

Undergraduate EPAs – The Basics

EPA = Entrustable Professional Activity

- *“A unit of professional practice that can be entrusted to a sufficiently competent learner or professional.”¹*
- *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.”²

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*

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

² Boucher, André, AFMC EPA document

Developed by Dr. Chantal Ansel 2019, Modified by Dr. Susanna Martin, last 2021

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)

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