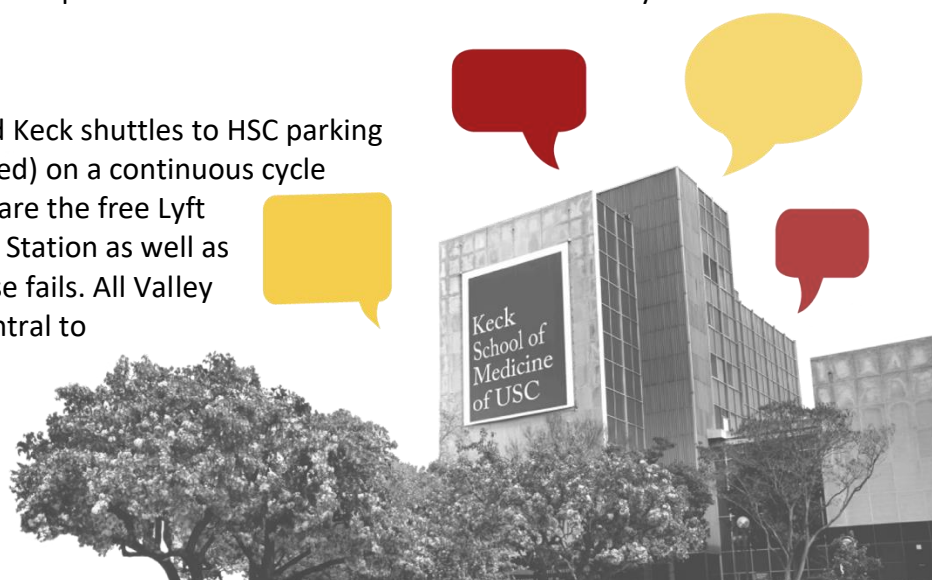
Students can purchase short-term permits for start and end dates of their rotation. Accommodations are at the discretion of USC Transportation. Generally, accommodations are made at the Biggy Structure or Lot 71, at a cost of \$55.50 and \$42.50 for two weeks, respectively. Should rotations last longer than two weeks, you will be charged a prorated fee for the additional days required.

Carpool issues

The USC carpool process is being revamped and the program rules clarified over the summer. Spaces should have been available through the lottery, as everyone must apply for the carpool program separately. If an applicant who was granted a carpool permit through the lottery doesn't qualify under the new rules, they will be given the chance to buy a normal permit in the area they were awarded. The carpool page of the USC Transportation website will contain all the new rules and online application link/process once finalized. We expect students to be able to access this on July 1.

Other Transportation Services

USC buses run on a regular schedule, and Keck shuttles to HSC parking lots run 21 hours a day (Valley Lot included) on a continuous cycle Mon-Fri. Supplanting these two services are the free Lyft program that can take students to Union Station as well as campus, and DPS is a final option if all else fails. All Valley permits are allowed to relocate more central to campus (San Pablo or Biggy Structures) after 5pm weekdays and all day on weekends and holidays. Finally, we



created a short-term reduced-rate parking area in the Valley lot for students who want to go to the Soto Complex but do not have a permit. (Note: that area has remained empty 95% of the time since it was created based on feedback. This lot size may be reduced based on lack of use to create more permit spaces.) Transportation also eliminated sales to Keck Medicine in the San Pablo Structure to free up more spaces for students living in Currie Hall I & II.

You cannot get carpool permits or rotation permits through the lottery. Currently, you can only get lottery permits for the academic year.

Important links

Lastly, we want to provide you with a few essential parking resources:

Lottery/Permit Purchase information: [How to Cancel/Purchase a Permit](#)

Parking Rates: [Parking Rates](#)

Carpool Permit Information: [Carpool Permits](#)

Accessing/Creating your Parking Account: [Parking Portal](#)

