

# Undergraduate EPAs – The Basics

## EPA = Entrustable Professional Activity

- “A unit of professional practice that can be entrusted to a sufficiently competent learner or professional.”<sup>1</sup>
- Discrete, time-limited task a trainee can be observed performing.
- Designed to be directly observed by faculty, who, “in the moment”, document the encounter and provide corrective coaching
- Written comments MOST valuable
- Partial observation acceptable – be sure to document what portion was observed
- Does not represent a pass/fail decision, rather a simple record of what was observed.
- Many such observations will be put together to form an overview of the trainee’s performance.

Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) developed 12 Undergraduate EPAs, to be implemented by all Canadian medical schools. Goal to ensure a common frame of reference outlining what residency program directors can expect of an incoming Canadian Medical graduate.

**“The AFMC EPAs... are a clear, concise list of what graduating medical students should be entrusted to do without direct supervision on DAY ONE of residency.”<sup>2</sup>**

## U of S EPA implementation 2021-22:

- EPAs 1 - 6 assessed in all core clerkship and elective rotations, **alongside** current assessment procedures.
  - EPA 1 - Obtain history and perform a physical examination adapted to patient’s clinical situation.
  - EPA 2 - Formulate and justify a prioritized differential diagnosis
  - EPA 3 - Formulate an initial investigative plan based on the diagnostic hypothesis
  - EPA 4 - Interpret and communicate results of common diagnostic and screening tests
  - EPA 5 - Formulate, communicate and implement management plans
  - EPA 6 - Present oral and written reports that document a clinical encounter.
- Year 3 students must complete a minimum of 14 EPA observations in a 6-week rotation with four of EPA 1 and two from each of EPAs 2-6. The number of required EPAs will be prorated for shorter rotations.
- Year 4 students must complete a minimum of 20 EPA observations with a minimum of 3 in each of EPA 1-6

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<sup>1</sup> Ten Cate, Olle, Curriculum development for the workplace using Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA’s) AMEE Guide 99

<sup>2</sup> Boucher, André, AFMC EPA document

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## Documentation

- UGME EPA app – available on app store and google play,
- Contact your departmental admin for login information - uses USask NSID

### ***Differences between EPAs and other assessments (ITAR)***

<b><i>EPA assessments</i></b>	<b><i>Current assessments</i></b>
<i>Discrete, ‘one moment in time’ <b>OBSERVATION</b> Formative - assessment <b><u>for</u></b> learning</i>	<i>Represent an <b>OVERVIEW</b> of performance  Summative – assessment <b><u>of</u></b> learning</i>
<i><b>PIXELS</b> in a developing picture</i>	<i><b>SYNTHESIS</b> to form a complete picture</i>
<i>Passing = progression to entrustability by year 4  Key role of coaching and feedback</i>	<i>Passing = ‘meeting expectations’ on rotation objectives at end of rotation,  Decided at rotation level</i>

### ***2022 and beyond:***

- Each rotation will assess a number of the 12 AFMC EPAs
- Students overall progress will be reviewed by Competency committee
- Expectation – achieve “entrustable” status in all 12 EPAs by end of year 4