

Clerkship: Psychiatry

Description

The Psychiatry Clerkship is required for all students during the clinical years. Weill Cornell Psychiatry is one of the largest, most prestigious academic departments of psychiatry in the country, with a distinguished history of leadership in clinical care, education and training, and research and scholarship for more than a century. For the clerkship, twelve 4-week rotations a year are offered at each of the two sites, Westchester and Manhattan. At both sites, students are immersed in clinical care and the day-to-day practice of acute care psychiatry, rotating on a variety of clinical services, including inpatient units, day treatment programs, and the Psychiatric Emergency Department. Both sites provide a core didactic program that covers the breadth of general psychiatry, and exposure to current research relevant to the field of psychiatry.

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Learning Objectives

By the end of the Psychiatry Clerkship, the student will be able to:

- Describe the pathophysiology, epidemiology, etiology, clinical features, laboratory findings, imaging, pathology, and prognosis of diseases commonly encountered in Psychiatry.
- Perform a complete and focused history and physical examination for patients in Psychiatry.
- Identify the differential diagnosis and diagnostic approach to commonly presenting signs and symptoms in Psychiatry.
- Interpret diagnostic and imaging tests for disease states commonly encountered in Psychiatry.
- Demonstrate skills in diagnostic reasoning and clinical problem-solving, cognizant of ambiguity and uncertainty, and applying the skills of evidence-based medicine.
- Outline preventive and management strategies for disease states commonly encountered in Psychiatry.
- Write complete and accurate clinical notes.
- Communicate effectively with patients, families, and the medical team.
- Identify contextual factors that affect care, including psychosocial determinants of health.
- Recognize the limits of one's knowledge and skills, seeking consultation with more experienced physicians or specialists when indicated.
- Apply the principles of patient safety, healthcare quality, and minimizing medical error.

- Identify and respond appropriately to urgencies and emergencies in Psychiatry.
- Demonstrate a high level of responsibility, including attendance, reliability, accurate reporting, and personal comportment.
- Demonstrate a commitment to self-directed learning by engaging in self-improvement, accepting constructive criticism, and modifying behaviors appropriately.
- Demonstrate professional relationships with patients by establishing rapport, showing sensitivity to patient needs and perspectives, advocacy, and confidentiality.
- Demonstrate professional relationships with colleagues, the healthcare team and systems by showing respect for, and cooperation with, all colleagues, and by using medical records appropriately.
- Outline the biopsychosocial model for psychiatric conditions.
- Describe the psychological development across the lifespan in the context of the care of patients with psychiatric disorders and medical conditions.
- Describe how structural determinants of health impact patient outcomes in Psychiatry.