

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

USask EPA Implementation 2020-21

- EPAs 1 and 6 assessed in all core clerkship rotations, **alongside** current assessment procedures.
 - EPA 1 - Obtain a history and perform a physical examination adapted to the patient’s clinical situation.
 - EPA 6 - Present oral and written reports that document a clinical encounter.
- Aim for students to have each EPA observed once per week of rotation.



2021 and Beyond

- Each rotation will assess a number of the 12 AFMC EPA's
- Students overall progress reviewed by "competency committee"
- Certification as "entrustable" in all 12 EPA's by end of year 4

EPA Assessments

Discrete, 'one moment in time'
OBSERVATION
Formative - assessment **FOR** learning

PIXELS in a developing picture

Passing = progression to entrustability
by year 4
Key role of coaching and feedback

Current Assessments

Represent an **OVERVIEW** of performance
Summative – assessment **OF** learning

SYNTHESIS to form a complete picture

Passing = 'meeting expectations' on rotation
objectives at end of rotation, decided at
rotation level

E.g. EPA 1 – observe student examine relevant system during rounds, or any part of history/physical
EPA 6 – observe students presentation during rounds, or review written/electronic notes

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

[2] Boucher, André, AFMC EPA document