TITLE: Medical Student Preceptorship: Expectations, Concerns, and Experiences

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Educators, curriculum development specialists, healthcare

workers, medical students

ABSTRACT: Context: During the pre-clinical phase at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), medical student preceptorships occur weekly and are medical students' primary exposures to direct patient care. Aims: To investigate medical student attitudes toward preceptorship and intended specialties. Methods: We surveyed two classes prior to preceptorship, one class after completion of preceptorship and one class prior to graduation. Conclusions: Thematically, students most expected preceptorship to prepare them for the clerkship phase of the curriculum. Students felt the benefits they received from preceptorship included clerkship preparation and professional development. Students expressed relatively few concerns, but were most concerned about lack of professional development and organizational issues prior to starting preceptorship. Organizational concerns were not a major drawback for those that had completed preceptorship, but lack of professional development was a major drawback. On average, graduating students did not perceive preceptorship to have impacted their readiness for residency, but they did feel their experience impacted their choice of specialty. Implications: The preceptorship experience largely meets the expectations of medical students and can impact future career choice. Further research into how preceptorship shapes career decisions may illuminate a way to use preceptorship to provide structured career advising.

OBJECTIVE(S): 1. Assess medical student expectations and concerns surrounding the preceptorship experience2. Describe the differences in intended specialty by preceptorship choice.