Neurology Clerkship Syllabus Academic Year 2024-2025

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Introduction

Welcome to the Neurology Clerkship! We look forward to helping you build a foundation of knowledge in this important field of medicine.

Please note that you are responsible for knowing and following the Keck School of Medicine Student Policies (http://medweb.usc.edu/policies/).

Neurology Clerkship Goals

- 1. Gain exposure to patients with neurological conditions with differing levels of acuity.
- Practice evidenced-based medical care through the application of translational research and current medical literature.
- Develop the skill to deliver timely and appropriate guidance to a patient with a neurological disorder.
- 4. Develop an appreciation for patient advocacy in the setting of neurologic conditions.
- Gain exposure to difficult ethical choices and conflicting considerations in patient care, particularly in the setting of neurodegenerative disorders and catastrophic brain injury.
- 6. Gain familiarity with the public health impact of neurological disorders.
- Identify socioeconomic and systemic issues and other health disparities that may influence accessibility of care.
- 8. Develop life-long learning skills to identify personal strengths, weaknesses and soliciting, accepting, and acting on feedback.
- 9. Recognize situations in which it is appropriate to request neurologic consultation.

Neurology Clerkship Objectives

The clerkship objectives support achievement of the KSOM Educational Program Objectives: https://medstudent.usc.edu/academics/ksom-educational-program-objectives/. Note that the professional attributes expected of a medical student are associated with Objectives P1-P6 in the KSOM Educational Program Objectives.

What follows are the specific objectives for the Neurology Clerkship. By the end of the Neurology Clerkship, the medical student will be able to, in real or simulated patient care settings:

	Clerkship Objectives	KSOM Educational Program Objectives
1.	Demonstrate basic science and clinical knowledge of a range of medical problems related to core neurological conditions.	KP1, KP2
2.	Take an accurate and complete neurologic history.	PC1
3.	Perform a thorough and reliable neurological examination.	PC2
4.	Accurately screen for signs and symptoms of neurological emergencies.	PC5
5.	Distinguish normal from abnormal findings in a neurological examination.	PC2

Localize the abnormal findings on a neurological exam to a location in the nervous system.	KP1, PC5
7. Formulate a differential diagnosis based on history, exam, and lesion localization.	PC7
Appropriately use and interpret imaging and other diagnostic tests related to neurological diseases/conditions.	PC6
Develop a succinct and appropriate assessment and plan appropriate to the clinical situation.	PC5
Document the history, physical examination, assessment and plan using a format appropriate to the clinical situation.	PC4, KP5, ICS4
11. Present a complete, well-organized verbal summary of the patient's history and physical examination findings, including an assessment and plan pertaining to neurological conditions.	PC4
12. Communicate verbally or non-verbally, in a timely and compassionate manner with patients with neurological conditions and their families and visitors.	ICS1
13. Work with and communicate with members of the interprofessional team. Communicate effectively (oral and written communication) with the health care team.	IC1, ICS2, ICS3
14. Effectively use medical literature, computer- based searching tools, and other evidence-based informational resources in the care of patients.	PBLI4
15. Act professionally with compassion, integrity and respect in all interactions with patients, families, faculty, colleagues, and staff.	P1, ICS5
16. Carry out responsibilities in a timely manner, getting team support and/or using clinic or hospital resources, as appropriate.	P2
17. Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's own knowledge and behavior and engage in appropriate help seeking behavior including soliciting and incorporating feedback.	PBLI1, PBLI2, PBLI3
18. Behave ethically in caring for patients and in relating to patients' families and others involved in patient care.	Р3
19. Ensure confidentiality and comply with all relevant laws, policies, and regulations.	Р7

<u>Clerkship Structure</u>
You will function as an integral part of the team and we hope that you will take full advantage of this opportunity to make an important contribution to your patients' care and well-being.

This core clerkship is a required four-week rotation. Each student has a personalized schedule. Students are assigned to a variety of clinical settings including Los Angeles General Medical Center, Keck Hospital, Rancho Los Amigos, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, Kaiser Sunset, Providence St. Joseph in Burbank, Kaweah Delta in Visalia, or outpatient community clinics in Burbank, West Hills, and Arcadia. Site-specific information will be provided to all students. The rotation is designed with relatively little on-call or weekend work in order to allow you to read and prepare for the NBME subject exam.

Wellness Afternoon - The Wellness afternoon occurs on the third Tuesday afternoon of the rotation.

Clerkship Site Descriptions

Clerkship site descriptions can be viewed at the following website: https://medstudent.usc.edu/clerkship-site-descriptions/

Clinical Learning Activities

A. Inpatient and/or Outpatient Neurology

Students are assigned to a primary location, which is determined via student preference based on a lottery system.

B. Work Rounds

The entire team will see the team's established patients. You should present your patients and discuss your findings with your resident, fellow, and/or attending. Work rounds provide an opportunity to determine and implement the plans you wish to carry out for the day.

C. Teaching Sessions

All new admissions and established patients with new problems will be reviewed at the bedside by your attending faculty. Attendings, residents, or medical students may give didactic presentations of medical topics relevant to the team's activities.

D. Didactics

Weekly lectures that occur on Wednesday afternoons. Didactics are given by USC faculty, fellows, and residents via Zoom.

E. Neurology Grand Rounds

Tuesdays 12-1 p.m., online via Zoom. A clinically based conference where local experts, guest experts or senior residents-- under the guidance of faculty mentors--present interesting cases and didactic overviews.

F. Sign Outs

It is imperative that you sign out your patients to the physician responsible for the care of your patients when you are outside the hospital. You should communicate directly with this physician whether in person or by phone. A sign out consists of the name and medical record number of your patient, a brief summary of the medical problems and present therapy, and any pending tasks requiring completion.

G. Outpatient Clinic Overview

Exposure to outpatient neurology and to the department's list of Required Clinical Experiences is essential for all students. Students on inpatient services may be assigned supplementary outpatient clinics.

Required Assignments

1. Supervised Neurological Exam

You will be evaluated performing a comprehensive neurologic exam by *a faculty member*, *resident, or fellow*. You are required to upload this form to Elentra upon completion.

2. Mid-Rotation Feedback

Mid-Rotation feedback enables students to assess their progress to date and to develop goals for growth and improvement over the remainder of the rotation. It also helps to ensure that the students can learn and improve from practice. The supervising faculty/residents and the students must participate in a mid-rotation feedback exercise. The student will first complete a self-evaluation, provide comments, and identify learning goals they would like to accomplish before the end of the clerkship. Students are responsible for giving the attending the feedback form and arranging a time to receive individual feedback. The Mid-Rotation Feedback form should be uploaded to Elentra on the Friday of the 2nd week of the rotation. This mid-rotation feedback is required but not graded.

3. On-Call Form

Students are assigned to one inpatient weekend on-call session. You are expected to pre-round and round with the inpatient team on weekends or holidays for one session, approximately 7AM-noon or until the completion of rounds. Remember that your supervising resident must co-sign all of your work. This experience will help you to see cases on your Required Clinical Encounters list.

If you do not have an opportunity for on-call at your clinical site, please contact the clerkship team to help you arrange for an on-call at LA General Medical Center (4th floor in patient tower). Upload your on-call form signed by an attending or resident on Elentra by the 4th Friday at noon. There is no on-call requirement for students assigned to Keck Hospital.

4. Reflection Assignment

- Clinical Reflection Assignment. A journal writing assignment for medical students to reflect
 on their Neurology Clerkship clinical experiences. Students are asked to write and upload to
 Elentra a reflection that is at least a paragraph long. The reflection is not graded; the
 assignment receives a "complete" or "incomplete."
- Writing prompts include reflecting on the week's clinical experience, what new technologies in Neurology they found interesting and similar topics. The prompts change based on the students' needs and interests in each rotation.
- Reflections are due at the end of Week 2 and Week 3.

Required Clinical Experiences

In the clinical setting, students are expected to acquire primary responsibility for and log at least one patient with each of the Required Clinical Experiences.

Log all patient encounters for each Required Clinical Experiences listed below in the corresponding diagnosis folder in MedOasis. For each encounter, log the level of responsibility that you provided:

- Participated: You assisted or performed direct patient care responsibilities under direct or indirect supervision.
- Observed: You watched or discussed a patient's care, but did not have an active role in their care.

- Simulated: You completed an assigned activity through high-fidelity simulation, virtual case scenarios (e.g., Aquifer), or other simulated means.

Logging all of your Required Clinical Experiences for a rotation allows KSOM to ensure comparable student experiences across clinical sites. Failure to log Required Clinical Experiences will result in a reduction in your overall clerkship score (see Student Assessment section of clerkship manual). Please note that each patient can only be used to log a single Required Clinical Experience (even if they have multiple applicable conditions).

Please note that your logs will be reviewed at your mid-clerkship feedback session. It is your responsibility to ensure you have completed all Required Clinical Experiences by the end of the rotation. If you anticipate that you will not be able to see all Required Clinical Experience cases by the end of the second week of the rotation, please notify your clerkship team; the clerkship team will discuss how to gain exposure to the remainder of the Required Clinical Experience cases or provide an alternative experience.

Required Clinical Experiences:

- 1. Acute encephalopathy (e.g., toxic metabolic encephalopathy)
- 2. Progressive cognitive decline (e.g., dementia, progressive encephalopathy)
- 3. Headache
- 4. Demyelinating disease (e.g., multiple sclerosis, neuromyelitis optica)
- 5. Movement disorders (e.g., Parkinson's disease, dystonia, tremor)
- Seizure
- 7. Stroke
- 8. Peripheral neuropathy
- 9. Myasthenia gravis or other neuromuscular condition (e.g., ALS, spinal muscular atrophy)

$\label{lem:continuous} \textbf{Required Clinical Experience Due dates:}$

- Each student should enter at least 3 Required Clinical Experience cases into MedOASIS by the
 end of Week 2 of the rotation. Points will be subtracted if Required Clinical Experiences and
 write-ups are turned in late.
- Each student should enter at least 6 Required Clinical Experience cases into MedOASIS by the
 end of Week 3 of the rotation. If there are less than 6 Required Clinical Experiences completed,
 then you must inform the clerkship team in order to avoid losing points.
- If you have not logged at least 1 encounter for each Required Clinical Experience by the end of Week 3 of the rotation, please reach out to the Clerkship Directors for further guidance.

Professionalism during the Clerkship Rotation

Dress professionally at your clinical site and at the OSCE exam as listed in the Student Dress Code Policy.

Professional Accountability is 5% of the clerkship grade, with the expectation that: all Required Clinical Experience cases are logged per clerkship stated deadline, all administrative tasks are completed, students are present at all required activities of the clerkship, and students respond to all communications from the clerkship team within 48 hours.

Learning Resources

The recommended textbook is available at USC Medical Bookstore and online via your personal account with the Norris medical library: **Clinical Neurology**, 10e by David A. Greenberg, Michael J. Aminoff, Roger P. Simon

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Also highly recommended is "Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases" by Hal Blumenfeld, MD, PhD. This book is unsurpassed in clarity. It is an excellent reference for anatomy, localization and the neurologic exam and is on reserve at Norris library.

Websites:

- Sample subject exam questions from the NMBE website can be accessed here, https://www.nbme.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Clinical_Neurology_Sample_Items.pdf
- The AAN has issued practice parameters for a number of common neurologic entities. These can
 be found at www.aan.com or at www.guidelines.gov. Additional web sites with a great deal of
 helpful information are listed below:
- http://www.med.Harvard.edu/AANLIB/
 MRI atlas of the human brain, with your choice labeled or unlabeled. Includes MRIs of normal human brains and of patients with a variety of different types of pathology, correlated with single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) images.
 - Another helful atlas: http://da.si.washington.edu/da.html
- http://www.neuroexam.com/
 A collection of video clips demonstrating how to do each component of the neurologic examination

Online Resources:

Localization lecture

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0tphKEqKTQ

Normal neuro exam

http://neuroexam.com/?fbclid=IwAR2ZyNAutrJBhxRU9mU8VB918va4xApLWrTeNqVIIP CtVT0hphawY0rJeng

Abnormal neuro exam

https://neurologicexam.med.utah.edu/adult/html/home exam.html

50 cases

 $\underline{http://www.med.umich.edu/lrc/neurologic/?fbclid=IwAR3tcVaOb8ITNIIYU06jqe9E0COVW} \underline{Jg_RGtZ3J6hOPpLu8xrXrfdApjpbiE}$

Interactive cases:

https://depts.washington.edu/neurolog/archive/education/clerkships/cases.html

Storage, Study, and Relaxation Space:

 $This information can be found on the website: \underline{https://medstudent.usc.edu/clerkship-sites-study-storage-and-relaxation-space/$

Student Assessment

Evaluation and Grading

All clerkship activities, assignments, and evaluations are required and must be completed before you receive your final grade:

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Commented [SS1]: The grading section was revised

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Graded Component	Weight
Clinical Performance (completed by your preceptor/resident)	55%
NBME Clinical Neurology Subject Exam Note: minimum score required to pass exam = 62.	25%
3. OSCE	15%
 4. Professional Accountability (one point will be given for each of the following): Logging ALL Required Clinical Experience cases per clerkship stated deadline. Completing ALL administrative tasks (e.g. evaluations) of clerkship on time. Completing ALL assignments on time and to satisfaction. Being present at ALL required activities of the clerkship. Responding to all communications from the clerkship leadership within 48 hours. 	5%
5. Other: a. Complete all Required Clinical Experiences b. Mid-Rotation Feedback/Goals c. On call sheet d. Reflections writing assignment e. Superverised Neurological Exam Form	Satisfactory completion required:

The final clerkship grade is determined by your overall score, rounded to the nearest whole number, and students must also achieve a minimum NBME score for a final grade of Pass, High Pass or Honors:

Neurology				
	Overall Score cut off for each grade	Minimum NBME Subject Exam Score for Grade of Pass, High Pass or Honors		
Honors	94+			
High Pass	74 - 93	62		
Pass	68 - 73			
Fail	67 or below			

Eligibility Criteria for Faculty and Resident Supervisors to Submit an Evaluation of Student Performance: All attendings and residents who work with a student for a minimum of 4 total days. At least one attending evaluation or the evaluation compiled by the on-site director is required to generate a grade. KSOM health professionals who provide health and psychiatric/psychological services to a medical student cannot be involved in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services. Please see the Supervision of Student Performance by Healthcare Providers policy for more information.

OSCE and NBME Subject Exam Logistics: The Neurology Clerkship OSCE and NBME subject exam will take place on <u>Friday</u> during Week 4 of the rotation. The OSCE will consist of two stations that focus on neurological cases. Each station will consist of a 15-minute standardized patient encounter followed by

completion of a 10-minute post-encounter note. OSCE cases will be derived from the Required Clinical Experiences. Detailed instructions will be provided to you the week before the OSCE.

Mid-Rotation Feedback: The Mid-Rotation Feedback form asks each student to establish goals for the remainder of the clerkship, with help from clinical preceptor or attending. Completing the Feedback form is also an opportunity for the student to receive feedback from the preceptor, attending, or in some cases a senior resident. The student's final evaluation will ask for self-evaluation of success in reaching those midrotation goals. Please be as thoughtful as possible in designating these goals. The Mid-Rotation Feedback form should be uploaded to Elentra on the Friday of the 2nd week of the rotation. This mid-rotation feedback is required but not graded.

Passing the Clerkship: To receive a passing grade (Pass, High Pass, or Honor) for the clerkship, students must demonstrate minimum competence based on their 1) overall clerkship performance; 2) the NBME subject exam performance; 3) the satisfactory completion of all required activities; and 4) the absence of unprofessional behaviors as outlined in the student handbook. Note: Unexcused absence or other unprofessional conduct will preclude a final grade of Honors regardless of overall performance score.

- Students who do not pass the NBME subject exam on their first attempt will be ineligible for Honors
- 2. Students who pass the retake exam (second attempt) are ineligible for Honors and will receive a grade of Pass (P) or High Pass (HP) based on their overall performance.
- Students who fail the retake exam (second attempt) will continue to have a grade of Incomplete (I) noted on their transcript for that clerkship and will be required to sit for a second retake (third attempt) of the NBME subject exam.
- 4. Students who pass the second retake exam (third attempt) are ineligible for a grade of HP or Honors and will receive a grade of "Pass" for the clerkship.
- 5. Students who fail the second retake exam (third attempt) will receive a grade of "Fail" (F) for the clerkship and must repeat the clerkship.

Note: A student must earn at least 4/5 professionalism points in order to achieve the Honors distinction.

Fail: A grade of Fail may be given in the following situations: 1) failure to demonstrate minimum competence based on overall clerkship performance, 2) inability to pass the NBME on three attempts, 3) any unprofessional behavior as outlined in the student handbook, 4) failure to resolve a grade of incomplete.

Incomplete: "Incomplete" is not a final grade, but a designation that is used if a student has been excused from meeting a clerkship deadline. Designations of "**Incomplete**" will be assigned to any student who does not complete any required component of the clerkship. Designations of "**Incomplete**" will be assigned to any student who has not achieved the minimum NBME Subject Exam score set for passing the clerkship on their first and second attempts.

Policies and Procedures

Please note that you are responsible for knowing and following the Keck School of Medicine Student Policies (http://medweb.usc.edu/policies/).

EHR Access and Emergency Protocols

Electronic Health Record Access

If you have questions or issues with access to the electronic health record system at Keck Hospital or LA General Medical Center, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at 323-442-2553. For other sites, please contact the site coordinator.

Emergency Procedures

Contact Student Affairs

If you have an urgent issue that requires assistance, you may contact the Office of Student Affairs for assistance at 323-442-2553. You can call this number after hours and be connected to the Dean on call.

Clerkship Director/MSE/Site Director/Coordinator

You can also reach out to the Clerkship Director, Medical Student Educator and/or Site Director for assistance. Please feel free to call or text their cell phones in an emergency.

Needlestick and Exposure Protocol

Call **During Business Hours: 213-740-9355 (WELL); After Hours:** (323) 442-7900. Please leave a voicemail. There is a provider available 24/7 who will return your call. More information can be found at https://engemannshc.usc.edu/bloodborne-pathogen-exposure/.

Additional information on emergency procedures can be found at: https://medstudent.usc.edu/emergency/

Social Justice and Health Equity

The USC Neurology Clerkship values social justice and acknowledges that medical care in the United States may vary based on patients' ethnicity, cultural background, and financial resources. While systemic inequalities may influence medical care and decision making, we work towards equity, diversity, and inclusion so that we can make lasting changes in the medical field and Neurology.

Please try to integrate social justice/health equity practices in the clinical setting and in your documentation. As healthcare providers, we uphold that all humans are created equal and we strive to support and care for with excellence every patient, treating them as if they are our family members.

Link for the American Academy of Neurology Position Statement on Systemic Racism and Inequities in Society: Systemic Racism and Inequities in Society: AAN Position | AAN.

Policies

Mistreatment

The Keck School of Medicine (KSOM) is committed to maintaining and promoting a respectful learning environment for all members of the Keck community. KSOM has as zero tolerance policy for mistreatment. For more details on what constitutes mistreatment and how to report it, please review here.
To report mistreatment, access MedOasis through http://my.usc.edu/ and select the MedOasis Widget. The mistreatment report form is located in the announcement box at the top of your MedOasis home page.

Code of Professional Behavior

Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Professional Behavior in all settings by demonstrating honesty and integrity, responsibility, reliability, and accountability as well as respect for all patients, peers, faculty, and staff. For a detailed description of various dimensions of professionalism, please review here.

Clerkship Evaluation

We rely on your thoughtful and constructive feedback to continually improve the curricula and instruction. Completing evaluations is a professional expectation of medical students' professional responsibility. Please refer to the Evaluation Completion Policy.

Grade Appeals

Information about appealing a grade or evaluation can be found in the <u>Evaluation and Grade Appeal</u> Policy. Evaluation and grade appeals have timelines and requirements.

HIPAA Privacy Regulation

Please note that HIPAA privacy regulations are always in effect in all clinical settings. Individual practitioners (including medical students) are held personally responsible for violations of HIPAA regulations which may result in financial and other penalties. You have previously completed a HIPAA training on Trojan Learn and have access to the training modules if you wish to review them. You can also find additional information by visiting here.

Medical Student Supervision Policy

Students must have an identified faculty supervisor at all times. Students may be directly or indirectly supervised by faculty members and/or residents and, when indirectly supervised, direct supervision must be immediately available at all times by a faculty member or resident. Please review the Medical Student Supervision Policy for more information.

Medical Student Time Requirements

Student hours include the following limits: a maximum of 28 consecutive hours in the hospital and a maximum of 80 hours per week averaged over four weeks. Students receive at least one day off per week. Refer to your individual calendar. Please review the Medical Student Time Requirements for Clinical and Education Activities Policy for more information.

Code of Conduct in Faculty-Student Relationship

The <u>faculty code of conduct</u> includes language about the standard of conduct in the faculty-student relationship.

Assessment and Supervision of Student Performance by Healthcare Providers

KSOM health professionals who provide health and psychiatric/psychological services to a medical student cannot be involved in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services. See policy here.

Attendance

It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the curriculum office regarding absences from required events that result from anticipated conflicts, personal emergencies or unforeseen events. Please review the KSOM attendance policy for more details.

Requesting Time Off

Students requesting an excused absence for one or more missed classes, clinical site time, or who need to seek a leave of absence, are instructed to submit the appropriate form, which can be found here: https://medstudent.usc.edu/forms/

Access to Health Care Services

Students are excused from classes or clinical activities to access needed healthcare services. Please review the <u>Students Needing Access to Healthcare Policy</u>.

Computer-based Examination Administration

Students are required to bring fully charged laptops and chargers to participate in all clerkship course examinations that are administered electronically. No additional items (cell phones, purses, notes, etc.) are allowed in the examination area and their presence in the examination area might result in a grade of fail for the course. For more information on the administration of computer-based examinations, please review here.

Diversity

The Keck School of Medicine (KSOM) is committed to creating a culture that promotes and celebrates diversity and inclusion at all levels of the institution. The diversity policy is here.

Dress Code

The image presented in interactions with patients, colleagues, and visitors has a major influence on how one is perceived as a professional. Students at the Keck School of Medicine are expected to promote a professional environment. The following guidelines are the minimum standards for all Keck School of Medicine students. Furthermore, students must adhere to the dress code policies of any assigned clinical sites. The dress code policy is here.

Grading Policy

The KSOM Grading Policies can be found here.

Examination Retake Policy

KSOM permits students to retake examinations under certain circumstances. Students retaking examinations are required to work with LEAD (see Additional Resources below) in preparation. The Examination Retake Policy is here.

Additional Resources

Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS)

OSAS provides support services and accommodations necessary to enable students with disabilities to develop their maximum potential by making their education accessible, while having the dignity to work independently. For more information, please review https://osas.usc.edu/.

Learning Enhancement and Academic Development (LEAD)

The Learning Enhancement and Academic Development provides an array of services and resources to help medical students master the curriculum. More information about LEAD can be found here. Students may also contact Dr. Ranna Nash or Dr. Melissa Lopez at Keck Learning Enhancement and Academic Development (LEAD) at Ranna.Nash@med.usc.edu or lopezms@usc.edu.

Emergency Procedures and Preparedness

The Keck School of Medicine has emergency procedures and a preparedness plan. Visit this site to find out more, including whom to reach in an emergency: https://medstudent.usc.edu/emergency/

Right to Inspect Student Records

According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students have a right to inspect their educational records within 45 days of the request and to request corrections. For information on the review and challenge of student records, as well as general information about FERPA, visit: https://arr.usc.edu/students/ferpa/

Wellness Day Policy

Wellness days are mandatory and are incorporated into clerkship schedules to provide students with an opportunity to attend to their personal well-being. Students are released from clinical duties one full day for each 6-week clerkship and 1/2 day for each 4-week clerkship. The timing of wellness days can be found here: https://medstudent.usc.edu/academics/curriculum/wellness-days/.

Essential Technical Standards Policy

All students admitted to and enrolled in the Keck School of Medicine M.D. program must meet and continue to meet throughout their enrollment, the Essential Technical Standards (Standards) set forth in this policy:

 $\underline{https://medstudent.usc.edu/faculty-staff-information/keck-school-of-medicine-md-student-essential-technical-standards-policy/$

Timeliness of Grades Policy

The Keck School of Medicine requires timely reporting of final grades:

 $\underline{https://medstudent.usc.edu/faculty-staff-information/keck-school-of-medicine-md-student-final-grade-submission-and-reporting-policy/$