

Clerkship: Surgery

Description

The Department of Surgery welcomes you to the Surgery Clerkship. The Surgery Clerkship is an eight-week clinical experience and each student will spend four weeks at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Cornell Campus and four weeks at either New York-Presbyterian/Queens, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, or Houston Methodist Hospital. At all sites students will be exposed to the breadth of general surgery and students will learn to diagnose and plan for the care of patients who require surgery. Students will learn from patients in the clinic, ED, wards and OR, and experience different types of hospitals. Students will gain exposure to the process of diagnosing surgical pathology, caring for patients' medical needs, treating severely injured patients and making decisions regarding when patients would or would not benefit from an operative procedure. Students will also be exposed first hand to the post-operative needs and complications from surgery. As in any clerkship, students experience will be enhanced by closely following patients from admission to discharge, and being an active member of the team. In addition to clinical work, students have a variety of conferences and simulation training modules to increase their foundation of knowledge and technical abilities.

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Learning Objectives

By the end of the Surgery 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 Surgery.
- Perform a complete and focused history and physical examination for patients in Surgery.
- Identify the differential diagnosis and diagnostic approach to commonly presenting signs and symptoms in Surgery.
- Interpret diagnostic and imaging tests for diseases commonly encountered in Surgery.
- Demonstrate skills in diagnostic reasoning and clinical problem-solving, cognizant of ambiguity and uncertainty, and applying the skills of evidence-based medicine.
- Use an evidence-based medicine approach to answer a clinical question.
- Outline preventive and management strategies for diseases commonly encountered in Surgery.
- 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 Surgery.
- 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.
- Participate in surgical operations, having reviewed the proper steps of the procedure beforehand.
- Apply the principles of nutrition in Surgery.