

Keck SOM Virtual Suggestion Box September 2023

Thank you to all who have 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.

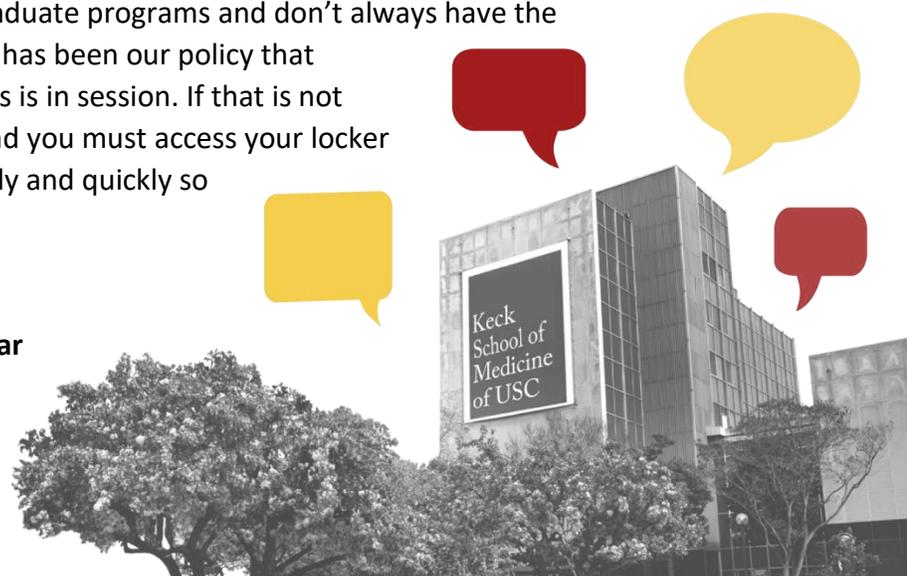
Locker Use Conflicting with ICM & HJSC

“Please find a solution to MS2 anatomy locker use conflicting with MS1 ICM/HJSC use of the LCs. For anatomy lab, we cannot bring our belongings inside, but we need our laptops/belongings for lectures before or after lab, so we need to safety store them somewhere. We have been assigned lockers, so we cannot use other lockers in the rooms not in use by other courses, such as ICM and HJSC. Thus, please find a way to schedule ICM in different rooms or offer safe storage of belongings during anatomy lab if there will be a conflict. Storing these items in our cars is not safe as cars have been broken into in the past and as students, we cannot afford to replace stolen technology. One solution I will offer is to use noise dampeners on the LC doors and put up the already present privacy screens during classes in these rooms. Alternatively, ICM and HJSC can use the 200 level LCs and KAM basement classrooms instead of the 100 levels LCs which have the pre-assigned MS2 student lockers.”

Response:

Thank you for raising this issue. We appreciate the suggestion of utilizing different classrooms, however, classrooms are shared with graduate programs and don't always have the capacity and availability that we need. It has been our policy that students do not enter the LC's when class is in session. If that is not possible on Gross Anatomy/ICM days, and you must access your locker at that time, we ask that you enter quietly and quickly so as not to disrupt the class.

Lack of Grocery/Convenience Stores Near Currie Hall and HSC



“The campus is very isolated, and it is in a food desert. It would be great to have a convenience or grocery store within walking distance of Currie Hall or campus. All grocery stores are outside of the Lyft 2-mile radius, so I truly feel trapped.”

Response:

We did some research and found a Food 4 Less that is 2 miles from Currie Hall. There are also other local community markets within the 2-mile Lyft radius.

Other options include the Pappas Quad Farmer’s Market every Tuesday from 10 am – 2 pm. Also, there is a Target and a Trader Joe’s in the University Village on the University Park Campus. The Inter-Campus Shuttle operates from 8:30 am-4:30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays with drop off at Jefferson & Hoover, across the street from the University Village. If students have any issues with accessing these conveniences, please reach out to the Office of Student Affairs.

Parking Window Hours

“The parking window either needs to have longer hours (before 6am, after 6pm) or the Transportation Dept needs to develop a way for medical students to purchase parking permits for their rotations online or over the phone. The hours the window is open are not compatible with the hours that medical students are expected to be in the hospital. It also needs to be announced whether parking will be provided ahead of time. For example, SICU rotations get free parking at Keck Hospital, but Sub-I rotations do not.”

Response:

We recommend that students purchase permits for rotations on the day of shelf exams. This issue will be raised at an upcoming Student Affairs Committee meeting that the Transportation Office will attend. We will provide an update to students after this meeting.

Parking Priority for Students on Rotation

“I know there are already a lot of suggestions/frustrations regarding parking, but people actively in rotations who must report to LA General every day, often at tough hours, should get parking prioritized over the M1s and M2s who are only on campus a couple hours a week.”



Response:

While we do understand and empathize with the difficulty of finding parking on campus, we must also understand the situation in its entirety. USC Transportation (in addition to various other parking offices on campus such as Keck Parking and LA General), have the responsibility of accommodating various constituencies (students, faculty, staff, patients, and visitors) throughout campus and managing parking in locations where much higher-than-supply demand exists. Because of this, in the interest of fairness, USC Transportation, as the primary parking permit-granting department on campus, conducts a [lottery-based system](#) every year from May 1 to May 15 to provide students an opportunity to purchase a permit for the academic year.

For students on rotations, USC Transportation accommodates students in locations wherever possible. For any student on a rotation at LA General or Keck Medical Center, you may visit their Customer Service Center (located in KAM 120) to purchase a **rotation** parking permit. Accommodations will be made for the duration of your rotation at either Biggy structure or Lot 71. The cost of these permits for two weeks is \$44.00 and \$59.00 for Lot 71 and Biggy Structure, respectively. Should your rotation last more than two weeks, you will be charged a prorated fee for the additional days that are required.

Rest assured that KSOM is constantly working with our parking partners in advocating for the best interests of our students and their parking needs.

No Lecture on ICM Days

“Would it be possible to not have lectures on the same day as ICM’s? I find it difficult to keep up with content on that day after 4 hours of ICM. Even if we kept it to only one lecture post-ICM that would greatly improve my experience.”

Response: Previous classes have asked that Wednesday to Friday afternoons be kept clear of scheduled curricular events when possible. To achieve this, we must schedule some classes on Tuesday afternoons after ICM. We limit class time after ICM as much as possible, but two or more hours of sessions are often needed to be scheduled in the afternoon on many Tuesdays to deliver all the content in its proper sequence. Of note, lectures are also webcast and can be viewed at a later time.

No ICM and Class on Tuesdays

“I feel like we should not have ICM and class on Tuesday. It is a very long day



ahead of an exam. I know class is not mandatory, however, everyone will feel obligated to go, so it might as well be. Additionally, Tuesdays are very long in general and there is not much time to review after class. Lastly, Group B for ICM really gets short-changed, as we never get to do the interviews first. It would be nice if we could go in first sometimes.”

Response:

With regard to which Group performs interviews first, we maintain the same order of performing interviews or participating in an assessment activity, throughout the semester, but change the order of activities for each Group each semester. Therefore, Group B will start with interviewing and Group A will start with the assessment activity next semester. We attempt to keep Wednesday and Friday afternoons clear for students to use for review time. Please see the [KSOM MD Student Instructional Time Policy](#)

Coaching Meetings Throughout Clerkships

“Instead of having coaching meetings pre-clerkship, I think it would be helpful to have brief coaching meetings throughout clerkships to talk about how to handle different situations. For example, how should students navigate working in teams where the other student doesn’t pull their weight? How should students navigate working with an attending who maybe doesn’t go so far as to violate policies in mistreatment, but continually criticizes them? I don’t mean to complain, but just feel like it would be wonderful to have more individualized support during clerkships to learn how to appropriately navigate different scenarios. I feel like right now, we are really practicing the things we discussed in EPIC, but don’t really have guidance or more wisdom to work with.”

Response:

We are currently focus grouping the Class of 2025 for utility of coaching program/EPIC during the second intersession, the week of October 30, and will be able to include questions such as these in the focus group to learn more.

